



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
August 25, 2020**

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 6:31 p.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes of June 10, 2020 were approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The GM updated the Board on the status of the office with the COVID-19 problem. He stated that the office is still closed to the public unless by appointment, all must wear protective masks. The GM said that financially the Light Plant was doing well and did not seem to have their cash flow disrupted by the COVID-19 problem. Customers were still mailing checks in for electric bills or paying online via UniPay or on ACH with automatic withdrawal or leaving money orders in the bill drop box. Although the over-the-counter customer transactions had stopped our phone transactions were still as frequent as before all of this.

[There was no MEAM Legislative Update given at this time.]

The GM spoke with the Board about this year's annual capacity peak on July 27 for Hour 18. The load in New England for this hour was 24,736 MW. The network load for Templeton for this same hour was 8.056 MW with 1.600 MW of battery storage PLUS 1.342 MW of solar generation. This made our unadjusted peak load at 10.998 MW. This made the battery savings for the next FCA \$135,680 and the solar savings for the next FCA \$113,802 for a combined savings of \$249,482 for that load hour. With August nearly over the GM thought it unlikely that a new hourly peak would surpass that of the July 27 peak.

The GM and the LS had a discussion with the Board on the status of the Light Plant's bidding for our new storage facility PLUS the garage expansion. The opening of sub-bids would occur on September 30 and the opening of actual bids would occur on October 7. Both would occur at the offices of Haynes, Lieneck & Smith, Inc in Ashby, MA.

The GM updated the Board on the progress of our OPEB Trust funds held at MMWEC. He stated that as of July 31 the Light Plant was 53.1% funding for our UAAL, with \$456,524 in funds available. Since January 2014 our UAAL had gone from \$1.330M to \$1.493M to \$982K to \$859K. Since January 2014 the Light Plant had contributed \$366K to the OPEB Trust and had gotten \$91K in fund returns.

The GM told the Board that the final draft of our 2019 light audit would be available in about a week. Melanson-Heath had prepared a second draft for the Light Plant that reduced our net income significantly, from \$1.410M to \$1.171M. This was representative of reduction of return-on-plant from 7.6% down to 6.3%; the maximum allowed by statute was 8.0% so the GM was pleased to have gotten lower income the second time around. The GM and the BM had discussed several uses of the Light Plant's surplus funds this time around, including paying off some overdue power bills, funding the OPEB Trust, funding the new storage facility/garage expansion or putting money into rate stabilization fund.

The LS updated the Board on the status of mPower's data collection of GIS data of all of our distribution apparatus town wide.

New Business:

[There was no discussion about #412 Baldwinville Rd solar expansion since the resident could not attend tonight's meeting. The Board will re-visit this agenda item in October.]

The LS required the Board to vote on the acceptance of a proposal from DeltaStar (DS) to perform re-gasketing on T1 unit in the substation for \$39,900. Transformer Service, Inc (TSI) and Waukesha Transformer (WT) had also submitted bids for this work; TSI was lower than DS and WT was higher than DS. The GM and LS both wanted to go with DS for this job since they were the ones who had built and tested the unit in 2004 before it was delivered to our substation. Since DS had a quoted price in the middle of the other two bidders, the LS checked w/ Steve Doucette to make sure we would be OK with the procurement laws if we did not take the lowest bidder. Now that Steve had given us permission to do so it was time for a vote:

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to hire DeltaStar to perform the necessary re-gasketing work on Transformer #1 for the amount of \$39,900.

Dana - Aye

Chris - Aye

Gregg - Aye

The LS had been given a proposal from Mike Barrett at PLM to re-design the existing substation control house with electronic and/or solid-state relaying in an effort to bring the protective equipment up to date. There were still several electromechanical protective relays either in active use or simply mounted and wired to nothing. These existing protective functions could be combined into single unit relays that perform multiple tasks such as over-current, over-voltage, under-frequency, differential and other protective functions. The LS said that many of these could be upgraded with Schweitzer equipment that

would nearly match that of the reclosers used in the substation and in the field. Mike's proposal was a not-to-exceed price of \$58,000. The LS required a vote to move forward:

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to hire PLM to perform the engineering and design work necessary to bring the substation's protective relaying up to date for an amount not to exceed \$58,000.

Dana - Aye

Chris - Aye

Gregg - Aye

The Templeton Recreation Department had been given a new scoreboard as a gift from the IBEW Local Union 104 and had inquired of the LS the possibility of the Light Plant assisting them in getting it into service. The LS stated that we would need to install two poles to mount the scoreboard on and then connect it to the 25 KVA padmount transformer feeding the Club House at 120/240v. The LS said that conduit would need be installed for this and a licensed electrician would be needed to complete the work. The Board agreed that we should continue the tradition of assisting the town's recreation department with such projects and they were OK with the LS doing "whatever it took" to get the scoreboard up and running. [The GM thought that we had no choice with how we would look if the IBEW donated the item to them, but the Light Plant refused to install it for them.]

The Manager had four (4) handouts tonight:

1. Power Supply May-20, Jun-20, Jul-20
2. Kilowatt-Hour Sales/Revenue Jun-20, Jul-20, Aug-20
3. Retail Rates for Sep-20
4. Q2 MMWEC Rate Comparisons

The Light Plant placed as follows for our electric rates for April, May and June of 2020 (when put against the Central MA MLPs Ashburnham, Boylston, Groton, Holden, Hudson, Littleton, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Sterling and West Boylston and the IOUs Eversource, National Grid and Unitil):

Residential 750 kWh 3RD
Commercial 10000 kWh 1ST
Commercial 100000 kWh 5TH
Industrial 350000 kWh 1ST

Commercial 3000 kWh 4TH
Commercial 36000 kWh 3RD
Industrial 190000 kWh 1ST
Industrial 1260000 kWh 1ST

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager