



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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John P. Ryan, Chairman
John A. Stoddard Jr., Vice-Chairman
Roger M. Freeman, Secretary

REGULAR MEETING HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD

June 30, 2020
7:30 A.M. – Meeting via Zoom

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Called to Order:

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order at 0734 on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 via Zoom.

Present:

John P. Ryan, Chairman; John A. Stoddard Jr., Vice-Chairman; Roger M. Freeman, Secretary; Paul Heanue, General Manager (GM); Tom Morahan, Assistant General Manager (Assistant GM); guest Laura Burns, Hingham resident, former Selectman and current Senior Intern to Representative Joan Meschino, Jenny Hook, Patti Coyle, Mike Green, Greg Lane, John Borger and Barbara _____, Hingham residents.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The GM presented the meeting minutes for the April 15, 2020 meeting to the Board for their consideration.

MOTION

A motion was duly made by the Vice Chairman to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting. The Secretary seconded and they unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2020 meeting.

The GM presented the meeting minutes for the May 5, 2020 meeting to the Board for their consideration.

MOTION

A motion was duly made by the Vice Chairman to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting. The Secretary seconded and they unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting.

The Secretary requested that the GM prepare draft Bylaws and procedures for meetings, motions and minutes, for the Board to review and discuss at next Board meeting.

Financials

The GM presented the Board with financial statistics for April 2020.

- kWh sold in April 2020: 13.9m kWh, April 2019: 13.9m kWh and April 2018: 15.5m kWh.
- Revenue for April 2020 was \$2.3m, April 2019 was \$2.3m and April 2018 was \$2.1m.
- Expenses for April 2020 was \$2.0m, April 2019 was \$2.1m and April 2018 was \$2.0m.
- Net income for April 2020 was \$284k, April 2019 was \$210k and April 2018 was \$55k.
- YTD kWh sales for April 2020 was 61.2m kWh, for 2019 was 62.4m kWh and 2018 was 65.9m kWh.
- Revenue YTD April 2020 was \$10.0m, \$10.0 for 2019 and \$8.6m for 2018.
- Expenses YTD April 2020 were \$9.2m, \$10.0m for 2019 and \$9.7m for 2018.
- Net Income YTD for April 2020 was \$753k, for 2019 was \$73k and for 2018 was \$(1.1m).

Updates

Offset of COVID-19:

The GM anticipated a good number of both residential and commercial customers to not pay their electric bill as HMLP agreed not to shut off customers for non-payment during COVID-19. However, 86% of residential and commercial customer paid their May 2020 electric bill.

Status of COVID-19 changes to HMLP operations:

Since mid-March, HMLP's customer service representatives have been working remotely from home. HMLP field personnel were responding to only trouble jobs during the first few months of COVID-19, but are now back to their regular work. HMLP provides its workers with hand sanitizer, face masks and wipes while at work.

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) sales:

At the April 15, 2020 meeting, the Board voted to give the GM the authority to make decisions regarding retiring RECs and/or buying replacement RECs. After retiring RECs, buying replacement RECs and selling RECs, HMLP netted \$663k. The GM is exploring what type of renewable project to invest the funds in at the HMLP property (i.e. solar panels, parking lot canopies, etc.). The Secretary asked the Board if they would be open to accepting written submission from Hingham residents regarding suggestions on what projects to explore with the money netted from the RECs. The Board agreed and asked the GM to speak with Laura Burns of Hingham Net Zero to obtain those written submissions from Hingham Net Zero's subgroup, Light Plant Engagement Group.

Battery Storage

HMLP signed the contract with the contractor for the battery storage project. The installation is targeted for December 2020. Now that the contract is signed, the GM will schedule a meeting between the Board and contractor to walk-through the system and operations.

Transmission Line

A new transmission supply source and sub-station is expected to become necessary in connection with the Hingham Net Zero effort and also for added reliability (should a catastrophic failure of a structure/s or incident take both supply lines out of service). HMLP approached National Grid and Eversource regarding bringing a third transmission line into Town. National Grid stated that it would have to re-build a couple of transmission lines in order to do so and HMLP would be responsible to pay for that project since it would only be done to satisfy HMLP. It would not qualify to be socialized amongst ISO-NE. That cost is estimated to be \$5-6m. Eversource is conducting an engineering study to see what, if anything, they will need to do to provide Hingham with another transmission line. That study is currently underway and Eversource should have the report to the Board shortly. HMLP signed a contract with contractor Tighe and Bond to assist with state applications and environmental permitting.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Rebate Program

HMLP is working on enhancing the current EV rebate program. Currently, the program relies on residents to take a picture of their dashboard showing that it is set to charge during off-peak hours. HMLP is signing on with a company that is able to tell via internet when and where residents are charging their vehicles. The Secretary asked about privacy issues as it relates to that information getting shared. The GM said he would check on what types of protections there are around that and get back to The Board.

Heat Pumps

HMLP is in the process of creating an incentive program for the use of heat pumps.

EV Charging Stations

HMLP is speaking with the Town in hopes of installing EV charging stations on Town property.

TruGreen

TruGreen, the current vendor for the solar canopies at the MBTA station, is currently attempting to find a tax equity partner. Regardless of whether or not they are able to find a tax equity partner on or before August 31, 2020, it will ask HMLP to turn on the solar canopies.

Choice Connect

HMLP is working with Itron, the company it gets its meters from, to install a system that does not require point-to-point fiber to read meters, but rather uses a cell signal.

Landfill

HMLP is exchanging PPAs with developer Omni Navitas. The GM expects to have the PPA in place next month to install a solar array.

Solar Array Credits

The DOER noted that HMLP committed \$175k in matching funds to the latest iteration of DOER's solar subsidies. It was not being used, so DOER suggested that they would retroactively cut checks to customers if HMLP changed the way they reimbursed rebate credits. ENE worked out numbers and anyone who has gotten a solar array since new program came on, will be getting additional rebate credits.

Motion to Adjourn

On a motion duly made by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by the Secretary it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 0824.