

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



June 22, 2016 Commissioner's Meeting

7:00 PM – Town Hall Selectman's Room

Commissioners Present: G. Robert Merry, Robert Snow ~~Absent~~, Kenneth Keyes. Also in attendance was General Manager Daniel Folding, Office Manager Eric Grover

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

G. Robert Merry opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Citizen Query

Nobody from the general public participated in this citizen's query.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

There weren't any minutes ready for this meeting.

Discussion on employee benefits for July 1, 2016

Sean Labelle spoke on behalf of the employee group. He stated that the MEAM survey's average was 2.63% of all forty municipals in Massachusetts. The group has asked for 3.00% and feels justified as the department is run very efficiently and there never seems to be any issues. Last year the department received a 2.50% increase. Kenneth Keyes said we are not a town department and we don't work for the town. We are separate from the rest of the town.

The next item was to change the vacation and sick time notification to the manager from a half hour before your workday for personal time and one day for vacation time. With the employees having more families and some with one working parent, a notification change is being requested.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to go with 30 minutes for personal time and one day for vacation.

Keyes made a motion to change the policy to 30 minutes for personal time and one day for vacation time in regards to the notification to the manager. Snow seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:23 PM.

The board and employees discussed what a reasonable cost of living wage would be. After much negotiations, it was decided both sides could agree on 2.75 percent.

Keyes made a motion to give the employees a 2.75% COLA raise effective July 1, 2016. Merry seconded the motion. Snow opposed. Keyes and Merry voted yes at 7:24 PM. Snow opposed.

Review of Rowley Municipal Light Plant 2015 Audit

Manager Folding handed out to the board the annual light plant audit for 2015 from Bill Fraher, our CPA for the department. Folding read the management letter and said there wasn't anything that stood out to him and asked the board if they had any questions. With none, Folding asked the board to read over the information provided and if they wanted, he could ask Fraher to come in and speak to the board.

Financial Update as of March 31st

Folding handed out the latest financials as of March 31, 2016. Where this is the first quarter of the year, everything looks good so far. There was little discussion as the numbers are just getting underway.

2016-Write Offs

Manager Folding presented the board with a list of uncollectable revenue that needs to be written off the books for 2016. They are from either customers from our collection agency that have exhausted all their means of collecting or old customers with a +/- \$50.00 not being able to be collected through the RMLP and is too small to pay a collection company to retrieve.

Snow made a motion to accept the write offs from the manager. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:45 PM.

Update on Rowley Generation Project

Folding updated the board on this project. He really had nothing to report at this time except the purchase power adjustment was on hold with Tangent. There seems to be a set of new numbers coming from the Tangent side and legal is going to have to look into why the numbers have changed. Until we get new number and an explanation from Tangent, we really can't do anything more.

Update on Solar Project

This project is moving along at a good rate. The purchase power agreement and interconnection process is in the hands of PLM, an engineering firm used. RMLP wants to make sure all the rules are being followed and that the conservation commission is aware of what is going on. There is a planning board meeting in July which should be very positive. This will be a great advantage for Rowley to have some kind of renewable energy back to the grid.

General Law Chapter 30A Section 21 [A] [2] for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel [Managers Contract]

Merry called for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of the negotiations for the general manager.

Snow made a motion, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation with General Law Chapter 30A Section 21 [A] [2] for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to convene in open session. Keyes seconded, all in favor by a roll call vote: G. Robert Merry – aye, Kenneth Keyes – aye, Robert Snow – aye.

Executive Session opened at 8:01 PM. Door to meeting room was closed.

Executive Session ended at 8:37 PM. Door to meeting room was opened.

Once negotiations were complete, the board voted on a raise for the general manager.

Snow made a motion to give Manager Folding a four percent raise per his contract. It was seconded by Keyes. All voted in favor at 8:37 PM.

Adjournment

Robert Snow made the motion to adjourn. Kenneth Keyes seconded. All voted in favor in favor at 8:37 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover


G. Robert Merry, Chair


Kenneth Keyes, Clerk


Robert Snow, Member