

**Hingham Municipal Light Plant
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Town Hall**

Attendees:

John Stoddard, Chairman
Walter Foskett, Vice-Chairman
Kevin Bulman, Secretary
John Tzimirangas, General Manager
Paul Heanue, Assistant General Manager

Agenda

1. Call meeting to order
2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
3. General Manager's Report
 - a. PILOT formula (potential re-vote required)
 - b. OPEB discussion (potential vote required)
 - c. Long Term Power Supply update
 - d. Miscellaneous items
4. Suspend meeting to join the Selectman's meeting: 7:00 p.m.
5. Reconvene Light Board Regular Meeting
6. Other Business
 - a. Warrant Signatures
 - b. Correspondence
7. Executive Session
 - a. A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing trade secrets, personnel and strategy with respect to litigation.
 - b. A motion to end executive session and adjourn Regular Meeting
8. Motion to Adjourn

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stoddard called meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to approve minutes of HMLP Board Meeting of December 17, 2008

3. General Managers Report

a. PILOT Program

General Manager said that the town has requested direct payment of \$37,208 which represents that portion of PILOT previously allocated by HMLP for energy conservation program.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to transfer \$487,208.00 for payment in lieu of taxes, per formula given to town.

b. OPEB Discussion

General Manager distributed a copy of Bill H5148 Section 20, signed by Governor Patrick, which allows municipalities and lighting plants the ability to create their own trust funds.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt Bill H5148, Section 20.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to transfer \$1.461 million into trust fund.

General Manager suggested that the Town Treasurer (currently Jean Montgomery) be designated custodian of trust fund given her familiarity and experience with the program.

There was a discussion with regard to performance of investments in pension fund versus other alternatives, i.e. certificates of deposit, which Ms. Montgomery would oversee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to designate the Town Treasurer (currently Jean Montgomery) as custodian for HMLP OPEB Trust Fund.

c. Long Term Power Supply Update

General Manager distributed report from Energy New England regarding power supply for next four years.

There are no open megawatts for 2009

General Manager stated that rather than purchasing long-term blocks, HMLP can purchase megawatts as better prices become available.

General Manager reiterated that Energy New England has been exemplary with regard to communication.

2nd Substation

General Manager distributed material regarding meeting with Source One about location of possible 2nd substation.

General Manager requested members to consider cost of permitting and other preliminary work (approximately \$200,000)

General Manager requested Members read and discuss considerations at next Board meeting.

d. Miscellaneous Items

General Manager distributed a “year-end” packet, which outlines system availability and outages, which includes customer experiences and months between outages

Outages

Most customers on average experience one outage every two years.

These numbers reflect single service outages also.

Outage causes by type show that trees and equipment were the leading causes of outages for the year.

Circuits

Secretary Bulman inquired whether existing circuits are well balanced. General Manager stated that circuits are pretty well balanced at this time.

Supply to Customers

Kilowatt hour sales were flat for 2008

Peak usage-Peak was reached in June 2008

Minimum Load-We are at 12 megawatts for lowest usage day of the year

Billing

General Manager stated that overall, with new rates, HMLP rates are still reasonable.

Secretary Bulman inquired about ‘late pay’ notices. The Assistant General Manager replied that of the letters and calls that were made, approximately one-half paid up and others were put on a payment plan.

General Manager inquired about commercial late-payers. Assistant General Manager stated that letters were sent out, and no commercial entities were shut off permanently. Those that were cut off were turned back on within hours, as payment was made.

Overtime

In 2008, the average was 185 hours per week; in 2009, the average is 59 hours per week, year to date.

General Manager stated that these numbers reflect a more realistic and normal routine, due in part to completion of larger projects.

General Manager stated that criteria are now in place with regard to overtime.

4. Suspend meeting to join the Selectman's meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting was suspended in order for Board members to attend Selectman's meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 p.m. and the Board voted the following:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to end the regular meeting of the Light Board at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Bulman, Secretary