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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Light Commissioners' Meeting
May 6, 2021**

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

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 6:27 p.m. by Dana.

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

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) told the Board that there was nothing yet new on the MEAM Legislation front; the MLP Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill had been signed into law in March 2021.

The GM updated the Board on the TMLWP Operations Garage Expansion and TMWLP Transformer Storage Facility. He said the expansion project and the pole yard relocation parts were on track but thus far only the grading work and foundation were done for the storage facility part. There was still no delivery date for the structural steel to be used at the storage facility. The GM stated that the TMLWP had paid out \$378,563 to Construction Dynamics of the allowable \$1,380,000. He further stated that the TMLWP had paid out \$58,280 to Haynes, Lieneck & Smith, Inc. Additional project costs included \$20,149 paid out to Place Associates, Inc. A total of \$456,992 had been spent on the project all paid out of the light department depreciation funds. Dana asked the LS to get a price to put asphalt around the storage facility to avoid patchwork areas. Gregg asked if Construction Dynamics were responsible for ordering project supplies; the LS said yes and that he is going to check on the delay status.

The GM discussed with the Board retirement of the WRECs for Berkshire Wind and for Templeton Wind. Under the MLP Legislation the TMLWP is only allowed to count its hydroelectric power and its nuclear power as non-emitting since there are no REC sales associated with them. Berkshire Wind/Templeton Wind have RECs associated with them that are sold in the market for additional wind revenues which disqualifies both of them from getting counted as non-emitting. Retiring the WRECs for both assets

would allow us to now count them in our non-emitting column; essentially 2020 would have been 53% non-emitting instead of 47% like it was. The MLP Legislation has 50% as a goal for 2030 and the TMLWP has an opportunity to meet this goal 9 years early if these WRECs were retired in 2021 (i.e., not sold). In 2020 Berkshire/Templeton Wind cost us 12.15¢/16.03¢ per kWh respectively to operate. Had we retired the WRECs last year those costs would have escalated to 16.29¢/20.16¢ per kWh respectively, a 29% increase in operating costs. But the GM stated that this would only mean a 4% increase in our overall power supply costs from 6.39¢ per kWh to 6.62¢ per kWh. He said it would be a good idea to retire our WRECs now earlier than necessary to get a head start on compliance with this new law. The GM stated that the wind power from Berkshire and from Templeton is expensive but the lower costs for the other energy resources we use have much lower costs per kWh, keeping power supply costs low. He said we have time to consider this as we have not sold any of our WRECs for 2021 yet. MMWEC is developing a plan for the TMLWP to serve as a roadmap to a net-zero power supply by 2050.

The LS reviewed the substation relaying upgrades with the Board. The GM stated that the Board has likely seen many invoices from PLM and from Schweitzer for engineering services and equipment. Once this project is done we will be able to control the outdoor switchgear from inside the substation control house, which will enable safer operations/ switching. PLM is working on an RFP document for us to go out to bid and get the new relaying equipment installed and tested. The GM said that so far we have spent \$56,580 on engineering services and \$39,083 on new equipment.

New Business:

The GM told the Board that Melanson (formerly Melanson-Heath) was here last week for three days to complete all of their data collection for the light department audit of last year. We should be receiving a draft by the end of May 2021. While net income was over \$1,000,000 in 2020 it would be far less than that in 2021, with our paying off all of our past-due MMWEC power bills and purchasing a new aerial lift truck. The GM said that the same net income for 2021 looks to be in the \$100,000 range.

The GM discussed with the Board the FY2022 PILOT to the Town. FY2022 will be the last year of the TMLWP paying any portion of the Town's electric bills, which will be approximately \$8,000. He said that he had not yet spoken with the Town Administrator about any contribution and was only aware of the 20% figure for their electric bills for FY2022. The Town was cited by the MA DOR, like in 2009, for not having a formal agreement with us and the GM knew that he would again be asked by the Town Administrator to speak with the Board about it. They (board) did not want to be committed to any certain dollar amount going forward and also did not want to go back to writing the Town a check every year. The Board wanted substantive things to be offered like vehicles, equipment and services rather than free electricity. Dana asked the GM if he had heard from anyone else other than the Town Administrator on the Town's capital needs for FY2022; he had not. Dana asked about the Recreation Department and the Gilman-Waite ball fields and their needs. The LS said that he had heard from their director Scott Dill that they really needed to ring the clubhouse building up to code and install bathrooms instead of renting portable toilets. Gregg asked the LS to follow up with Scott Dill and get some numbers together. Chris had brought a copy of the Town's capital item list for the FY2022 Annual Town Meeting. There was listed a police vehicle for \$59,000, bullet-proof vests for \$11,500 and a plowing vehicle for \$30,000. Dana asked how much has been given to the Town the last few years; the GM responded

about \$85,000. Gregg was OK with this figure as a contribution; Dana did suggest offering \$10,000 to the Boynton Library also. The Board felt that any donation toward the Gilman-Waite ball fields should be separate from the PILOT payment. At this time, a vote took place as follows:

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor, the Board voted to offer the Town the police vehicle and the DPW vehicle for \$89,000 as a contribution for FY2022.

Dana – Aye

Gregg - Aye

Chris - Aye

Other Business:

Dana asked the GM if he had heard any more on the Drury lien. He said that Steve Doucette reminded him of the board vote taken in 2014 for the Light Plant to adopt MGL Ch 164 Sec 58(b) thru 58(e) inclusive. This was, under the law, the only action that needed to be taken by the Light Plant in order to let the Town place the \$125 lien on #18 Drury Ln in Templeton, MA. The GM forwarded a copy of this filed certificate from the Worcester County Registry of Deeds to the Templeton Board of Assessors Office, and they agreed that the Drury lien and all others could be processed by the Town on the Light Plant's behalf. The Drury lien will go through in November 2021 along with any others that have materialized from now till then.

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 7:24 p.m.

There were five (5) handouts tonight:

1. March 2021 & April 2021 Power Supply
2. March 2021 & April 2021 Sales Summary
3. March 2021 & April 2021 Wind Generation
4. May 2021 Retail Rates
5. Q1 2021 Rate Comparisons

Respectfully Submitted,



John M Driscoll
General Manager