

# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



January 28, 2026, 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 and Billing Clerk, Brigida G. Longo.

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Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:02 PM.

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## ***Citizen Query***

There were no participants in this citizen's query.

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## ***MEAM meeting Schedule 2026***

Bryan DiPersia confirmed that Manager Brown circulated the 2026 MEAM agenda times for the quarterly MEAM meetings. Manager Brown said the agenda was emailed to the commissioners and if they didn't receive it, let him know. The last meeting was in January and the next meeting will be held on March 25, 2026. He also confirmed the dates are subject to change and will notify the board accordingly.

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## ***Review and Accept Previous Minutes (December 17, 2025)***

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, December 17, 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 December 17, 2025, with the corrections made. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:06.*

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## ***\*Chairman DiPersia goes out of order to Agenda Item #4***

### ***2026 Power Budget Energy New England/Operations Budget***

Bryan DiPersia introduced Energy New England representatives Christina Beaudry and Michelle Coscia who provided a PowerPoint presentation for the 2026 Power Budget Energy New England. **A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached with the minutes.**

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## **2026 Operations Budget:**

Manager Brown sent out the 2026 Operations Budget to the Board. Manager Brown said it is very similar to last year with some changes within the interest income, depreciation, and maintenance expenses. Danby Whitmore had some questions about the 2026 operations budget regarding the maintenance expenses. Manager Brown confirmed some of the changes are interest income as well as depreciation of up to 4% for 2026 due to substation project. Total expenses are increasing approximately \$275,000. Estimated profits are increasing slightly. The main reason for the maintenance expenses decreasing for 2026 is due to the tree trimming expenses. In 2025, we were able to work on two of our largest feeders, F3 and F4 contracted by Mayer Tree, this increased our expenses. In 2026, the focus will be the other two feeders F1 and F2 resulting in a decrease in maintenance expenses. Moving forward tree trimming will be in a 4-year cycle, one feeder per year decreasing expenses regarding tree trimming. Whitmore asked if the transformers are part of this maintenance expense. Brown confirmed transformers are not part of this expense but part of capital expenditure. The last page of the budget includes capital from 2025 to 2026. The amounts are very close in expenditures from 2025 to 2026. In previous years, the budget amount fluctuated due to the transformers being delivered over different years, impacting on the forecasted expenses per calendar year. Brown also mentioned that hopefully there will be a decrease in purchasing of transformers. For most new future transformers, the developers will cover the cost. Whitmore asked if the substation equipment is part of capital. Brown confirmed account 3620, which is RMLP capital account, includes substation equipment. Mark Cousins mentioned the cost of any new projects will be the responsibility of the developers and it is not reflected in the budget. Bryan DiPersia mentioned that the station equipment and all the substation work is included in capital not expenses. Bryan DiPersia had questions about the office furniture/computer forecasted cost of 24K. Manager Brown said the cost is for new computers for the office, malware cyber security, and capital improvement. **A copy of the Operations budget is attached with the minutes.**

*Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the 2026 Capital/Operations Budget for RMLP. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:36.*

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## **Battery Storage Update**

Manager Matt Brown provided an update for the battery storage project. There is nothing new to report currently. Matt confirmed that an email from Steve Bern's was shared in December.

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## **Managers Update**

**MLP Solar Update:** There are 38 total residential systems now. There is an additional new solar customer as of February 09<sup>th</sup> making it a total of 39 total residential systems. There is one more application in the queue as of now.

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

**Kittery Ave Conversion:** – All the poles have been set and framed for the second wire pull. New primary was installed and since the December meeting there were a couple more secondary wire pulls that are now complete. They are getting ready to energize the new wire and start putting load on the new primary cable. The project is coming along nicely and when we complete this process in 2026, it will be the last of the three phase 5KV step down area that we have. We are looking forward to completing this conversion in 2026.

Brown would like to let the board know that Harbor Light Homes at started work and the fences are up. There are people out there working. We have some movement on the Old Spud's building. Also, Chase Bank has started work as well next to McDonald's. We also had a site visit there. All these projects we have been talking about have finally started construction.

**Substation Project:**

General Manager Matthew Brown stated the substation project is moving along nicely. All the control wiring has been pulled. The relay technician has been on scene for the last week. The line staff delivered the first relay panel down there today. They are hoping to get those in within the next two weeks. We have a goal of February 9<sup>th</sup> to have all this wiring done and completed. UPG is scheduled to test all the control wiring on February 9<sup>th</sup>. This is one of the last steps before we energize the new transformer. We also received the test results from Virginia Transformers today and received a letter to energize. They took all the information with their engineers and whole team and reviewed the results with us, including PLM. I will keep the Board updated on this project. This half will be completed now, and the remaining half to be completed by summer 2026. Brown suggested if board would like to tour the site to let him know.

**Conflict of Interest Certifications:** All RMLP's staff have completed the conflict-of-interest certifications for 2026. The commissioners have received the email to complete the certifications. Once certifications are completed, Brown will provide the certifications to Town Clerk. Mark asked if this training is a video or acknowledgement only. Brown confirmed this year it is the acknowledgement only and two certificates will need to be printed and submitted.

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

Regarding the substation project, Bryan DiPersia asked Brown to confirm that February 9<sup>th</sup> is the expected date for the wiring to finish, and UPG to start testing. Brown confirmed that is correct, phase one. Brown confirmed all testing will take about a week to do. That is the goal. Brown confirmed all the wires are prewired before installation. It is a big-time saver for the installation and field work. DiPersia asked when we will be up and running. Brown confirmed around beginning of March timeframe if all goes well to energize phase one.

Whitmore asked Brown regarding the Kittery Ave conversion. It's like a wrap for the town, where everything is updated and all good. Whitmore asked how about the Leslie Road and Weldon Farm Road issues that keep coming up. Brown confirmed Leslie Road is on our list. This Kittery Ave conversion is the last of the three-phase step down area that we are going to have in town. Once this is completed, we will begin the single-phase step down areas which include Leslie Road, Railroad Ave, and other areas. Our system is in good shape, and we are working on a list of the next steps for each of the single-phase step down areas within the town.

General Brown mentioned this week's storm (January 25-26). We were glad that it was light and fluffy snow. We did have staff come in and we received a call Monday morning for a tree branch on the wires on Ellsworth Road. This last storm was the first overnight in six years. There is another storm potentially for this upcoming Sunday. We will keep an eye on it and plan accordingly with our staff. DiPersia said it looks like there will be more wind impact. We are hoping it goes out to sea. We will keep an eye on it and confirm next steps with staff. The tree trimming helps in situations like this for the town to reduce potential issues during storms.

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***Executive Session if required.***

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

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**Adjournment**

*Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." All vote in favor of adjourning this meeting on January 28, 2026, at 7:12 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

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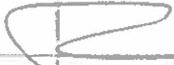
Minutes submitted by Brigida G. Longo



Bryan DiPersia, Chair



Mark Cousins, Clerk



Danby Whitmore, Member