

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



November 6, 2019 Commissioner's Meeting

6:00 PM –Rowley Light Plant

Commissioners Present: Bryan DiPersia, Mark Cousins, Sayad Moudachirou. Also in attendance was General Manager Matthew Brown, Office Manager Eric Grover

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

Citizen Query

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

Managers Update

- **New Website:** The new website is ready to be rolled out and should be up and running in the next few days. The domain name had to be changed to rmlp.org due to a hosting problem with the old website provider. We are going to well advertise the new site on the town website, social media, flyers and other places to well educate the ratepayers where to find us.
 - **MLP Solar Info Night Follow-Up:** This turned out to be a big success. 42 people ended up for the meeting to be educated on process of new solar program offered by the RMLP. There were a couple of our established solar customers now in the group to talk to people. Overall it was a very positive meeting with a great attendance according to Manager Brown.
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Budget Quarter 3 Update

Matt Brown handed out to the board the quarter three budget and noted a 384 thousand surplus at the end of quarter 3. He handed out the Purchase Power Adjustment chart to show how 2019 is making out. Brown doesn't want to move the PPA rate around but leave it alone for the time being. 2018 PPA rate stayed the same for too many months, but it seems to have made its way to a happy medium. There were some general questions on the jobbing and insurance part of the costs toward the end of the quarter.

The capital budget seems to be looking good also. Mark Cousins asked how the new digger truck was going and if it would be coming out of the 2020 budget when complete. Also, Cousins asked why the large amount was on meters and it was more than likely the meters for the solar field and general meter purchases. The question of station equipment came up, and Brown will have to investigate what Dan Folding had plans to do there.

MLP State Energy Bill Discussion [Follow-up/potential board vote]

Bryan DiPersia started out by stating he didn't feel the bill was complete to his liking and wondered how the rest of the board felt. Matt Brown felt that 2863 wasn't written great also, but the MLPs shouldn't lose the credit for projects already constructed as they wouldn't have happened without RMLP involvement.

There was a lot of discussion of Bill 2863 by the board. The whole board gave great valid points on what should be changed to make sure we don't lose anything for the ratepayers. The board talked about our portfolio being solar, wind and nuclear. Cousins asked how many solar customers we had as years ago the incentive was to get the panels up and the RECs earned. Right now, there is a total of 22 solar customers.

Cousins said he attended a meeting in Reading and there were quite a few managers there along with representatives from Essex and Middlesex County. The opinion was there was going to be more work on Bills 2863 & 3983 to get this moving forward.

Bryan DiPersia made a motion not to support House Bill 2863 in its currently written form on the grounds of ambiguities and uncertainties as to enforce compliance and enable non carbon emitting power portfolios in MLPs and with the recommendation that the bill to be reworked to provide better clarity in each of the listed sections of the bill. Sayed Moudachirou seconded. All voted in favor at 7:26 PM.

Wethersfield Solar Update

The solar field still waits switch ready as of this date. There was a bankruptcy filed, we are still honoring our PPA rate, we are just waiting on Rowley Solar proposed sale of its assets which has been scheduled for November 19th. There is money owed to us which we will get once the sale is final.

The question of the community solar program was brought up. We would still honor the people that put in applications, but we just must see where it is all going to go once the sale is finalized.

MCAN MLP Report Card

Sayad Moudachirou started out by talking about what the MCAN MLP Report was. He said it was generated in 2017 giving each municipal light plant a score to how they ranked in energy efficiencies, green energy, and material resources. There are four different grading steps to each tier within the report and Rowley scored 39 points out of a 100 which gave us a D for a grade. Once you dig into the report you can see why the ranking system gave us such as a low grade. The list that they were working off looked more like a Christmas list rather than something more comparable to what we would have. They would take points off if you didn't have nuclear or battery storage in your portfolio. In Sayad found it to be disappointing to see where we rank. Bryan DiPersia has been to a couple of these meetings and was aware of the ranking for Rowley. Sayad wanted to know where we would stand now if Rowley was to be graded again and see what points we can work better on. In the future if we look at the large list and pick away at it, Rowley can only become a better green community.

Some ways to correct the score would be a better website to direct our ratepayers on how to save energy. Maybe it would take a better rebate program to be started in which we have. Over time we will get to where we need to be, but with the Wethersfield Street project hopefully coming online soon, that would be a plus for us.

Executive Session under GLC 30A, Section 21 a Strategy for Negotiations with Non-Union Personal

Bryan DiPersia made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to regular session, Sayad Moudachirou seconded and all were in favor at 7:52 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Bryan DiPersia, Chairman



Mark Cousins, Clerk



Sayad Moudachirou, Member