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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

Light Commissioners Meeting

March 8, 2023

Members present were: Chairman Dana Blais
Clerk/Secretary Chris Stewart

Employees present were: General Manager (GM) John Driscoll
Light Superintendent (LS) Thomas Berry
Business Manager (BM) Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes January 11, 2023 were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) explained to the Board that the Cybersecurity Assessment is done. The Light Superintendent (LS) explained that all the scans were done and Vertikal-6 has quite a lengthy summary, he will provide it via email to the Board if they would like to review it. It has information regarding our firewall, setting changes, and disabling encryptions. The LS also said because we have no policies in place, we will need to create them. The policies they are suggesting are disaster recovery, data privacy and templates (the LS has started on this). Vertikal-6 has labeled the policies high, medium, and low levels of importance. The LS started with the high-level ones first and will continue through the list.

The GM informed the Board about the Additional EV Charging Station. The MMWEC employee we had been dealing (Bill Bullock) with has left; there is currently no information or replacement yet. The GM and LS both think there should be more grants in the future for the larger EV stations.

New Business:

The LS discussed with the Board possible private light upgrades. The LS brought 3 quotes for replacing the 100W HPS private lights to LED ones. TMLP currently has 275 customers with 100W HPS private lights, and the LS would like to start with these, then move onto the 250W, 400W and 1,000W flood lights. He explained that the Cooper Caretaker and Howard Night Owl 3 LED lights would have a 5.5-year payback time, where the EOI, Inc Sentinel would have 3.9 years in payback, with a 10 year warranty. According to the LS the EOI are the best by far. Our current LEDs are 55W; the EOI units are 40W. The LS stated we currently have Cooper LEDS for our street lighting which had a 5-year warranties and we have to pay for all issues going forward (Ashburnham has a similar issue). Dana asked if we can still use the aluminum arms; LS says yes. The LS also said we could auction off the older HPS fixtures instead of having to dispose of them. The cost of each LED light with photocell will be \$122, if all were purchased in a single order. The GM said the private light rates don't need to change right now, and that the additional costs for new lights can be offset with the decreased kWh usage.

"A motion was made by Dana, seconded by Chris, 2-0 favor for the Board to accept the EOI, Inc. Sentinel private light upgrade with a project cost of \$39,900.00 as presented by Light Superintendent."

Dana – Aye

Chris – Aye

The GM informed the Board about the Marcum, LLP accounting firm. Our audit firm was formerly Melanson-Heath, and then just Melanson, and now they have been acquired by Marcum. The same employees from Melanson that we already work with will continue on at Marcum.

The GM had a handout for the Board on TMLP Credit Rating. S&P Global Ratings raised TMLPs long-term rating from an A- to an A. This was done after a conference call with the GM along with several reports he had to prepare for them to perform the credit rating review. This process took about 2 weeks and takes place every other year to keep our rating up to date.

The GM discussed power supply costs for January 2023 with the Board. In January we purchased over 6,400 MWh of wholesale electricity for nearly \$900,000. He said this is what we'll usually pay for two months of electricity, not one. The open market power constituted just 6% of our total load that month, so even at \$218/MWh its effects on final costs were minimal. The hedged power is what sent us "over the edge" since it constituted 42% of our total load that month and cost \$220/MWh. In January 2023 there was no difference between these two energy resources, resulting in half of our power supply costing nearly \$700,000. The GM said that the hedged power was purchased last year by MMWEC while they thought that ATC power for January 2023 would be just over \$200/MWh. For comparison:

Month	MWh	Cost	Rate/MWh	Hedged Power
Jan-22	6,665	\$654,000	\$98.12	426 MWh @ \$43/MWh
Jan-23	6,409	\$897,000	\$139.96	2,714 MWh @ \$220/MWh

The GM said that this pattern is likely to continue for February 2023 and will probably end up an \$800,000 month. He is hopeful that by May 2023 the prices can settle back down to where they were a year ago.

The Manager had three (3) handouts tonight:

1. 2023 KWH Sales, January & February
2. 2023 Retail Rates March
3. 2023 Q4 Rate Comparisons

Other Business

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Light Board Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. There was a vote to go into Executive Session immediately after pursuant to MGL Ch 30A Sec 21A to discuss an existing employee.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Driscoll
General Manager