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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Light Commissioners' Meeting
April 3, 2018**

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

Employees present were: General Manager John Driscoll
Light Superintendent, Thomas Berry
Business Manager Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

The minutes of March 6, 2018 were approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Greg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Light Superintendent (LS) updated the Board on the Eaton AMI metering system. The LS said talked about disconnecting a house meter remotely from the office, one of the SAT list items to check off our list. The disconnect function works well. The LS informed the Board that some of the commercial/industrial Elster meters were programmed incorrectly; the power factor data that was needed to pull back to our office was not available yet. He might just re-program the 11 of those meters that are in service. Dana asked the LS if we were using Eaton's program, the LS said no, but offered the reasons why. The demand data coming back to Yukon looked good. The LS told the Board he was notified that the first 699 residential meters have shipped to us. We could send out the 50 SAT meter bills successfully to Billtrust for processing with assistance from both ASABSD and Eaton. The LS talked about the Verizon connections we've been working on between TMLWP-Verizon-Yukon-PCS. Although the Verizon connections had been established for TMLWP the communications were not working yet. The issue had to with Verizon's familiarity with Cisco Systems firewalls as opposed to our Sonic Wall protection. MBS (Montalbano Computer Systems) is scheduled for this Friday to try to get this resolved.

The GM offered a story about another MLP with a customer who sent out a social media post telling people how they thought AMI meters were dangerous to the public, and 49 people show up at the MLP's next board meeting. The GM and LS had prepared handouts for the Board on various studies done examining the level of RF related to smart meters against other popular devices seen in homes. Both the common cellular phone and the microwave oven surpassed smart meters in RF levels seen. The Board had previously requested that the GM get some data opposing the allegations that had been made by Steve Drury at the March meeting. Chris asked when we planned to start changing these meters out, and what would happen if wiring problems presented themselves along the way on the customer's side of the connections. The GM said we would have a local electrician on standby for us in case we had wiring issues arise. Chris then asked if such issues would be obvious to our own linemen first. The LS said that yes, our people had been trained to spot these things in the field, and could simply hand the customer a list of local electricians to choose from to make repairs before we put in a new AMI meter. In discussions

Lawton Electric, Travis Neal and Raiborne Electric we all mentioned as potential candidates for standby electricians. The GM will consider the correct process by which such an outside service could be procured, as far as if a bid was required under the law.

The GM cited a Texas house fire article that had been propelled around the country as a reason NOT to trust AMI meters installed at your home. He did some digging and found out that this story became so hot in another MLP territory that their GM had placed a call to the state fire marshal to get an explanation of this fire and what had caused it. Faulty wiring in the customer's meter socket had produced a hot connection and the excess heat eventually flashed over and caused a fire. The smart meter, being installed in this meter socket, eventually caught fire, but had not STARTED the fire. Chris wanted to make sure that our customers don't blame the TMLP if something like this were to happen. The GM understood his concern and suggested possibly splitting costs like this that may appear 50/50 with the customer, since it was their responsibility but it was us who came along and decided to change the meter in the first place. He added that most, not all, electric customers are appreciative when we locate a problem like this for them so they can get their own electrician to make repairs for their own peace of mind.

The GM discussed with the Board the AMI meter opt-out matter and his proposed policy. The existing law on AMI opt outs is a little odd in that it was the electric customer of record who had the right to refuse an AMI meter installation, as opposed to the deciding party always being the property owner. Under this ruling, Steve Drury did have the right to opt-out of an AMI meter being the customer of record. The GM had proposed that the prospective opt-out customer would pay the full \$250 for the special residential meter with all the same measurement capabilities as the rest of the AMI meters, less any RF properties. He did not feel as though such a cost was in, or should be built into, our electric cost of service. Further, these customers' monthly charge would increase from \$3.75 to \$16.29 in 2018. Both the \$250 and the \$16.29 would protect our residential non-opt-out customers from having to subsidize those who are choosing to have their electric meters read in such a costly fashion after a complete AMI system installation. The GM knew that his proposed policy would allow the customer to think hard before committing to a higher electric bill till 2037. Research done by the LS had shown that other cooperative and investor-owned electric utilities had similar opt-out policies costing the customer much more than was being proposed tonight.

Dana asked what the Gregg's and Chris's thoughts were on this matter? Neither of them disagreed that the TMLP needed an opt-out policy in place to protect themselves, in case 2 candidate turned into 100. There was some discussion about how the GM had arrived at \$250 for the non-AMI meter cost and the \$16.29 in charges for non-AMI meter reading; the Board wanted to be fair to both sides here, AMI and non-AMI. The LS had provided the GM with the \$250 meter cost via a WESCO quote for a Form 2S Elster meter, and the GM had come up with the \$16.29 figure by taking 15 minutes of labor cost for our lowest paid lineman (Johnson) and our lowest paid office staff member (Kodys). He kept in mind that an opt-out customer may live 500' from the TMLWP office or 5,000', so one charge had to be made to work for all cases. The GM expressed an interest in simply properly bypassing the meter jaws altogether and forever estimating the residential customer going forward, but the MA DPU would not allow such estimates to continue for months on end absent severe weather conditions that prevent the MLP from collecting meter data.

Chris was content with the additional monthly charges that the GM had proposed but had reservations on charging the opt-out customer the \$250 for a special meter. He felt that this cost was built into our rates already and as it was a TMLP decision to go AMI, the customer should not be unjustly burdened. The LS explained that the existing AMR residential meters provided no data whatsoever beyond simple KWH usage and that once AMI system was finished the TMLP would not even have the capability of reading an AMR meter

Gregg asked the GM and the LS why we felt that we would miss the data from 2-3 residential meters in the grand scheme of things. The GM responded that the issue was not missing data from 2-3 meters, rather it was the prospect of having 50-100 residents end up opting out of the AMI meter if it was no additional cost to them. We would be in a real jam here if we had to send our junior lineman on manual meter reading trips to multiple locations and never recovered our costs. The GM acknowledged that the data lost from 2-3 meters would not be a tragedy, but 50-100 meters could be problematic.

Dana felt that we should not be charging for the special meter but was OK with the additional monthly charges being applied to opt-out electric accounts. The GM brought the MA DPU into the discussion as it related to their regulations mandating fairness to ratepayers across the board. He felt that we did not want to treat the opt-in residents unfairly by charging them the same amount as the opt-out residents who were now costlier to extract meter readings from. Gregg felt that the TMLP's charging a higher rate to opt-out accounts than to opt-in ones was not fair as a policy.

Chris felt that there should be some deterrent put in place by the TMLP to discourage residents from opting out of our AMI system so that the quantity of opt-outs did not become unmanageable for the Light Plant. In conclusion, the board members had varying opinions on this policy. In general, they could appreciate what the GM was trying to accomplish with his proposed policy but did not like that some customers would be "singled-out" and billed for more \$\$\$\$. Chris thinks we should have some deterrent. At this point, votes took place as follows:

"On a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to reject the GM's proposed residential AMI meter opt-out policy with a \$250 meter charge it was written."

Gregg – NO

Chris – NO

Dana – NO

"On a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-1 in favor the Board voted to accept the GM's proposed residential AMI meter opt-out policy with an alternate \$125 meter charge in lieu of \$250."

Chris – YES

Dana – YES

Gregg – NO

The GM asked the Board to table any discussion on battery storage till the May meeting; there was no objection.

The GM informed the Board about the MEAM meeting earlier today regarding MA House & Senate RPS Bills, focusing on the Pacheco bill. He spoke of the Senator's disdain for public power in general as it applied to the nature of our being vertically integrated and in charge of all aspects of our power supply. He (Pacheco) did not think that the MLPs and their elected boards should be able to decide how clean their wholesale power supply portfolio was to be. The GM stated the ironic nature of Pacheco's representation in the State Senate including the largest MLP by load in Massachusetts; did he not concern himself with Taunton's residents who voted for him now paying more for cleaner electricity?

Senator Anne Gobi and an aide from Representative Suzannah Whipps' office were in attendance in support of Templeton's concerns over this Pacheco bill at another meeting on March 28 in Shrewsbury. Mike Hale, Shrewsbury GM, led the meeting and it went well and resulted in a decision by those GMs in attendance to send a new letter to state legislators in MLP districts. The letter would refresh the MLPs' mission statements in general and highlight our accomplishments in clean energy to date. Collectively the MEAM MLPs were 39% carbon-free [MMWEC MLPs were 43%] in their resource mix as of 2015, compared to 9% for Eversource and 7% for National Grid that same year. Templeton was 71% carbon-free in 2015. The GM stated that the purpose was to tell those elected how much cleaner than the IOUs the MLPs already were without any legislative mandates in place. Senator Anne Gobi told all the GM's this morning that if the Pacheco bill ever came to the floor for a vote that she would most definitely add and amendment exempting all MLPs from the bill. She also added that on the very unlikely chance that

the Pacheco bill passed the Senate it would have to get through the House next. The Senator has Ashburnham, Paxton and Templeton in her district.

The GM updated the Board on the USVI St Thomas mutual aid effort. The Wave 3 billing has been approved by FEMA and by WAPA. The TMLP had already received \$90K with another \$25K to be received in the next few weeks. The GM stated that our linemen will no longer participate in NEPPA Mutual Aid efforts outside of the New England states. This was too much \$\$\$ to be owed to the Light Plant for too long. He also had concerns over how haphazardly the transportation of equipment and personnel had been done and was not happy with the food/lodging provided to Templeton's personnel.

The GM informed the Board that he emailed Chris Pera regarding TMLP's property at 11 ¾ Elm St. Chris is still in a holding pattern of sorts and his Woburn job is taking more time than he originally thought. He will give us a plan at some point in the future and has not invoiced us for his time yet.

New Business:

The Manager had five handouts tonight:

1. February 2018 Power Supply
2. March 2018 Wind Generation
3. March 2018 Kilowatt-Hour Sales/Revenue
4. April 2018 Retail Electric Rates (TMLP)

Other Business:

The GM informed the Board that #502 Baldwinville Rd residence was disconnected on Friday. This house had a giant hole in the roof and the chimney was coming down. The LS was notified by the Templeton Police about the condition of the house. This house was supposed to have been demolished last year but never was.

The LS explained that the Wind Turbine is offline right now. The speed signal last Wednesday was not normal and he had shut it down (very loud operation). The main breaker at the base of the tower tripped again. The cause could be any number of things and there was a scope inspection scheduled next week to get some pictures of the inside of the gearbox. Dana asked about insurance coverage on the turbine; the GM stated that we now had the turbine under the same umbrella policy thru PURMA that the Light and Water Plants were. We have catastrophic coverage including gearbox failure with a \$150K deductible. Representatives from PURMA and Starkweather/Shepley were coming here in May to inspect the inside of the wind turbine for policy renewal purposes.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor, the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Driscoll
General Manager