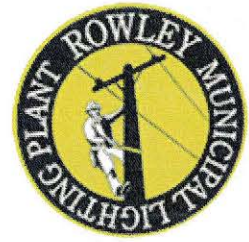


Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



April 16, 2025, 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, Billing Clerk Brigida Longo

Danby Whitmore opened the meeting at 6:00 PM by reading the Open Meeting Law. The remote meeting will be held pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order, as Extended on July 16, 2022, with the Governor's signing of An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations which extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. **UPDATE: Open Meeting Law.** Public bodies are authorized to continue to hold entirely remote meetings, or so-called "hybrid" meetings, upon the provision of "adequate, alternative means" of public access, until **June 30th, 2027**. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view the meeting in real time.

Citizen Query

There were no participants in citizen's query.

MEAM Meeting 5/14/25 at NEPPA

Manager Brown let everyone know there is an MEAM meeting scheduled for May 14, 2025, down at NEPPA headquarters in Littleton, MA. Manager Brown stated once the agenda is received via email, he will forward along to the board.

Battery Storage Update:

Manager Brown stated not much has changed and the project is on hold until the flood plain maps are finalized. Manager Brown shared some information from another system working with Citizens. Unfortunately, tariffs are impacting on all the storage projects according to Steve Burn from Citizen Energy. He talked to Littleton and unfortunately theirs is no exception. Citizens believe the tariffs will stop a lot of battery projects. They are going to try to work with some US base options, but unfortunately prices are much higher. Manager Brown said overall the tariffs are impacting projects that are in progress and causing delays in materials.

Massachusetts DEP Letter from RMLP Commissioners:

There was discussion regarding the Massachusetts DEP Letter from RMLP Commissioners. There are few edits suggested within the letter that will need to be formatted before emailing to the DEP. Agreement was made on who to send the letter to as well as copy Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Kassner.

Bryan DiPersia made the motion to submit the letter as drafted with two discussed edits with the addition of addresses for the DEP and including Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Kassner. Marks Cousins seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:34.

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, March 12, 2025, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for March 12, 2025, with the corrections made. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:17.

Pilot Payment

Danby Whitmore read the Pilot payment letter in the amount of \$25,336.03 and approved by board.

"2025 Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the Town of Rowley-Move the Manager of the Municipal Lighting Plant under the direction and control of the Municipal Light Board for the expenses of the Plant for said fiscal year FY26, as defined in Section 58 of Chapter 164 of the General Law's, make a payment in lieu of taxes to the Town of Rowley in the amount of \$25,336.03."

Mark Cousins asked Manager Matt Brown to speak a little about this Pilot payment. Manager Brown confirmed the Pilot payment is processed on a yearly basis. He also said the section number was corrected on this year's Pilot letter to Section 58 instead of Section 57. Brown confirmed there is an inventory list of all the public lights in town. The list contains the size, wattage, etc. Then there is a formula to calculate KW usage of all the size lights in town including revenue and expenses, etc. and then it computes the total Pilot payment. Once the end of year is closed out, the other figures are also calculated within this formula in a total of \$25,336.03.

Bryan DiPersia made the motion to approve the Pilot payment to the town in the amount of \$25,336.03. Marks Cousins seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:20.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Update: There are 37 total systems now. We have 1 in the queue to review.

Spring Newsletter: The newsletter was inserted in last month's bills. Manager Brown made an appearance at the Veterans Lunch at the Senior Center to thank those that show up (around 22) for their service. Brown received positive feedback from the newsletters we have been doing. Danby thanked Brown for going to this event and acknowledging our Veterans service.

Construction Projects: GML has resumed resistograph pole testing. RMLP contracted GML for non-invasive pole testing. GML is working on the F3 circuit. There was a delay due to turnover at GML. They hope to finish by the middle of May.

Line Staff: They started setting poles for phase 2 of the Kittery Ave/Mansion drive voltage conversion. The line staff completed 12 out of the 33 poles to be set. RMLP completed the first phase last year, and the second phase is in progress.

Upcoming work through Summer: Kittery Ave still has Powerhouse Lane pole line: We have 1 50 ft pole left to set and will do the F2 riser replacement. We planned for May. Dodge Road 3 poles & anchors (windstorm damage a few weeks ago), purple LEDs-line staff created a master list of the purple LED that will need to be changed, 1/3 of LED lights have been completed at this point, URD + riser project at Christa Drive.

Substation Project: Monday April 7th, Manager Brown had a call with PLM and Greg Hochmuth Environmental Engineer from Epsilon Associates Maynard, MA. We will be filing a notice of intent with Rowley Conservation for the oil containment part of the Substation Project. "It looks like the Rowley Conservation Commission recognizes the same exemption that is in the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations" so we do not expect any issues or delays. Brown will keep the board posted regarding this project and layout. Bryan confirmed the transformer is a domestic product. Bryan questioned if there are any concerns about any other foreign equipment/parts being delayed. Brown said at this point he has not been notified regarding any delays or shortages for these parts.

Mayer Tree: Mayer Tree has completed trimming the F4. (4/11/25) They have a small punch list to complete before we pay the invoice, (\$157,035)

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

- Brown discussed the ethics training. The commissioners and all staff have completed their required annual State Ethics Training. (One employee was left to complete as he was out on extended leave) The Town Clerk has confirmed receiving all certificates.
- Mark Cousins asked Manager Brown to review the extension of the Open Meeting Law which has been extended by the state until June 30, 2027. Brown confirmed the extension of the remote meeting will be held pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order, as Extended on July 16, 2022, with the Governor's signing of An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations which extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. **UPDATE: Open Meeting Law.** Public bodies are authorized to continue to hold entirely remote meetings, or so-called "hybrid" meetings, upon the provision of "adequate, alternative means" of public access, until **June 30th, 2027**. meeting in real time.
- Brown talked about the letter for Advance Clean Trucks (ACT) Requirements received by the DEP dated April 14, 2025, which stated the DEP will exercise enforcement discretion to exempt certain trucks from the ACT for Model Years 2025 & 2026. Mark said it was because manufacturers do not have anything that would be what we are looking for. Brown mentioned that the issues with tariffs could be impacting this issue. RMLP was not part of the exemptions but should have been. The dealer said that they potentially could not sell to light departments. Brown sent an email to confirm where this stands regarding selling a truck to MLP'S.

Executive Session If Required

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

Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 6:39 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

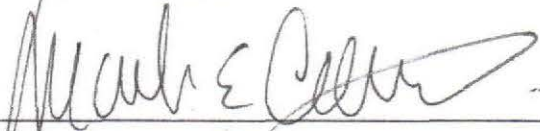
Minutes submitted by Brigida G. Longo



Danby Whitmore, Chair



Bryan DiPersia, Clerk



Mark Cousins, Member