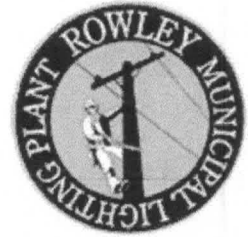


# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



May 14, 2024, Commissioner's Meeting

6:00 PM – Remote Go to Meeting

Commissioners Present: Bryan DiPersia, Mark Cousins, Danby Whitmore. Also, in attendance was General Manager Matthew Brown, Office Manager Eric Grover

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Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:01 PM.

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## **Citizen Query**

There wasn't anyone participating in citizen's query.

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## **Board Re-Organization**

Every year the board reorganized after the elections.

*Mark Cousins nominated Danby Whitmore as the chair. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion at 6:02 PM. All in favor "I" with Danby Whitmore abstaining.*

*Mark Cousins nominated Bryan DiPersia as the clerk. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion at 6:03 PM. All in favor "I" with Bryan DiPersia abstaining.*

Mark Cousins defaulted to member.

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## **Review and Accept Previous Minutes**

There weren't any minutes to be accepted at this meeting.

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## **Customer Survey Update**

Manager Brown said that the customer survey was emailed out to our ratepayers. The survey was available for two weeks and the response was very good. A 5% return was considered good, but we received 278 responses, which with 3200 ratepayers comes out to 8.8%. The board did receive the results on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the plan are to share the results with the June monthly bills and the survey results will go on the website also. Commissioner Danby Whitmore said we should just put the results on the website and educate in our newsletter regarding question numbers 9, 10 & 11. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia said question number 4 should be better advertised about the rebates offered. Commissioner Whitmore noted that on social media citizens don't understand the benefit of reducing the peak so we should use the newsletter to further clarify how that helps ratepayers and the town overall. Commissioners were all very supportive of the newsletter an manager's efforts on that project.

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### ***Battery Storage Update***

RMLP's legal team has been collaborating with Citizens and hoping to have an ESA [Energy Services Agreement] for review in the next couple of weeks. It is taking time to insert the provisions that we have used prior agreements necessary to protect the MLP's interests. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May Steve Bern from Citizens informed us that they may begin surveying and wetland preliminary work at their own expense. Commissioner Mark Cousins asked regarding the adequacy of insurance coverage that was brought up with the previous battery discussion and if were we at the same point in the battery project the previous time before the board was brought in? General Manager Brown indicated that insurance coverage was being discussed with Citizens.

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### ***Managers Update***

**MLP Solar Continuation Update:** There are 34 total systems now. We continue to get calls from the ratepayers that have questions regarding solar.

**MEAM Meeting:** The next MEAM meeting is in Plymouth, MA this Thursday, and Friday May 16 & 17.

**Chester MA MLP Update:** The MEAM Executive Committee attended an informational meeting held at the Chester Town Hall Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>. The second meeting was on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Eversource group could present their informational side. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Chester Selectboard meeting a stack of "Save Chester Light Department" petitions were passed onto the selectboard in favor of keeping the department. The latest news is their town Meeting is scheduled on June 10<sup>th</sup> and they have ten days to put an article on the Town Meeting Agenda.

**Substation:** We received four responses and two no bids to our RFQ Substation Transformer. Northern Transformer, Pennsylvania Transformer, Niagara Power Transformer, and Virginia Transformer all were bidders. Manager Matt Brown met with Kevin Soden of PLM to go over the results and we have submitted a list of questions to the vendors and is now waiting for a response. Brown will keep the board informed as we get closer to officially selecting a vendor.

### **Construction:**

- **Mansion Drive:** Phase one is pretty much complete. Everything has been transferred and there are a few poles needing to be pulled.
  - **Warehouse Lane and Ocean Avenue:** One pole is left to be set before the reconductoring of the primary wiring. The line staff eliminated a transformer and primary that went across the marsh to the camp behind Perley's Marina. It is now located next to the boat house so we can restore power with ease rather than having to go down river. We are trying to get most of this work before the boating season starts. In the future, there will be a voltage conversion which is being worked on now. There is a stepdown transformer on Railroad Avenue that will remain feeding towards Oyster Point Road.
  - **Other Projects:** This spring/summer includes a pad mount and URD primary feeding Route One Liquors Plaza, F4 adding pole sets and the double pole list. We continue to work on replacing the blue LED lights and we also have fault indicators to be added on primary circuits.
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**All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair**

Commissioner Bryan DiPersia mentioned the newsletter that is going to be mailed out. DiPersia said due to the results of the survey, maybe the RMLP should reintroduce us and what the RMLP offers in rebates and services. Public outreach and sharing photos with the ratepayers to give them a sense of who we are. 76% of our ratepayers not taking advantage of our rebates was eye-opening. We could put a link on our bills to get the word out.

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**Executive Session under GLC 30A, Section 21 a Strategy for Negotiations with Non-Union Personal**

There was no reason to go into executive session for this meeting.

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**Adjournment**

*Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 6:471 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

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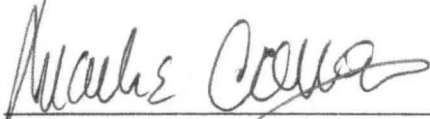
Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Darby Whitmore, Chair



Bryan DiPersia, Clerk



Mark Cousins, Member