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BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES **AMENDED**
February 20, 2025

Action Items:

None

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

Present: Commissioner Rick Rys, Commissioner Phil Gott, General Manager Sean McKeon, General Foreman Chris Courville, Ashley Reddy, Ed Katebi (Environmental Action Committee), and Karen Mammone

Zoom: Commissioner Richard Chase

Agenda:

The Board unanimously approved the agenda written on February 20, 2025 (3-0).

Commissioner Gott 2nd

Commissioner Chase aye

Meeting Minutes:

The Board voted unanimously approved (3-0) to accept the amended minutes for January 15, 2025, with a change as follows:

Commissioner Gott provided an update on the Wachusett parking issue. The board agreed to allocate \$8,000 to develop a parking lot or assist the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) with any other need for the funds. This allocation would fulfill our original agreement with the DCR made when the wind turbines were installed, which included provisions for the right-of-way road to access the turbines.

Revision 1-Commissioner Gott would like to add, "The board agreed to allocate \$8,000 to develop a 6 to 8-car parking lot." The board agreed to the added details. (February meeting)

Revision 2-Commissioner Gott would like the complete sentence added to revision 1, "The board agreed to allocate \$8,000 to develop a 6 to 8 car parking lot or assist the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) with any other need for the funds. This allocation would fulfill our original agreement with the DCR made when the wind turbines were installed, which included provisions for the right-of-way road to access the turbines." The board unanimously approved Commissioner Gott's request. (3-0)(March meeting)

General Manager's Report:

Current Bank Balances-

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated February 20, 2025. 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 February 20, 2025. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January- December 2024, with a target of 100.00%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 110.44% and expenses were 100.23%.

Update on Operations:

- MMWEC Battery Storage Project/ Lightshift/ Sterling Interconnect-

Lightshift will contact PMLD's account manager at National Grid to discuss possibly conducting a study to interconnect with their system.

The Sterling Light Department General Manager has spoken with Mr. McKeon about the load growth study, which has not yet been completed.

The Holden Light Department General Manager contacted Mr. McKeon and expressed his interest in interconnecting with PMLD if the deal with Sterling didn't work out. Mr. McKeon is interested but wants to see Sterling's completed load study report before making any decisions.

- Update on ENE Meeting-

Energy New England (ENE) primarily negotiates Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with developers rather than investing in the project itself. If a project fails, ENE does not receive the power, is not obligated to pay, and will need to source energy elsewhere.

Mr. McKeon requested that ENE provide a package that outlines the current contract with the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC). There are overlaps between ENE and MMWEC, including the Connected Homes program. This program will continue through MMWEC, as ENE does not offer it to their customers.

The board and Mr. McKeon discussed Connected Homes' monthly compensation for batteries used for Duracell and Emporia batteries, Electric vehicles, and Electric Vehicle Chargers.

- Wachusett Advisory Parking Committee-

Commissioner Gott discussed how he reached out to the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), explaining that the original parking area would not work out for several reasons. PMLD would be willing to help with costs up to \$8,000 for a 6 to 8-car parking spot or build a kiosk for one of the trails, or PMLD could do something for the public's benefit. Commissioner Gott has not heard back from the DCR.

- Princeton School Library Donation-

The Friends of Thomas Prince School Committee contacted PMLD to request donations for updating the library books. Mr. McKeon clarified that, by law, PMLD is unable to make monetary donations. However, the staff and board may be willing to make private donations of books suitable for grades K-8. Additionally, PMLD is open to placing a collection box in the lobby for residents to donate books to Thomas Prince School.

Other Issues-

- During the recent ice storm, the wind turbines ran without issue.
- The Commissioners thanked the Linemen and staff for their hard work during the recent storm.
- The tree trimming cycle will now be on a four-year schedule. Mr. Courville stated that because of all the years of trimming and maintenance, it is now easier to upkeep.
- Commissioner Gott asked about fuel for the trucks. PMLD fuels the trucks at Lanpher's in Sterling, as the Princeton Highway Department fuel tanks are too small for them.
- National Grid removed the tax from the bills for Dowd's Lane. National Grid abated the bills back to the first bill.

- Mr. McKeon received information from MMWEC and shared with the Commissioners a Vehicle Census showing batteries and EV chargers. The link is below:
<https://geodot-homepage-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/pages/massvehiclecensus>

Commissioner Chase would like the sentence to read, “Mr. McKeon received information from MMWEC and shared with the Commissioners a Vehicle Census showing Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and (PHEV) Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles”, replacing batteries and chargers.

Updates on Facebook & Website:

There are no reports this month.

New Business/Parking Lot:

None

Public Comments:

None

At 4:37 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mammone

Recording Secretary