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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Light Commissioners' Meeting
September 7, 2022**

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 6:58 p.m. by Dana.

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

Old Business:

The GM updated the Board on TMLP's Operations Garage Expansion and TMLP's Transformer Storage Facility. The GM said project is complete. The totals cost was \$1,564,000 with 88% of the total cost being Construction Dynamics. We just paid the last invoice for (approximately) \$60,000 so last month. Dana suggested doing an open house sometime to show the completed project to those in town.

The GM discussed the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) performance with the Board. The performance has not changed much from June to August. The annual capacity peak from the last Forward Capacity Auction (FCA) had been changed from Hour 18 to Hour 17 due to a late-arriving decision by ISONE. MMWEC was quite surprised by this decision being brought forward so long after July 2021. The GM said that the TMLP would lose approximately \$100,000 because of this change to the peak capacity hour made by ISONE. He stated that all of the MLPs utilizing batteries to reduce their peak demands had also lost money, thereby adding time to any payback period they may have associated with battery project debt. As of tonight, the annual capacity peak for this current FCA remains on July 20, 2022 four HE 19.

The GM informed the Board that the 2021 Light Plant Financial Statements have been completed by Melanson and can be made available to them electronically or in hard copy.

New Business:

The LS explained to the Board that the front office HVAC went down during the hot weather in August. The compressor failed for Unit 4 and replacement compressors will not work with the current refrigerant being used in our HVAC system. Royal Steam will need to replace both the downstairs/outdoor compressor and upstairs/indoor the air handler as well. The LS is waiting on an estimate from them to perform the work and get this resolved. The failed unit was original with this building so it is twenty (20) years old. The LS had purchased window air conditioner units so that the front office could accommodate the employees who are in there all day long.

The LS spoke with the Board about an upcoming cybersecurity assessment that is needed because PURMA will not offer certain insurance policies without one. PURMA had already been working with four (4) companies who do this kind of consulting for businesses for cybersecurity purposes. One of these companies called Vertikal 6 had already partnered with PURMA and they seemed pleased with the results. The LS reached out to Vertikal 6 to get an estimate to perform this work for TMLP, and they provided quotes for several different types of assessments. The GM and the LS met to go over this list and pick/choose which ones were appropriate for TMLP at this time AND satisfied the PURMA requirements. At this time, the LS asked for a board vote to spend \$23,500 on assessments we had chosen to be done by Vertikal 6 for TMLP. Then a vote took place as follows:

"A motion was made by Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 favor for the Board to approve \$23,500 for Cybersecurity Assessment"

Dana – Aye

Chris– Aye

Gregg - Aye

The GM informed the Board of Transformer #2's HV Tap Changer and stated that DeltaStar was still here working on it. The purpose of the HV Tap Changer here was to accommodate an input voltage closer to 69 KV than 66 KV. Both T1 in 2004 and T2 in 2008 had been manufactured to operate with an average input voltage of 66 KV. But since then the addition of several capacitor banks and a LOT of solar arrays to the A1 and B2 lines has significantly increased our input voltage even beyond 69 KV most times. When United Power Group (UPG) was here working with DeltaStar and the LS to actually change Transformer #2 to the 69 KV tap position from the 66 KV one, this is when they realized that the mechanism did not operate. DeltaStar would later discover, after draining all of the oil out the transformer into a fuel tank, that the mechanism was missing parts and in fact never would have worked. The GM stated this had to mean that this transformer could not have had any commissioning, testing or loss evaluation done at any tap position except for the 66 KV one. But the tap change process was successful right away for Transformer #1, and as a result of this the voltage regulators for the 1301 and 1302 circuits are now operating in a band closer to 0%/Neutral which is what they're designed for. These regulators had previously been operating in a band between -5%/-8 and 0%/Neutral. Now they will be operating between -2.5%/-4 and +2.5%/+4 which is normal.

The GM and the Board discussed the idea of adding another EV charging station in East Templeton, a Level 3 one, possibly at the Town Hall on Patriots Rd. Tesla had installed Level 3 charging right by Cumberland Farms in East Templeton. It was our understanding that the Tesla charging station only worked for Tesla EVs and a few select other EVs but not all of them. If TMLP put the same charging capabilities across the street from Tesla's we could capture that revenue to be had from all of the other non-Tesla EVs. The Level 2 station here at the office takes 4-5 hours for a full charge, whereas a Level 3 station is closer to 20-25 minutes for a full charge. Unlike here, EV drivers could simply wait in their vehicles while charging instead of arranging for other transportation to leave the station. The LS planned to reach out to MMWEC to see about grant funding opportunities through the MA DOER or some other state agency to make this happen, since for TMLP to cover the installation costs for a Level 3 station would yield a project that could likely never be paid back. The GM would reach out to the Town to run this idea by them about our installing and EV charging station on town property and getting the 3 or more necessary parking spaces to accommodate EV parking while charging. The LS stated that while there is three-phase power available on the Patriots Rd front side of the Town Hall but not on the Conti

Ave back side. Depending on where the physical location of the EV station on the property, our choice would be to come from the front in lieu of installing three-phase power down Conti Ave, Lake Ave or South Main St.

The GM had three (3) handouts tonight:

1. 2022 May-July Power Supply
2. 2022 June-August Sales
3. 2022 September Retail Rates

Other Business:

The GM and LS asked the Board for permission to go out to bid on the much needed exterior painting of the TMLWP Office. Based on research done by the LS as this was to be a rated job (prevailing wage) he thought that \$70,000 was a good estimate of what the painting would cost. Dana asked the GM if a vote was necessary here and the GM responded no, that the board vote would be necessary when choosing the bid awardee in the future. Dana also suggested that, while we were on this issue, let's get the outdoor handrails sandblasted and re-painted finally; the LS said he had already been calling around to get this done.

Dana asked about raising electric rates at TMLP, would it be necessary for 2023 because of the out-of-control energy prices. The GM stated that no, there was no need to raise the base rates here unless these energy spikes/trends were not spikes/trends and this was just how much energy cost now. He did not think this was the case and that some set of political circumstances would turn things around in 2023. The GM said that he knew that the electric rates in Shrewsbury had increased by 11% this September, and there would surely be other MLPs following suit. He said that the bar is pretty low for the IOUs, and even if TMLP raised rates by 11% we'd still be 39% less than National Grid was. The GM did offer that the PPC Adjustment here for fuel costs was put in place for exactly times like now, where there were high energy prices and uncertainty as to why or how to stop it. In 2021 our average PPC Adjustment at TMLP was $-\$0.00557/\text{kWh}$, or a credit to the customer of $-\$4.11$ on a residential bill. Thus far in 2022 our average PPC Adjustment at TMLP has been $+0.00212/\text{kWh}$, or a charge to the customer of $+\$1.56$ to a residential customer. This average increase of $\$5.67$ per residential customer bill had gone virtually unnoticed this year, and the GM couldn't imagine residents not being able to handle another $\$10-\15 per month for electricity based on market conditions. Dana asked about our long-term power supply looks like right now; the GM stated that TMLP is only open to the market by about 12% so our exposure to spikes/trends is low. Also, he said that Seabrook is re-licensed to operate till 2038 and Millstone has been re-licensed to operate till 2050.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Driscoll
General Manager