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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Light Commissioners' Meeting  
September 13, 2017**

Members present were: Chairman Dana Blais  
Clerk Chris Stewart

Employees present were: General Manager [GM] John Driscoll  
Light Superintendent [LS] Tom Berry  
Business Manager [BM] Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes of August 8, 2017 were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

**Old Business:**

Dana suggested moving Chris Pera (CP) up on the Agenda regarding TMLP's property at 11 ¾ Elm Street, since he was in the meeting room. CP did speak to the GM in August 2017 about the building, and he handed an aerial picture of the building from the Board of Assessors' GIS. CP stated that he has been reading some deeds for the properties behind the American Legion, but they are difficult to interpret. If the TMLP had a deed, he said that we could sell the land according to that only. CP did provide the GM and the Board with property records. Dana said he would like to have it surveyed and drawn up, and CP advised that this may not be as quick as finding tonight's information. Dana and Chris both agreed that they would like this done. CP estimated that it could be done for around \$4K for at least 2 days in the field and 2 days in the office. He stated that it may take up to 2 months. The GM asked if there will be boundary markers in place after it is complete; CP said that they could be installed. At present there appears to be a privately rented dumpster on the TMLP's land. At this time a vote was taken as follows:

*"On a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Board voted to budget not too exceed \$4,500 for the survey of 11 ¾ Elm Street"*

*Dana – Aye*

*Chris – Aye*

The GM also asked if CP could also look at the lot plan for the Substation for the 53' battery storage trailer that may be going there. He will check in at the next meeting. The GM asked what would happen if the TMLP ended up owning more of this land than we originally thought? If it ends up being more

land, then a TMLP attorney files an easement if someone else is using the land. The fact that the land in front of building looks to be an access road could complicate matters.

The GM updated the Board on the Eaton AMI metering system. Our kick-off meeting was last week and Mark Harkins/Adam Hassig from Eaton hardware/software came to the TMLP. The meeting went very well. The LS had recent information from them that the residential meters, gateways and relays should be arriving in November 2017; commercial meters in January 2018. The GM stated we will perform our SAT in January 2018 when all of the gateways and routers are in place along with the 50 or so SAT meters installed. Although several purchase orders had been made to Eaton, the TMLP had not yet received any invoices yet.

The GM next spoke about the possibility of battery storage and state funding. He had been working with Jason Viadero from MMWEC on submitting a grant to the MA DOER. The goal was to be awarded funding from their ACES (Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage) program toward a 500-1,000 KW system. This particular grant was focused on zinc batteries (Zynth) thru Northern Reliability of VT, a departure from the NEC lithium ion technology that had been utilized in Sterling for their 2,000-KW system. The GM stated to the Board that the Zynth batteries could deliver a 20-year life as opposed to a 15-year one from NEC.

The GM did stress the uniqueness of a Templeton battery storage project, in that all of the battery charging could be achieved with clean energy behind our wholesale meters. This would make the battery a truly clean generation resource fueled by Templeton Solar and Templeton Wind. On the rare occasions that the 597 KW solar average output AND the 172-KW wind average output could not charge the batteries, LMPs were so low that market power would be of no consequence. Additionally, off-peak energy prices sometimes went below 0\$ so we could have ISONE pay us to charge these batteries a few hours per year.

The GM discussed where we were at on the electric service limiting. The meeting with the MA DPU was cancelled again for August 18, 2017. The resident who had lodged the initial complaint had lost the house to bank auction in mid-July 2017 and had been served eviction papers for mid-September. Even Chris Pollart from Rubin & Rudman had recommended withdrawing our request at this time; he thought it would garner some good will from the MA DPU to the TMLP in the interim. The new AMI meters that we will receive can be programmed to be load-limiting at a pre-determined amount, and we will be able to use them on other non-paying electric customers with doctor notes. We can re-visit service limiting next year.

The GM updated the Board on the 2017 MMWEC Project Surplus Funds received. The TMLP had received a total surplus of \$556K, of which \$446K was due to over-funding of the bond reserves for Seabrook Project 6. The GM suggested adding \$193K to the TMLP OPEB Trust held at MMWEC; this would bring the fully funded year down from 2037 years to 2028 (based on FY2015 actuarial figures). The GM stated that we should put something into our OPEB Trust because the next FY2018 actuarial report will likely yield an UAAL of \$4M. The GM based this prediction on the updated actuarial report for the TMWP for FY2018 that he had received in July 2017 from Odyssey Advisors. The TMLP cannot receive its next actuarial report till January 2018. By this time the TMLP will have six (6) retirees and three (3) spouses to deal with as far as post-retirement benefits; the TMWP only has one (1) retiree and one (1) spouse.

Dana suggested possibly applying funds to one of the wind turbine loans to bring down the turbine debt and reduce the payback term. The GM was going to check on the \$994K loan with MMWEC, as far as when the bond can be called to re-finance or payoff. The other turbine loan, the \$2.2M CREBs loan is a federal loan and cannot be paid off early. The \$994K loan did have a 1% penalty to People's Bank but that time may have already passed. The GM also stated that we do have past due invoices from MMWEC at 0% interest. MMWEC uses our Working Capital Funds to pay them and replenish the funds when they

send us power bills. Dana said that when Gregg Edwards came to the next meeting then the Board could discuss these options and vote.

The GM updated the Commissioners on the Bridge Street Reconstruction Plans and attached a proposal for Professional Engineering from Fuss & O'Neill. Estimates for the engineering and design of Bridge Street came in at \$48K without sidewalks/\$52K with sidewalks. One of the questions the GM asked was how long the prices were good for? Fuss & O'Neill said they will honor the 2017 billing rates thru the end of December. Alan Mayo, DPW Superintendent, told the GM that the engineering & design plans need to be approved by the state before they commit any funds to this project.

The purchase price for the 2 new lawn mowers was \$14,750 and the Town had received this invoice from John Deere; the GM told the Town Administrator (Carter) to forward this invoice to us here at TMLP. Attached was a copy of the email sent to Carter along with the quote for \$14,910 for 15 SBCA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) units for the Templeton Fire Department. He said that the Board would see these invoices going through the warrants within the next week or so. The GM said that we did not receive an invoice for the Town's new dump body yet.

### **New Business:**

The GM discussed the ISONE Peak Loads for June, July and August of 2017. For these three months the combined savings to the TMLP due to the solar generation on Farnsworth Rd was \$282.7K. June 13 will end up being the annual peak hour according to the GM, which is a departure from previous annual hourly peak loads occurring in July or August.

The GM talked about a RFP or Bid for a new auditing firm for the TMLP for 2017. There was a short list of auditors familiar with light department; we could end up with Melanson-Heath or Marcum (again). What we need are auditing of the 2017 financial statements by April 30 AND filing of the 2017 DPU report by March 31. A few items we are look for is to file the DPU report by March 31, and a draft report by April.

The GM informed the he had reached out to IBEW Local Union 104 (LU104) regarding the Bookkeeper Classification that has not been occupied since 2006, when the new classification of Staff Accountant was created. This classification as of 2009 was removed from the CBA. The GM would like to bring this classification back because he realized that Lindsay Kodys will have effectively "graded out" by October 2018. This condition would keep Lindsay Kodys at Clerk Step 4 till retirement. The GM said that the TMLP is content with Bookkeeper wages where they would end up in 2018 after adding nine (9) years of wage increases. With a path for growth for the Clerk, the GM is optimistic that LU104 will agree that it is OK. A copy of the e-mail sent to LU104 was given to the Board.

The GM informed the Board about a possible NEPPA Mutual Aid deployment to the USVI due to the hurricanes. The TMLP had offered 2 linemen and a bucket truck to go St Thomas, where there were over 1,500 broken utility poles. Scott Edwards warned the TMLP about getting the trucks back home and that they may very well go by barge TO the USVI but not come home FROM the USVI. As of today, Houston and Parker could go for a month and be relieved by Greg and Shane. The LS is waiting to receive confirmation back from Scott Edwards on this. Dana asked who pays for this extensive amount of labor and equipment; the GM stated that we pay our linemen what they make according to the CBA and FEMA will reimburse us at \$125 per hour per lineman. The GM and the LS both stated that under no circumstance does the TMLP lose \$\$\$ to assist in power restoration for NEPPA or for APPA; if this was the case then we would not have offered to provide any mutual aid assistance.

The GM discussed the Mini Watt & Winchendon Hydroelectric Units. The owner of these units, Steve Fisk of O'Connell Energy Group, contacted the GM regarding another possible contract extension. We are currently under contract from till February 2018. The GM was surprised to be approached this early and had previously thought that O'Connell was getting out of the hydroelectric generation business. He had worked with MMWEC to come up with a proposed figure for Steve Fisk, based on the decreasing energy prices and the increasing capacity prices and the TMLP's clean energy. He had not heard back from O'Connell as of today.

The GM had four handouts tonight:

1. July 2017 Power Supply
2. August 2017 Wind Generation (worst month)
3. August 2017 Kilowatt-Hour Sales/Revenue
4. September 2017 Residential Electric Rates

**Other Business:**

The GM informed the Board that George Jones from Seaman Paper called him to question his bill; he thought it to be too low for September. He thought that maybe the PPCA credit was wrong because it was more \$\$\$ than usual. The GM explained to him that no, his bill was correct and that TMLP had paid just 6.86¢ per KWH for power in July and just 6.33¢ per KWH in August. The TMLP had to be careful on how much margin over operating cost it took in and the credit of 1.17¢ per KWH was correct for September 2017. Dana asked about possibly dropping our electric rates because of depressed energy prices and our retired nuclear debt. The GM stated that we could certainly lower them in January 2018 but that it should coincide with the TMLP's receipt of the FY2018 updated actuarial report.

The LS said that we had changed the office outdoor lighting from HPS to LED lights at a cost of \$4,500. The payback term would only be 3.5 years and it looked much better at night to have the office lighting match the substation lighting. The LS notified the Board about the new Truck #27 chassis. Since it is later in the year, Freightliner had suggested going with a 2018 chassis instead of a 2017 one for \$800 more. The TMLP took their advice since the price adjustment was minor. The RFP opening for the body portion of the new Truck #27 was set for October 6, 2017.

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 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager