



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
June 10, 2020**

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 6:46 p.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes of January 29, 2020 were not available.

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) updated the Board on the MEAM Legislation/MLP Bill H.2863. The GM explained that there is no new information to report due to COVID-19. There is a new AMI bill out there for customers not to pay their bills.

The GM had a handout for the Commissioners regarding the 2019/2020 Battery Performance. The handout is dated back to April 2019, when the battery storage was installed. The net revenue and expenses for this project was \$355K, the total cost of project was \$1.6M, with the net revenue/expenses 22.2% of the project has already been paid for. This project is on track and is doing well. The GM had a second handout for the Board referencing the Solar Performance on Farnsworth Road. This handout is dated back to January 2015, and this project is also really looking good.

The GM updated the Board on the TMLP EV Charging Station. The GM explained to the Board the rates that will be charged for charging vehicles and he is not sure when Charge Point will take care of the changes. The LS said the electrical service, base and the pedestal have been installed. The electrician will be here tomorrow. The GM said the rate charged to the EV customer would be the T3 rate, which is on peak/off peak depending on the time of day used. The GM said that the on-peak rate from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday is 15.315¢ per kWh and the off-peak rate from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday and weekends is 14.561¢ per kWh. This works out to an overall rate of 14.853 ¢ per kWh. (Dana suggested doing a photo op with the Gardner News.)

The GM discussed with the Board the TMLP Operations Garage Expansion. Paul from Haynes, Lieneck and Smith, Inc has put together plans. Dana said that Paul should put the job together along with the bidding. The GM also discussed with the Board the TMLP Transformer Storage Facility. The GM is concerned with where the pole yard is going due to the trees that need to be removed. The LS and Dana told the GM it should not be a problem removing the trees and leveling the ground.

The GM updated the Board on the TMLP Groundman Status. TMLP hired Shane Murphy from the TMWP for one of the groundman positions which was discussed at the January meeting. The GM told the Board the second groundman hired was Tyler Gearin from Phillipston. Schooling is tough at this time for both, the LS said hopefully they will be able to attend in September. He also told the Board that John White was promoted to the Working Foreman position; he has been with the company since 1998 and a Lead Lineman since 2007. Joe Parker was promoted to permanent Lead Lineman he was a temporary Lead Lineman when John or Nick was out.

New Business:

The GM updated the Board on TMLWP is handling COVID-19. The office has been closed to the public since March 17, 2020 until further notice. We are still taking phone calls, payments over the phone and have notified customers through our website, Facebook page, on the door and bills as to alternate ways they can pay their bills. We are trying NOT to accept cash. Starting at the end of March through the second week of May, TMLWP was 50% staffed during the week, the crews have been down to one person in each vehicle.

The GM informed the Board on the 2019 Light audit. Melanson Heath, our auditors are tentatively coming out in July to start. The Office Manager can do some of the information remotely from the office.

The GM told the Board the NEPPA annual conference has been cancelled.

The GM discussed with the Board the draft/preliminary TMLP net income for 2019. TMLP will have a net income around \$1M, the GM suggested putting more towards the OPEB trust, which will knock down the target number and paying off back bills at MMWEC. The Board agreed.

The GM had a handout of the TMLP 2020 TMLP Actuarial Update/OPEB Trust for the Board. The handout had the OPEB Trust Balance versus UAAL Target numbers. TMLP is 47% funded as of May 2020. Dana asked when we could use these funds, the GM stated if we had trouble paying our health insurance bills at any time, we can use these funds to adjust our budget. We currently have no issues paying our bills.

The GM informed the Board about the TMLWP Office Damage/broken sprinkler valve. On Saturday, June 6, the cleaning lady was here and noticed there was water coming from the ceiling in the conference room. It was caught soon after it started, we were lucky. She called the dispatch, who in turn called the standby lineman to come in.

The Manager had four (4) handouts tonight:

1. Power Supply Jan-20 thru Apr-20
2. Wind Generation Jan-20 thru May-20
3. Kilowatt-Hour Sales/Revenue Jan-20 thru May-20
4. Q1 Retail Rates thru May-20

Other Business:

The LS provided information to the Commissioners on mPower Proposal. The LS explained to the Board that more Municipals are getting on board with mapping, AMI and CIS. This software will keep track of TMLPs poles, transformers, etc. throughout Town. mPower collects the data and integrates into their software. It is essential a living map and which is updating often. The LS said data collection is his main interest at this time. He will find it very helpful. An example of what It provides is detailed data on how old the poles are and what attachments are on the poles, whether it has Comcast, Verizon or Mass CEC on them. Dana found it was a great idea to be able to pull up all that information from the LS office. The LS had a proposal he had broken down in to suggested parts, one for 2020, 2021 and 2022. Chris asked which part the LS like right would now. The LS would like to go with the Data Collection but wants the Board to know we will need to do the 2021, which is the software integrator as well next year. At this time a vote took place as follows:

"On a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, 2-0 in favor the Board voted to go forward with mPower Innovations Proposed Three-Year plan"

Dana – Aye

Chris – Aye

The LS information the Board the Truck #23 chassis will be completed at the end of June. The new completed Truck #23 should be ready in the Fall.

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