



## HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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[www.hmlp.com](http://www.hmlp.com)

General Manager  
Paul G. Heanue  
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John P. Ryan, Chairman  
John A. Stoddard Jr., Vice Chairman  
Roger Freeman, Secretary

### **Meeting Called to Order:**

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order at 0730 on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at the Hingham Municipal Light Offices at 31 Bare Cove Park Drive, Hingham, Massachusetts.

**Present:** John A. Stoddard, Jr. - Vice Chairman, Roger Freeman - Secretary, Paul G. Heanue - General Manager

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting minutes from the October 25 and December 6, 2016 were presented for approval.

### **MOTION**

**A motion was duly made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the October 25 and December 6, 2016 meetings with the changes the Secretary submitted.**

**PASSED**

### **Financials:**

The General Manager distributed a handout displaying HMLP's November financials which also indicated figures from prior years. November 2017's net income was \$311K and the year to date was \$4.1M. The balance sheet indicates that the building constructions cost are essentially paid for.

The current "stranded cost" account currently stands at approximately \$5.3M and HMLP's auditor had recommended that it should be around \$6M (based on HMLP's size). The General Manager requested permission to move additional funds into this fund if necessary when December's financials get calculated.

The Secretary inquired about the Compression Station and its approval by FERC. The General Manager informed the Board that they will be required to obtain local permits from the Town of Weymouth as well as FERC's ok.

### **MOTION**

**A motion was duly made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the General Manager the ability to transfer funds into the "stranded cost" account as needed.**

**PASSED**

### **New Building Updates:**

The General Manager mentioned the only remaining issues with the new building are with the heating system and some landscaping that will need to be addressed in the spring. The General Manager received a

Demand Letter from the electrical contractor asserting they have not been paid in full by the general contractor and they are seeking direct payment for the work they provided. The general contractor has 10 days to respond to this notice.

**Grant- Street Lights:** The General Manager informed the Board that in order to receive the grant money, that will pay for 50% of the capital costs of the lights, it is necessary for an audit of the overhead street lights to be replaced to take place. The installation process should begin in April/May.

**Solar:** The Secretary reported that there is a new SREC program being developed and he wondered if, because HMLP still has customers on the earlier programs, future solar customers of HMLP might meet the eligibility requirements for those funds. The General Manager relayed having been part of a meeting with the Commissioner of the DOER and her top staff and a group of 3 municipal light plant managers and the MEAM lobbyist. At that meeting there was a discussion about the DOER's desire for all municipal light plants in Massachusetts to have the same type incentive program for customers who wish to install solar arrays since municipal light plant customers will likely be left out of the next "SREC program". After hearing about how HMLP's program works, rebate credit of \$1k/kw, the Commissioner of the DOER suggested to the group that our program might be a good model for others to consider.

**Commuter Rail Canopies:** The General Manager said that a tentative agreement has been reached but a contract has not been signed for solar canopies to be installed at the Fort Hill commuter rail parking lot. After reaching a general agreement in terms with HMLP the solar developer asked if we would be interested in having solar canopies be installed in a second commuter rail parking lot in town. The General Manager described having told the developer if the terms for the 2<sup>nd</sup> are the same as the 1<sup>st</sup>, then yes. In response to questions from the Secretary there was a discussion about the agreed to terms. Engineering and electrical requirements still need to be established.

**Whole Foods:** The General Manager still has not received signed copies of the lease for the solar array at Whole Foods. The customer and developer were told years ago, when discussions first began to take place, that we would need to see the lease prior to commissioning to ensure it is a straight equipment lease and not a PPA. The equipment has been installed on the roof but has not been turned on.

**Energy Audit:** The General Manager informed that Board that HMLP will begin a program to encourage Hingham residents to have an energy audit performed at their home or business. About 4k Hingham customers will receive a robo call to try and generate interest. HMLP will send letters to those customers in advance of the calls. The Secretary suggested using social media to improve interest in this program. He talked about using the Facebook page The Hingham Pinboard. The General Manager joked that he had tried to join that page but was rejected.

**Landfill Solar Project:** The General Manager commented that he believes it will be difficult to have an outside company be interested in building a solar array with a PPA at the landfill because SREC dollars, as currently constituted, will not be available. HMLP will likely need to build and maintain this system itself. He discussed how working battery storage into the project might make it more financially attractive to the light plant. The Secretary said he knew someone who might be interested in this project and he will have him contact the General Manager. He also recommends we consider making this a community solar project. The Secretary also thought having Hingham become a "Green Community" would be a good thing. The General Manager said the Town's Energy Action Committee, on which he sits, is developing a plan to try and make that, Hingham becomes a Green Community, happen.

**General Managers Contract:** There was a discussion about renewing the General Manager's contract that is due to expire in 2018.

**Meter Replacement:** Now that the Meter Replacement is almost complete The Secretary would like to look into having "smart meters" in the future. The General Manager told him the AMR meters we've installed can be converted to smart or AMI meters by installing fiber optic cable with "repeater or antenna" type devices throughout Town.

**Motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting**

On a motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 08:31.