

Light Commissioners' Meeting

August 21, 2024

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 9:44 a.m. by Dana.

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

The minutes from June 26, 2024, were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The General Manager (GM) informed the Board that they will go into an Executive Session later tonight to discuss the IBEW Local 104 Union Proposal for 2025-2027 at the end of the meeting.

The GM discussed with the Board the ISONE Capacity Scarcity Conditions. This occurred on June 18, 2024 @ 17:50 when a 610-MW oil unit tripped offline unexpectedly. This created problems for MMWEC's Stonybrook Energy Center, which had units that were not ready to come online within 30 minutes. Because the plant was not generating any electricity during the condition and could not for at least 30 minutes, MMWEC incurred fines pursuant to ISONE's Pay for Performance (PFP) program:

Intermediate Unit 1A	\$220,635	\$3,389
Intermediate Unit 1B	\$23,126	\$355

Intermediate Unit 1C	\$220,528	\$3,387
Peaking Unit 2A	\$157,351	\$3,759
Peaking Unit 2B	(\$58,938)	(\$1,408)
Totals	\$562,702	\$9,482

Another scarcity event occurred on August 1, 2024 @ 16:44 when a 355-MW gas/oil unit tripped offline unexpectedly. This condition caught MMWEC at a period when they had already been generating some electricity with their intermediate and peaking units. The figures corresponding to the ISONE PFP program were more favorable this time around:

Intermediate Unit 1A	\$14,254	\$218
Intermediate Unit 1B	(\$102,494)	(\$1,574)
Intermediate Unit 1C	\$7,262	\$111
Peaking Unit 2A	\$65,175	\$1,557
Peaking Unit 2B	\$65,427	\$1,563
Totals	\$49,624	\$1,875

New Business:

The GM had invited MMWEC Staff to the meeting to present to the Board information on the most recent NextZero (formerly HELPS) programs that Templeton was participating in along with some suggestions on additional programs that Templeton may elect to participate in sooner than later. From MMWEC were Zoe Eckert, Tom Barry and Ron DeCurzio. Templeton is currently taking advantage of rebates, audits, home efficiency incentives, heat/cooling incentives and EV charging incentives. These incentive programs require that the customer's devices be connected via home WiFi such that the Light Plant may control their output in times of high system kW demand. As electricity rates go, the peak hours are typically from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (13 hours), but both the summer and winter peaks typically occur between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (3 hours). Light customers participating in such programs receive a monthly credit in exchange for making their device(s) available for load control. They receive an email or text message in advance of any anticipated load shedding so that the customer may opt out of contributing that day if they wish. In this case there would be no credit issued to them. When asked of MMWEC who would handle any troubleshooting of the WiFi systems communicating with customers' devices, they responded that MMWEC is the responsible party. The GM asked if the Light Plant would be able to credit the customer the following month based on the real-time power pricing of the current month. Zoe said that each light plant is free to credit their customers as they see fit, whether a flat monthly credit or a different monthly amount based on real-time pricing. She said that these peak events will occur about five (5) times per month, so the customers won't be inconvenienced any more than they have to be.

Zoe went on to speak of the newer program with residential battery systems capable of providing up to 25 kWh of power back to the grid in times of high system kW demand. The customer would be free to use this battery's stored power at any other time during the month other than the peak times. This would be a good program to start on since it allow our customer to take part in our efforts to constantly save on capacity and transmission costs. MMWEC would be able to publish a quarterly report for these customers and the Light Plant illustrating these avoided costs. The NextZero program also offers similar programs to commercial/industrial customers and the Light Plant may be interested in expanding our participation beyond just residential. For now, the GM will get us signed up for the rechargeable lawn equipment rebates and the Connected Homes incentives.

The LS presented to the Board a new operations garage lighting proposal. He explained that he would like to replace all the overhead light fixtures in the garages. The total cost to replace them would be \$10,066 and would offer a 6-year payback period. He feels that this payback time could be made less with the installation of motion sensors. The Board agreed with the LS on his replacement plan.

The GM discussed with the Board the July 2024 peak and our behind-the-meter assets. He stated that this peak load was on July 16, 2024 at HE 19. Our network load for this hour was 11.205 MW and our battery was providing 0.776 MW of power and our solar was providing 0.324 MW of power. This made our actual hourly load 12.305 MW. Thanks to the battery and the solar the Light Plant saved \$56,529 during this hour.

Other Business

The GM discussed with the Board the 2025 Regional Network Service (RNS) increase coming pursuant to ISONE's Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT). He said that RNS rates are increasing by 20% with no good explanation as to why. The GM will have to look at TMLP's retail transmission rates, which right now average about 2.56¢ per kWh. Power Supply in 2023 cost the TMLP \$6,641,310 and \$1,072,441 of this was in the form of RNS charges (16.2% of the whole power supply cost). With transmission rates having to increase by as much as 1¢ per kWh the GM will look to see if the PPC Adjustment can be lowered concurrently; this will depend on our progress on the \$5,000,000 goal on reserve funds set aside.

The LS told the Board that the Department of Energy (DOE) has a resiliency grant available and is working with MMWEC to get us to apply for it. He would like to secure grant funding to rebuild the electrical distribution on Royalston Rd and its side roads. Any other grant funding available would go to the effort of replacing the transformer at the Baldwinville Nursing Home, which is a 1993 Westinghouse 225 KVA padmount unit and is 31 years old. The Baldwinville Nursing Home pays the Light Plant about \$5,900 per month for their electricity usage in 2024.

The LS requires a letter of support from both the Light Commission and from the Town's Board of Selectmen so he will work on producing those letters soon.

At 10:54 a.m. a vote took place as follows:

"On a motion made by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to further discuss the IBEW Local 104 Union Proposal for 2025-2027."

Dana - Aye

Gregg - Aye

Chris - Aye

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 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll

General Manager