

# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



June 17, 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, Office Manager Eric Grover

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Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

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### *Citizen Query*

There were no participants in citizen's query.

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### *MEAM meeting 9/18 - 9/19 Plymouth MA*

Manager Brown wanted to make the board aware of the change in the annual MEAM meeting this year. The meeting has been pushed out to September and extended an invitation to the board. This is a great meeting and a good networking opportunity. Brown will keep the board updated on an agenda and speakers.

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### *Review and Accept Previous Minutes [April 2025]*

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, April 16, 2025, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

*Danby Whitmore made the motion to accept the regular minutes for April 16, 2025, with the corrections made. Mark Cousins seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:05.*

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### *Battery Storage Update*

Manager Brown said there wasn't too much going on with the project. All the factures still are in place with the system impact study being completed but at this time it is just on hold until we can move forward. The flood plain maps have still not been accepted as they are using the FEMA maps currently. Danby Whitmore said the maps should have been accepted at the last town meeting, which should be investigated. There has been some talk with the oil containment engineer for the substation project which may move things a little more forward. Mark Cousins said the right project should be looked at for the Powerhouse Road battery project and there was no reason to rush into anything just because it is available now there will be a good, economically feasible peak shaving project eventually.

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## 2024 DPU Report

Manager Brown emailed the board final version of the DPU report. Mark Cousins read it over and it looked good for a document that has great detail. He said that some departments use the report for a benchmark, but unfortunately every municipal is different. Some have solar, wind turbines, gas, or even diesel generation such as Ipswich. Danby Whitmore said she hasn't had a chance to look it over, and Bryan DiPersia said he is looking it over. Brown said he wanted to check page 57 with Energy New England to see if the numbers were correct for the transmission and distribution.

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### Managers Update

**MLP Solar Update:** There are 38 total residential systems now.

**Construction Projects:** The following is a breakdown of the work done:

- GML has completed the F3 resistograph testing and provided RMLP with the results. There were a total of 754 poles tested and 18 didn't pass. GML broke up the testing into two visits and currently we have six poles remaining that need replacement.
- We have started phase two of Kittery Avenue/Mansion Drive conversation. Twelve of the thirty-three poles have been set as we are waiting for Mayer Tree to come in with their crane to remove trees in line with the new infrastructure. They are scheduled to come on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month.
- We still have the last fifty-foot pole to set on Powerhouse Lane. We can complete the feeder two riser and then run new secondary from the station to Daniels Road and be completed.
- Purple LED street lights are being replaced with new drivers as time allows.
- Dodge Road pole sets for a new three-phase service at Herrick's Farm Sawmill. This is being paid for by the owners of the sawmill.
- The URD and riser pole for Christa Drive is still on the list to be completed.
- Dodge Road at River's Edge there are two poles set to be transferred, found by the tree trimming crew while doing their work as the tops were split.

**APPA SEP [Smart Energy Provider] Application:** We have applied with the help of GML for this grant. Currently we are just waiting to hear back with any information needed or it is complete.

**Substation Project:** On April 7<sup>th</sup> Brown had a call with PLM and Greck Hochmuth Environmental Engineers from Epsilon Associates in Maynard MA. We will be filing a notice of intent with the Rowley Conservation Commission for the oil containment which is part of the substation project. There shouldn't be any delays as it looks like RCC recognizes the same exemption that is in the Wetland Protection Act Regulations. The pouring of the pad should take seven days to cure and taking the transformer offline should only be a few months as they have work to do on putting the new transformer online.

The bid for the concrete pad has been made public on Comm Buys. The breakdown for the project is:

- Bid documents will be available on or after Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 on June 26<sup>th</sup> located at Powerhouse Road.

- Bids must be sealed and marked to the RMLP by no later than 1:00 pm on July 15<sup>th</sup> at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

**RMLP Emergency Action and Evacuation Plan:** With the help of GML, an Emergency Action and Evacuation Plan was put together for the operations center. Every employee has received a copy of the plan, and a mock drill will be done soon. It is a good thing to put forward and the board has been emailed a copy of it. NEPPA has been a big component in training for active shooter drills and offers them from time to time. Also, WF Briggs from East Longmeadow MA has been working on updating the MSDS binder of items we use.

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#### ***All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair***

There were a couple of items brought up at the close of the meeting:

- Manager Matt Brown just wanted to give an update on the tree that was caused a town wide outage on the National Grid highline. It was something that we couldn't avoid as it wasn't within our system, but between the police and fire departments, everyone pulled together to make the best of the situation.
  - We had an internet outage at the operations center which resulted in good exercise to see how well the phone system worked in another location. An office phone was brought to a location with internet service and worked just like it was at the light department. Additionally, we have set up the office cellphone to take calls just like the regular landline phone.
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#### ***Executive Session under GLC 30A, Section 21 a Strategy for Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel***

*Danby Whitmore made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session and return to the regular session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Mark Cousins seconded. All voted in favor at 6:50 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to exit Executive Session. Mark Cousins seconded. All voted in favor at 7:06 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

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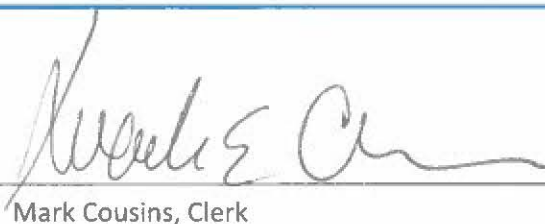
#### ***Adjournment***

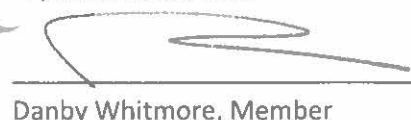
*Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 7:07 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

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Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

  
Bryan DiPersia, Chair

  
Mark Cousins, Clerk

  
Danby Whitmore, Member