



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

September 29, 2020
Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89758507889>

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 0736 on Tuesday, September 29, 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, Patti Coyle and Robert _____, Hingham residents.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The GM presented the meeting minutes for the June 30, 2020 meeting to the Board for their consideration.

MOTION

A motion was duly made by the Chairman to accept the minutes of the June 30, 2020 meeting. The Vice Chairman seconded and they unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2020 meeting.

Financials

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

- kWh sold in July 2020: 18.5m kWh, July 2019: 16.7m kWh and July 2018: 18.3m kWh.
- Revenue for July 2020 was \$3.0m, July 2019 was \$2.7m and July 2018 was \$2.7m.
- Expenses for July 2020 was \$2.3m, July 2019 was \$2.4m and July 2018 was \$2.2m.
- Net income for July 2020 was \$640k, July 2019 was \$275k and July 2018 was \$491k.
- YTD kWh sales for July 2020 was 106.1m kWh, for 2019 was 108.2m kWh and 2018 was 113.7m kWh.
- Revenue YTD July 2020 was \$17.3m, \$17.5m for 2019 and \$15.3m for 2018.
- Expenses YTD July 2020 were \$15.6m, \$16.7m for 2019 and \$15.9m for 2018.
- Net Income YTD for July 2020 was \$1.7m, for 2019 was \$795k and for 2018 was \$(618k).

Per statute, the Town holds HMLP's money. The Town has a warrant article in which the Town votes to turn HMLP's money over to HMLP. The GM received a call from the Chair of the Advisory Committee inviting the GM to attend the September 29th Advisory Committee meeting to discuss HMLP's green energy plans and HMLP's willingness to provide financial assistance to the Town. This prompted the GM to ask Energy New England (ENE) for an analysis of fund balances, capital plans and future liabilities and to provide

recommendations. ENE provided the GM with a summary and the GM shared the summary with the Board. The GM will post the summary on the HMLP website. The Vice Chairman and Secretary opined that they would like to provide the Town with financial assistance during this difficult year. The Chairman expressed that it is important to know what amount they are requesting. The GM will attend the September 29th Advisory Committee meeting and report back to the Board.

Changes to HMLP Going Green program (solar incentives/EVs/heat pumps and other components)

ENE prepared Hingham Rebate Recommendations that the GM presented to the Board. The GM will post the recommendations and requirements to the HLMP website. The Secretary asked that ENE prepare a report of cumulative impact (not just financial) of the rebate programs. The GM will reach out to ENE to find out what experience has been in towns where light plants have rebate programs, what has that translated into in terms of numbers of rebates, kWh sales/saved, costs, etc. The GM informed the Board that HMLP will be cutting rebate checks to customers for their solar array rebates instead of providing a credit on their bill. This will streamline the solar array rebate process when customers are selling their homes.

Updates

Transmission Line

HMLP is proposing to build a 3 ¼ mile underground transmission line to address reliability and capacity needs. Currently the Town is served by two (2) transmission lines on a single set of structures. The new line will be a second independent feed. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2023 with initial operations beginning in 2024. The new transmission line is needed as Hingham moves toward electrification and to support the future load of the Amazon distributing center possibly going in the industrial park.

MBTA's Solar Arrays

The solar arrays at the Fort Hill Station are not yet energized as a result of equipment issues. The solar arrays at Nantasket Junction have been energized for approximately 3 weeks.

Battery Storage

The delivery date for HMLP's battery storage project is targeted for December 2020. The GM is scheduling a meeting with the consulting company/consultant who worked with HMLP to develop the RFP and write the contract that defined operating terms and responsibilities and Board members to learn about the project. Depending on the number of Board members that would like to participate, it may be placed on the agenda of a future Board meeting in order to comply with the Open Meeting Law.

Landfill

HMLP continues to exchange PPAs and Interconnect Agreements with developer Omni Navitas.

Status of COVID-19 changes to HMLP operations

A spouse of one of HMLP's field employees displayed COVID-19 symptoms. The employee was tested and quarantined pending results. The employee tested negative and returned to work. Since mid-March, HMLP's customer service representatives and administrative staff have been working remotely from home.

Mission Statement and by-laws

At the June Board meeting, the Board discussed drafting and implementing a mission statement and bylaws. The Secretary drafted three proposals of mission statements for the Board's consideration. The GM and Secretary will continue to work together on a mission statements and discuss the need for by-laws.

Solar around Town

The Secretary expressed that solar should be increased around Town. The Secretary suggested that if Amazon goes into the industrial park, the roof of the Amazon building may be an option for a solar array. The GM will reach out to the owner of the building to discuss.

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 0859.