

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
P O B O X 2 4 7
1 6 8 W O R C E S T E R R D
P R I N C E T O N M A 0 1 5 4 1
T E L : 9 7 8 - 4 6 4 - 2 8 1 5
F A X : 9 7 8 - 4 6 4 - 5 3 7 7

**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2024**

Action Items:

Mr. McKeon will discuss rate increases with MMWEC.

The public meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Present: Commissioner- Rick Rys, Commissioner- Phil Gott, General Manager- Sean McKeon, and Karen Mammone

Zoom: Commissioner- Richard Chase and John Zimmatore

Agenda:

The Board unanimously (2-0) approved the agenda as written on December 10, 2024.

Typo—it should say: *The Board unanimously (3-0) approved the agenda as written on December 10, 2024.*

Meeting Minutes:

November 12, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes—The Board agreed to add more information to the following:

DCR 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 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-2nd, Commissioner Chase abstained (2-0-1)

General Manager's Report:

Current Bank Balances-

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated December 10, 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 December 9, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January-October 2024, with a target of 83.33%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 86.05% and expenses were 81.83%.

Update on Operations:

MMWEC Battery Storage Project and Sterling Interconnect-

Mr. McKeon spoke with Mr. Stelmach, the General Manager of the Sterling Light Department. The PLM load growth study is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Princeton and Sterling's research regarding the interconnection between the two towns is complete. Lightshift is interested in studying battery interconnection and costs associated with National Grid as a backup option. They are currently working on the ESSA (Energy Storage Service Agreement) wording. The lawyer for MMWEC will review this agreement to ensure that there are no loopholes.

MMWEC has also informed Mr. McKeon about another grant opportunity that can assist with the interconnection to Sterling. This grant offers a 50% matching fund.

Budget 2025-

The Board and Mr. McKeon discussed the budget for 2025. After thorough discussions, the Board decided to maintain the current rates for now and plan to review them again in six months. Mr. McKeon will also consult with MMWEC to get their opinions on potential rate increases.

It was voted to allocate \$8,000 for the DCR parking lot on Westminster Road.

Commissioner Rys moved to approve the 2025 Budget, which the board unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Gott- Aye
Commissioner Chase- Aye

Other Issues:

The wind turbine borescope results are complete. The results show that the turbines deterioration is progressing, which is expected for their age.

Updates on Facebook & Website:

No reports this month.

New Business/Parking Lot:

Commissioner Chase mentioned:

1. LFP (Lithium Iron Phosphate) battery prices dropped 51% to \$53.00 in 2024.
2. A couple of vendors are manufacturing DC-powered heat pumps that can run off solar panels.
3. An Austrian company currently allows customers with solar and/or batteries to sign up for a monthly fee and then buy/sell electricity wholesale.

Commissioner Gott reported on the parking lot issue on Westminster Road. A tentative plan is to create a 6 to 8 parking areas where the Harrington and Dickens Trails cross Westminster Road. Construction would take place around the same time the road is being paved.

A salary increase for the General Manager was recently discussed. Mr. McKeon is being paid \$600.00 above the annual average salary for a Manager in Central Mass. The Board spoke highly of Mr. McKeon, and after much discussion, all agreed to a 4% salary increase.

Commissioner Rys motioned that we raise Mr. McKeon's salary by 4% for 2025.

Commissioner Gott- 2nd
Commissioner Chase aye
Unanimous vote (3-0)

The staff salaries are generally average or slightly above average. The office staff also adhered to the union contract for the linemen, who received a 2% raise along with adjustments for parity.

NEPPA (Northeast Public Power Association) will establish a new Safety Committee beginning in 2025, with Mr. McKeon serving as the Chairman.

Mr. McKeon and the Union will meet with the Worcester Regional Retirement Board in January to discuss a recurring issue. Several years ago, it was discovered that the Linemen's standby pay should have been included in their base pay for retirement calculations. However, this money was not accounted for. The employees believed that this matter had been resolved.

Public Comments:

None

At 4:45 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone
Recording Secretary