

Light Commissioners' Meeting
February 27, 2025

Members present were: Dana Blais, Board Chairman
Chris Stewart, Board Clerk/Secretary

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 10:19 a.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes from January 16, 2025 were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The GM discussed with the Board the FY2026 PILOT to the Town. Steve Castle from the Town's TCTV program was in attendance again to discuss more of what his department does. He is currently looking into getting some grant funding but is unsure if they will receive it or not. The GM said the Board may agree to fund TCTV with \$50,000 in PILOT funds just for this year. The GM has contacted the Town Administrator, Adam Lamontagne, to make sure this is prudent. Dana asked Mr. Castle if he receives funding from the Town, his reply was that the funds received keeps ahead of the their costs. At this time a vote took place as follows:

"On a motion by Dana, seconded by Chris, the Board voted to provide the Town's TCTV with fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in funding for equipment necessary to operate the Town's cable television systems for the Fiscal Year 2026."

Dana – Aye

Chris – Aye

The GM reviewed with the Board the Large Building Energy Reporting status with the MA DOER. He explained that they are requesting kWh Usage data on the Light Plant's customers operating in facilities measuring over 20,000' Sq. The GM provided the Board with a copy of the 20 or so customers that are on the state's list right now, subject to change before any regulations may begin. The Light Plant is aligned with the stance taken by MEAM. This is that the customer data is sensitive and protected by

privacy rights under the law, and that it cannot be offered to the state or to any other entity without the consent of the customer. MEAM has instructed the Light Plant and its other members to NOT provide any such data to the MA DOER at this time. Their stance is that the state should be in direct contact with each of the customers listed to obtain such data and leave the MLPs out of the loop totally. The GM is of the opinion that this move by the current state administration is just an example of how uneducated they are about the electric utility industry in general, but even more specifically to those utilities governed by their host cities and towns.

The GM asked to save the discussion on the state's Clean Heat Standard status till the next regularly scheduled meeting here so he can find out some more about it.

New Business:

The GM gave the Board a report on the revenues collected from the Level 2 EV charging station here at the office going back to its July 2020 installation. The Light Plant has taken in \$1,283 in total charging revenues since July 2020 at an average charging rate of 11.31¢ per kWh. Total revenue taken in should have been \$1,711 but per the arrangement ChargePoint keeps 25% of the charging revenues in exchange for the marketing of our charging location to the EV fleet via apps. The Level 2 EV charging here began steadily increasing in Sep-23 and peaked in Mar-24 only to decrease to the same level it was at previously in Sep-24. In March 2024 we sold 841 kWh of electricity to charge EVs but we don't have an easy way of determining just how many charging sessions that's equivalent to.

The GM shared with the Board his report on the future of EVs in Templeton as it applies to broader electrification. According to the Mass DOT's own website there were already 80 EVs registered in town in 2024. With the assistance of Jason V at MMWEC he predicted the level of increasing EVs in town to replace typical fossil-fueled ones. The analysis shows the amount EVs in town increasing to 485 by 2034 and to 1,473 by 2044. The GM had already begun studying how this will affect power supply costs over the next 10-20 years.

The GM similarly shared with the Board his report on the future of Mini-Split installations in Templeton as it applies to broader electrification. Again with the assistance of Jason V at MMWEC he made a best guess at the existing number of mini-splits in town at 78, with some residences having more than just one unit installed. The analysis shows the amount of Mini-Split installations in town increasing to 1,051 by 2034 and to 1,477 by 2044. The GM feels that the "take-off" with these will be slower than that of the EVs since the customer has to contribute significantly more dollars for the mini-split installations than that of a Level 2 EV home charging station. He had already (similarly) looked into how this will affect power supply costs over the next 10-20 years.

The GM discussed with the Board an emerging rural area grant opportunity he was made aware of by Jason V at MMWEC. It is specifically geared toward municipal light plants in rural areas looking to make improvements to their distributions systems in order to allow easier paths to a clean energy future. Templeton has joined with other MLPs Ashburnham, Boylston, Paxton, and Princeton to combine efforts in an attempt to secure grant funding to replace the aerial distribution circuits on Depot Road and on King Phillip Trail, which were both installed in the late 1970s. He had submitted the two necessary project estimates to Jason V ahead of schedule and he is forwarding it all off to the state's responsible

party for the purpose of getting us grant funding. Depot Road is a \$267,000 project while King Phillip Trail is a \$557,000 one.

Other Business

The BM had a handout for the Board regarding the new fees that will take place once we have our new billing software updated this summer. There were a few questions circulating around and she wanted to make sure everyone had a copy.

Dana asked the LS if TMLP would need to move some poles on Patriots Road with the roundabout construction, LS said yes we will need to. He had already tried to coordinate something with the person at the state level who was in charge of this project with the sidewalk.

The GM had the following handouts to the Board:

- December 2024 Power Supply
- January 2025 Power Supply
- January 2025 kWh Sales
- February 2025 kWh Sales
- March 2025 Retail Rates

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 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager