

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



April 22, 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 Office Manager Eric Grover.

Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Citizen Query

There were no participants in this citizen's query.

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, February 25, 2026, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

Danby Whitmore made the motion to accept the regular minutes for February 25, 2026, 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 6:04.

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, March 11, 2026, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

Danby Whitmore made the motion to accept the regular minutes for February 25, 2026, 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.

Pilot Payment

Commissioner Bryan DiPersia read the PILOT payment letter in the amount of \$27,172.26.

"2026 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 FY27, 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 \$27,172.26."

Manager Matt Brown spoke a little about this PILOT payment and confirmed it's processed on a yearly basis. Then there is a formula to calculate KWH usage of all the sized lights in town including revenue and expenses, etc. and then it computes the Pilot total. Once the end of year is closed out, the other figures are also calculated within this formula. This year the KWH came out to a total of 123,456. A first for the RMLP.

Danby Whitmore made the motion to approve the PILOT payment to the town in the amount of \$27,172.26. Marks Cousins seconded the motion. The roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:09.

MEAM meeting May 20th

Manager Matt Brown will provide the board with the agenda for the meeting, and it will be held at NEPPA in Littleton, Ma. Brown is scheduled for jury duty that day so as of now, he won't be attending.

Battery Storage

Manager Matt Brown stated the battery storage project is still at a standstill. There really isn't anything to report on from Steve Burns at Citizens Energy except the email Brown shared with the board. Brown has talked with other municipalities about projects in their town and they have found with larger orders of equipment generally is a how projects are quoted out. They really must have a good order of components to make the shipping worthwhile. Brown also states there may be some other Energy New England projects in the works, but he will keep the board aware of that. There was a story about a fire chief in Rehoboth Ma. that stated concerns about safety of a new solar array in his community.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Update: There are 39 total residential systems now and we should be up to 40 by summer as there was an interconnection signed last week.

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

Kittery Ave. – This job is 90% complete so it is in the final completion stages. There are four transformers that need to be changed before they can do the conversion. We hope to get this done soon as this is the last three phase five KV area in town.

Ongoing Projects: Chase Bank, Harborlight, and The New England Asian Restaurant have been working on getting their projects off the ground. Harborlights have paid for their two transformers which we will give them when needed and they will pay the replacement value for two new ones.

Substation Project: The substation transformer replacement project is moving along nicely. The line staff delivered two more control panels to the contractor this afternoon. They are supposed to have those two completed by May 4th so UPG can come in and test. Then to repeat the process for the last two panels. We have new revenue meters and sockets on order that have been delayed and the sockets are being shipped on the 29th of April. Brown has been in touch with our Schneider representative, Fred Avila, and is awaiting a response as to when we will receive those. Commissioner Cousins wanted to make sure the meters were reading actual as it could become a problem if they were being estimated. Brown confirmed that the meters we have during this process are reading actual and not estimated. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia asked how the scope of the project was going and if we had any after thoughts from when we started. Brown said everything was running on time and going to plan. He said now that it is springtime as the substation yard is cleaner and free of hazards, anytime the board would like a tour please let him know.

Standard & Poor's: The Standard and Poor's rating came back with an A+ global rating to the department. "S&P Global Ratings assigned credit ratings to entities such as corporations, governments, and financial instruments to

evaluate their ability and willingness to meet financial commitments. These ratings serve as benchmarks for investors to assess risk, compare investment opportunities and make informed decisions." Google.com This is very crucial to when we do power contracts, which we have around 20, and they look very favorable for terms on contracts.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

Commissioner Danby Whitmore wanted to bring up the new development known as Rowley Farms. Whitmore stated that there was going to be many residential units and some commercials in the works. There are heat pumps proposed for the buildings and this will be a large usage development. Manager Brown plans to meet with Ted Speros at Rowley Farms next week and get the data needed for this project. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia said maybe the board could meet with the developer and see how the project is projected. Brown said Rowley is considered a Green Community so it will have to follow specific guidelines for the general Stretch Code requirements.

Commissioner DiPersia asked if we could get an update on the new Invoice Cloud system. Office Manager Eric Grover said the process went well, but not without some bumps. Ratepayers have been calling with different questions regarding the portal, but most of all if they must sign up for the monthly ACH process again. There has been an overwhelming number of people signing up for paperless billing which will cut down on the cost of mailing out invoices. Overall, it is very positive.

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 6:43 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Mark Cousins made the motion to exit Executive Session. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:16 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

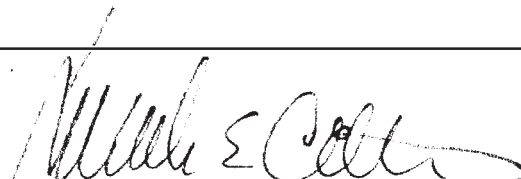
Adjournment

Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:18 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Bryan DiPersia, Chair



Mark Cousins, Clerk



Danby Whitmore, Member