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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
November 12, 2024 (Amended)**

**Action Items:**

Mr. McKeon will contact the Sterling Manager  
Mr. McKeon will include the Budget discussion in the December Board Meeting  
Mr. Courville was asked to change one meter  
Mr. McKeon will provide a brief overview of the Residential Renewable Rate on the PMLD website

**The public meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.**

**Present were Commissioner- Rick Rys, Commissioner- Phil Gott, General Manager- Sean McKeon, General Foreman- Chris Courville, Ashley Reddy, and Karen Mammone**

**Commissioner Chase did not attend this meeting.**

**Agenda:**

The Board unanimously (2-0) approved the agenda as written on November 12, 2024.

**Meeting Minutes:**

**September 10, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes-** The Board voted unanimously (2-0) to accept the minutes as written.

**General Manager's Report:**

**Current Bank Balances-**

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated November 12, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. All bills are paid in a timely manner.

**2024 Cashflow Budget Review-**

Mr. McKeon presented the board with a copy of the 2024 budget details dated November 12, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January-September 2024, with a target of 75.00%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 78.88% and expenses were 73.69%.

**Update on Operations:**

- **Mutual Aid Experience-**

Mr. McKeon discussed a mutual aid trip to Fitzgerald, Georgia, which he undertook with Brian Pellerin and Jack Austin. The team had just three hours from being contacted to pack their gear, meet in Charlton, MA, and join a caravan with other municipalities heading to Georgia. They arrived in Fitzgerald just before the hurricane struck the state.

The citizens of Fitzgerald warmly welcomed the workers by providing hot meals and displaying signs of appreciation in their front yards, such as "Thank you, Linemen" and "Thank you, Utility Workers." They even offered to wash the crew's clothes, and the local church donated care packages. Additionally, community members provided coffee, water, and food to express their gratitude.

- **MMWEC Battery Storage Project and Sterling Interconnect-**

The battery storage project is on hold until PMLD can confirm that the Sterling Interconnection will proceed as planned. The Sterling Board would like to conduct a load study before committing to it. Mr. McKeon will speak with Mr. Stelmach before the next meeting to check the status of the load study.

- **Budget 2025-**

The Board and Mr. McKeon discussed the 2025 budget and postponed the vote until December, allowing Commissioner Chase time to review it.

**Other Issues:**

- **DCR Parking Lot-**

Years ago, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) permitted the PMLD (Princeton Municipal Light Department) a right of way to gain access to install wind turbines on its property. In return, PMLD committed to constructing a parking lot on Westminster Road with a capacity for 6 to 8 cars. PMLD has consistently plowed this area to facilitate winter parking. The board has agreed (2-0) to allocate funds to the DCR to develop this parking lot.

*The board agreed to change the wording of the last sentence to read, "The board has agreed (2-0) to allocate funds up to \$8,000 to develop the parking lot."*

- **Salary & Wages-**

The Board will determine Mr. McKeon's salary. The office staff will receive the same pay increase as the line workers as outlined in their contract. The Board unanimously agreed to provide the employees with a holiday bonus.

*The board agreed that the dollar amount of the holiday bonus should be shown in the minutes. "The Board unanimously agreed to provide the employees with a holiday bonus of \$2500.00."*

*Commissioner Rys made a motion to the above-minute changes. Commissioner Gott-2<sup>nd</sup>, Commissioner Chase abstained (2-0-1)*

**Discuss/Vote Residential Renewable Rate:**

PMLD has introduced a new residential renewable energy rate for customers who wish to adopt a greener lifestyle. Under this program, PMLD will purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on behalf of the customers. The charge for these renewable energy credits will reflect the actual cost of Class 1 RECs per kilowatt-hour (kWh) used. The Board voted unanimously (2-0) to move forward with the Residential Renewable Energy initiative.

Commissioner Gott - aye

Commissioner Rys – aye

**NextZero Selections 2025:**

PMLD will increase the rebate budget to \$100,000 for 2025. During the NextZero meeting, MMWEC voted to change the method of distributing rebates. Instead of receiving a gift card, customers will now receive a bill credit. Additionally, the Board removed commercial rebates from the NextZero program and will now manage those rebates in-house, as no commercial business has utilized them.

The Board voted unanimously (2-0) to remove commercial rebates from the NextZero program and to offer these rebates in-house.

Commissioner Gott- aye

Commissioner Rys- aye

**PMLD Report to Select Board:**

Commissioner Rys provided a report on PMLD to the Select Board. Ms. Cruise suggested that Commissioner Rys publish an article for the Town News. Additionally, Commissioner Rys will create a FAQ sheet to address solar energy questions.

**Updates on Facebook & Website:**

Mr. McKeon will briefly describe the Residential Renewable Rate on the website.

**New Business/Parking Lot:**

Commissioner Rys mentioned the schedule for the MEAM meeting. Mr. McKeon stated that he would not vote on political matters or letters of support without first discussing them with the board.

Mr. McKeon suggested that the board consider discussing the possibility of purchasing a small amount of offshore wind energy through MMWEC once the construction is complete. This initiative would help PMLD achieve 50% non-carbon emissions by 2030.

**Public Comments:**

None

At 5:05 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (2-0) to adjourn the meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

***Karen Mammone***  
***Recording Secretary***