



86 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 20, Baldwinville, MA 01436-0020

TEL: 978-939-5323

FAX: 978-939-4309

John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Light Commissioners' Meeting
March 8, 2017**

Members present were: Dana Blais, Chris Stewart

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Tom Berry, Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion from Dana, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor.

The minutes of February 1, 2017 were approved on a motion from Dana, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

Regarding the issue of the new CBA between LU104 and TMLWP, the Board voted to accept the LU104/TMLWP Collective Bargaining Agreement dated February 15, 2017. Tonight's vote to sign the CBA was as follows: motion by Chris to accept, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The Manager and Superintendent have finished 5 scoring systems concerning the AMI System narrowing it down to 2 companies. The Manager gave handouts to the Board with the Scorecard grading system. The top 5 were Eaton, Honeywell, Itron, Landis & Gyr (L&G) and Tantalus. After the grading was complete, finalists are Eaton, which with a total weighted score of 97 and Landis & Gyr, with a total weighted score of 100. Total cost of the Eaton system would be \$1,256,360 with a 9 year payback, L&G total cost would be \$1,219,318, with an 11 year payback. Honeywell score was 60, total cost \$1,766,534, Tantalus was 55, total cost \$2,234,247 and Itron was 46, total cost of \$2,674,494. Dave Scott will notify the companies that were not selected as finalists. Both companies do provide off site back up, which will be well protected. Dana had a question about back up on site here, but it would not be necessary if the company provides it. The Manager stated cyber security protection is the best way of doing this and it will be cost effective. The Superintendent explained that it was just like e-

mail, with an offsite "icloud". The Manager and Superintendent have phone discussions with Eaton on March 3, L&G on April 1. By mid-April they should everything together to determine which company will be awarded the program with TMLWP. The Superintendent indicated TMLWP Light could change meter shortly after, the Manager explained the by looking back at the 2004/2005 work orders for the meter change outs TMLWP employees could change the meters on straight time hours with no overtime necessary. It will take a few months to convert over.

The Manager included an e-mail handout to the Board regarding the MOU for the MA DOER LED streetlight Grant Status. TMLWP is ahead of most municipals in change out their LED street lights, which means we do not need as many lights as the other Town's. Jason Viadero from MMWEC recommended us to execute purchase orders by the end of March or early April, for deliveries in May/June. With the DOER LED streetlight grant it would cost us approximately \$30,000 instead of \$50,000 if we purchased them on our own. The Manager did state this MOU is different from what we are used to, they will be using multiple vendors to provide the lights. Dana asked if the private lights would also be changed to the LED eventually. The Manager stated he will figured out what the cost would on the pay back for installing LED instead of the HPS that we use now. The Manager did say we could always lower the rates after the pay back on private lights he would have to look into it.

The Manager had a handout of a list of items and costs for the FY18 Pilot to the Town. The Temporary Town Administrator suggested Fire Dept. equipment instead of Ambulance Service. The Fire Department is in need of items that are not covered in their budget. The DPW is in need of 4 John Deere lawn mowers, there are only 2 in the current budget. The items and costs are as follow:

Payment of Town's Electric Bills	\$24,453
Payment of Town's Municipal & Street Light Bills	\$17,808
Purchase of Fire Department's SCBA Units (15)	\$15,000
Purchase of DPW's Lawnmowers (2)	\$14,000
Purchas of New Dump Truck Body for DPW Vehicle	\$10,000
Total for all Items:	\$81,261

The Manager did bring it to the Boards attention regarding the New Dump Truck Body that the truck itself is a 1978. Dana and Chris were concerned with the age of the truck and wanted to make sure it was in good condition before spending the money, and also if it was possible to use it for another truck when this one dies. Chris suggested that someone check out the truck.

Chris made a motion to "do everything listed", seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The Manager discussed the property at 11 ¾ Elm Street. TMLWP would like to survey the property through, but Ed Boucher is out of the country for a few months. Dana suggested calling Whitman & Bingham to survey instead of trying to keep it local if no one else is available.

The Manager informed the Board the ad for the TMLWP Clerk position was listed in the paper for March 2, 3 and 4; it will be closed to application on March 20, 2017. He also stated that The Manager and the Business Manager will be interviewing 3-5 possible candidates in April. The office will be busy being one person short.

New Business:

The Manager distributed a copy of the "cell phone and two-way radio use policy". TMLWP line crew would like to have this adopted into the company phone policy. The Manager did state this is already what is taking place, but the crew would like it in writing. The Manager suggested adopting it into our Employees Handbook in the phone policy section. Chris made a motion to "adopt as written", seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The Manager informed the Board Health Insurance Premium Increase for FY18. There are two possible increases coming for FY18, the first is a 13.3% increase with no changes, the second is an increase of 11.7% increase with the doctor copays increasing to \$20 from \$15, and the ER visit increasing to \$100 from \$50. The Interim Town Administrator stated that with the 11.7% increase the employees would break even after 2 visits. The Insurance Committee will be meeting soon to vote on which plan to accept for FY18. There is also a hand out included with the cost increase breakdown. The Medex plans were changed in March.

The Manager stated that we will need to update our FY15 actuarial report for OPEB by the end of 2017. The FY15 actuarial OPEB expense increased from \$12,000 to \$41,000 per year. The OPEB fund account at MMWEC started December, 2013, at the end of March, 2017 we will have a balance of \$214,000. Dana asked when we could start drawing it down. The Manager will look into it. The Manager did state that he would contact the Town Treasurer to start a Water OPEB fund.

The Manager will be attending a MEAM meeting at Shrewsbury Light on March 9th with some of the local senators. The Board received a handout on the power point that will be presented at the meeting.

The Manager included the preliminary year-end financial statements to show an approximate net income of \$228,000 for year ending 2017.

The Manager informed the Board that MMWEC will be doing a rate review for Templeton.

The Manager stated that the Board will see the purchase of 5 new office chairs. The current ones were 12-13 years old and some were losing screws on the bottom, they needed to be replaced.

There were five (5) handouts that the Manager had prepared for the Board that did not require any specific discussion:

- January 2017 Power Supply
- February 2017 Wind Generation
- February 2017 KWH Sales and Revenues
- March 2017 Residential Electric Rates

Other Business:

Rate reallocations were made to the Supply Distribution and the Fixed Fuel for all customers. The amounts of the customer's bills were not increased or decreased, there simply was a rate shift to show exactly how we purchase our power and pass the costs to our customers.

The Manager informed the board of two (2) grievances received from Brian Pierce at IBEW Local 104. The first one was regarding how after signing the MOU Mr. Pierce stated the retroactive pay should have been paid, but were not. The Manager stated it was non-binding the retroactive pays were taken care of the previous week. The second one was a rant on changing the words of the contract per his request. These will be handled by the Manager. The Manager will draft a letter to Brian Pierce discussing his confusion in referencing Ashburnham Light with Templeton Light.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager