

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



February 14, 2018 Commissioner's Meeting

7:00 PM – Town Hall Selectman's Room

Commissioners Present: G. Robert Merry, Robert Snow, 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

First Daniel White from 634 Wethersfield Street had a couple questions regarding the net metering policy. The question was what is the difference in the policy from a 500 KW home solar mounted array verses a large 2 MW solar farm like in which is going to be proposed on Wethersfield Street? The policy on our website, in which Folding referred from, is for a solar array that goes back on to the system through their meter on the load side of the service. There is another policy and agreement when a large solar array is built like the one on Central Street. That array goes right back into the distribution system of the circuit which is bought directly by the department. White asked what kind of a contract we would need to put in a 2MW system. Folding's response was he would have to look at our portfolio and see what kind of balance we have from our suppliers. The long-term contracts can't be disturbed because we would have to pay more for overages which is not a good thing. White asked what the chances of this getting any bigger and Folding said he was doubtful because this size has been worked into the portfolio. White asked what the PPA agreement was and Folding said it 7.5 cents per KWH. White had a few more questions but Folding said he would get that information to him in an email.

Second Brian Dipesia from 500 Wethersfield Street had some comments on a conference he went to regarding climate awareness. He noted there were 28 other municipal lighting plants at the meeting and they all seemed interested on where the future was going. He said they spoke on solar arrays, electric vehicles, community solar and time of use programs all which interested him. He asked what the chances were the town would be to exploring into the Renewable Trust in the state. There are all sorts of programs and grants out there through the state and Dipesia wanted us just to know about them.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

After reading the minutes from the regular meeting of January 10, 2018 provided, there were no corrections.

Snow made the motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 10, 2018. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:12 PM.

Rowley Solar LLC Update

Barbara Berkowitz wanted to give the board an update on how the project was going. Berkowitz stated they still are working with the planning and conservation commissions on different matters pertaining to the project. The project is into revision number six and the progress is moving forward in a good manner.

Electric Vehicle Program Update

Manager Folding recapped from the last meeting a gentleman came in to talk to us about the electric vehicle program some of the larger municipalities are doing across the state. Folding said he had a meeting with five of the north shore municipalities and they all seemed interested in getting something together. The pool would need to be a little bigger because the cost of advertising and to get the program rolling moving is very pricey. There are three other towns in the area the group wanted to contact and see the interest. Interesting points that kept the meeting rolling was the gallons of gas per KW saved was quite astounding. Robert Snow said once the residence really sees how popular this is going to be, it is really going to take off. Folding said when they see the savings, this will be huge. The program will be a great selling point from the car dealers when they show what the savings in fuel to KW saved and then the lease program and how much the incentive will be there to go forward with this offer. The state is also looking into programs the same way we are so this may come faster than we think in the coming years. Snow said it will be great once the battery storage end of the technology is made, there are chances of off peak charging stations coming more to homes across Rowley. Barbara Berkowitz talked about a company they are working with called Enerblue and they are trying to find the technology for both batteries and heat loss for storing batteries.

Annual Town Meeting Article

Manager Folding brought the annual warrant to be read at this year's town meeting. This is a standard article that is read every year by the RMLP.

*Snow made a motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article. Keyes seconded the motion.
All voted in favor at 7:25 PM.*

Annual Town Meeting Article For PILOT Payment

Manager Folding presented a PILOT payment of \$34,660.93 to the Town of Rowley. A letter was read by Merry.

*Snow made the motion to accept the FY 2017 Pilot Payment to the town in an amount of \$34,660.93.
Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:27 PM.*

Changes to Policy Handbook discussed at January 10, 2018 meeting

Manager Folding wanted to revisit the policy changes handed out at the last meeting regarding the following:

- Mutual Aid Policy
- Sick Leave Policy
- Addition of the Area Cost of Living Policy

Mutual Aid Policy: Currently is read as “rate should be paid from portal to portal.” The new wording would read as “at time and one half from portal to portal.”

Sick Leave Policy: Currently is read as “to get buyback an employee can’t go over 4 days of being sick.” The new wording would read as “the employee would bank the remaining balance of the year no matter how much time they use within the year.” This will bring the employee quicker to the 200-hour buyback goal if they retire from the RMLP.

Stipend For Area Cost of Living: Manager Folding read the proposed policy to the board, see attached. Robert Snow made a few comments on where policy would be going with the possibility of retirements coming into the future and said he would have to bock at the idea of it. Merry echoed Snow’s thoughts. Folding asked if there were any other comments regarding this and the thought was to hold off with this for now.

Robert Snow made the motion to accept the revised mutual aid policy. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:39 PM.

Merry read a letter from the citizens of Bartow Florida as a proclamation for the help of the RMLP assisting in hurricane relief back at the beginning of the year. It was decided to be framed and hung up in the office at the operations center for the public to see.

Robert Snow made the motion to accept the revised sick time policy. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:42 PM.

It was decided by the board to hold off for now on any decision regarding the Stipend For Area Cost of Living till a later time.

Information for Town Report

Manager Folding handed out the RMLP narrative which will be used in the annual town report. This is something each department submits for all the residents of Rowley to see. There are different components such as financials, number of new services, and other important items pertaining to how the plant is run during the year.

Robert Snow made the motion to accept the town report narrative. Keyes seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:44 PM.

Adjournment

Robert Snow made the motion to adjourn. Kenneth Keyes seconded. All voted in favor in favor at 7:48 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

G. Robert Merry, Chair

Robert Snow, Member

Kenneth Keyes, Clerk