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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Light Commissioners' Meeting
June 2, 2022**

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

Employees present were: General Manager (GM) John Driscoll
Light Superintendent (LS) Tom Berry
Business Manager (BS) Jen Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dana.

[For the purposes board re-organization, the Light Commission made no changes to the existing structure of Dana Blais as Chairman, Chris Stewart as Clerk and Gregg Edwards as Member.]

The agenda for June 2, 2022 was approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

The minutes for February 2, 2022 were approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

Un update was given to the Board by the LS on the status of the construction projects going on at the Light Plant's property. He said that the line personnel had already moved all of the materials into the new storage facility that were supposed to be put in there, and that materials had been re-located from the existing garage to the garage expansion. The LS said that we were still holding back a final payment to Construction Dynamics for about \$65,000 due to some small punch list items that are yet to be completed.

The GM presented the Board with an updated expense/revenue report on the Light Plant's BESS thru May 2022. At this point our revenues had been \$927,000 against our expenses of \$338,000, yielding net revenues of about \$589,000. He stated that the BESS is still on track for a payback term of just over 5

years. The system had cost the Light Plant about \$1,600,000 for installation and we have received 57% of this back from May 2019 thru June 2022, 38 months.

The GM updated the board on a MEAM Legislative matter on battery storage. An amendment was attempting to make its way through a climate bill up for a discussion and vote that would adversely affect those MLPs who had either already installed a BESS or planned to. The amendment was filed last-minute but was defeated by a vote of the MA Senate. The GM heard that Senator Anne Gobi was particularly helpful in opposing this amendment for us and other MLPs.

New Business:

The Board had a discussion with the GM on a proposed PILOT to the Town for FY2023. The GM had been contacted by the Town Administrator and he requested that the Light Plant purchase more of the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for the Town's Fire Department at a cost of \$70,000. The GM did say that this would be the last month that we would be paying any portion of the Town's electric bills for them, as they had paid 20% of the total electricity cost in FY2022. After some discussion a vote took place as follows:

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to purchase \$70,000 worth of the needed SCBA units for the Town's Fire Department as our PILOT for FY2023.

Dana – Aye

Gregg – Aye

Chris - Aye

The GM had done a comparison for the Board of the WCMA LMPs for 2022 versus those of 2021 from January through April. While the amount of MWH purchased by the Light Plant in 2022 was basically in line with those of 2021, the around-the-clock (ATC) LMPs for our load zone, WCMA, were not. The GM said that the rate per MWH for ATC power in 2022 had almost doubled from that of 2021. This circumstance had made the Light Plant's PPC Adjustment a charge rather than a credit thus far in 2022, since this adjustment was based on power costs increasing or decreasing.

The GM had prepared a graph to illustrate the progression downward of the LIGHT Plant's solar credit rate for our 30 residential solar installations with net metering spanning the 14 years it had been since the first of these installations. In 2008 a residential solar customer would be paid about 17¢/kWh for any solar power received by the meter, compared to about 10¢/kWh in 2021. This 41% decrease in the residential solar credit rate was due the lowering of power costs (in general) since 2008 AND the removal of the Light Plant's 2.7¢ distribution charge in 2011 and 4.9¢ transition charge in 2013 from our rates.

The GM said that Melanson would be done with the Light Plant audit by the end of June.

The GM had five (5) handouts for the Board for tonight's meeting:

- 2022 Power Supply FEB thru APR
- 2022 Sales Summary FEB thru MAY
- Q1 2022 MMWEC Rate Comparisons
- JUN-22 Electric Rates
- MMWEC Special Project 2021A

[Templeton had been given 6th place for residential rates, 10th place for commercial rates (3,000-100,000 kWh) and 7th place for industrial rates (190,000-1,260,000 kWh).]

The discussion with the Board about MMWEC Special Project 2021A would take place in Executive Session, with the possibility of a board vote following in Open Session having to do with this project.]

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 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


John M Driscoll
General Manager