

# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



**January 9, 2019 Commissioner's Meeting**

**7:00 PM – Town Hall Selectman's Room**

Commissioners Present: G. Robert Merry, Robert Snow, Kevin Snow. 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***

Bryan Dipersia from 500 Wethersfield Street wanted to let the board know there was a meeting on January 26, 2019 regarding the Massachusetts Climate Action Network Summit which will be held in the town of Groton. Manager Folding told Bryan to email the details of the meeting to him.

## ***Review and Approve Meeting Minutes***

The minutes for the December meeting weren't complete.

## ***Rowley Solar LLC update on project***

Bonnie Berkowitz gave a quick update on the solar project. She said they were on schedule with the project, but they have run into a snag. There is a meeting tonight with the planning board to work out some details regarding poles that were set, but not on the final print. The worse case would be the poles would have to be pulled and the hardware would have to be put up on the street. It will create some work, but it can be done. There is one pole on the print and that will remain the one for the URD going into the array. RMLP has everything in stock to make this happen. RMLP is still waiting for the transformers and the recloser for the project, but those should be here shortly.

## ***Community Solar Discussion***

Bonnie Berkowitz and Manager Folding gave an update on the community solar program. He said there was an overwhelming response from the ratepayers for this venture. They, Berkowitz and Folding, are very excited to see how this play out with the response being so popular. We will have to start putting people on a waiting list if it exceeds future interest.

### **2019 Operations & Maintenance Budget**

Manager Folding explained the increase in power supply have driven up the cost for the budget. He has made the adjustment to the budget in better hopes 2019 is better forecasted. The board asked some questions but was satisfied with the how it looks. Folding said the raise for the employees has been added to the budget line at 2.5%.

*K Snow made a motion to accept the Operations & Capital budget for the 2019 year. B Snow seconded the motion. All voted in favor at 7:35 PM.*

### **RMLP Customer Liens**

Robert Snow asked if there was any interest or late fees added to customers who didn't pay their invoice. Manager Folding said the Department of Utilities doesn't allow electric plants in Massachusetts to do this, so the answer would be no. Folding added we can shut delinquent customers off between May and November each year if they are behind. This year Folding said we have worked with the town assessor on placing liens on the customers accounts that were behind. This process helps the customer as they are not being the \$150.00 registry fee for attaching and releasing a lien on their property.

### **Appointment of New General Manager**

March 1<sup>st</sup> is going to be Manager Folding last day. The board has gone through a lengthy process to hire a new general manager and all the candidates that applied were very qualified. In the end, the board chose to offer the position to Matthew Brown. He has accepted the position and has a contract to sign tonight.

*K Snow made a motion to hire Mathew Brown as the next general manager of the Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant effective March 4<sup>th</sup>. B Snow seconded. All voted in favor at 7:41 PM.*

### **Adjournment**

*R Snow made the motion to adjourn. K Snow seconded. All voted in favor in favor at 7:41 PM.*

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

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G. Robert Merry, Chair

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Robert Snow, Member

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Kevin Snow, Clerk