

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



November 18, 2020 Commissioner's Meeting

6:00 PM – Remote GoTo Meeting

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

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:03 PM

Citizen Query

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

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session October 14, 2020 provided, corrections were made previously to the meeting by Mark Cousins.

Danby Whitmore made the motion to accept the regular minutes for October 14, 2020 with the corrections made. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 6:04.

Continued Discussion on Solar Capacity

There was some significant amount of discussion on this topic. In summary, manager Brown wanted to let the Board know of the potential impact of having too much solar on our system. According to PLM the recommended remaining Solar Hosting Capacity due to current load is technically 1.5 MW, but 750 KW to 1 MW is what was discussed. Manager Brown felt more comfortable with a little less in case the department ever lost a large customer, or a storm event or a pole hit causing a temporary reduction in load. [safety factor] Manager Brown also pointed out that if a large array like Wethersfield Street were to be constructed could use up any remaining capacity by itself. He stressed to the Board, and they agreed that we do not want to have to turn away any new residential solar customers because a larger utility/commercial field used up the remaining capacity. Commissioner DiPersia mentioned that it would take a huge boom in roof top arrays to use up the remaining recommended capacity and all agreed that a combination of residential and smaller commercial would be warranted. Currently there is no proposal for a large commercial array, and the situation will be

periodically monitored moving forward. Commissioner Cousins recommended that any large arrays should have a system impact study completed at the developer's expense.

Commissioner Whitmore asked if batteries could help if there were to be too much solar. Manager Brown explained he had begun investigating a storage unit at the substation but behind the meter installations/peak shavers are an unknown at this point due to the Reconstitution of customers Regional Network Load. This is also being monitored moving forward to see how the potential changes would affect a battery storage project in the future.

PACE Program Select Board Meeting 11/16

Commissioner DiPersia introduced this program to the Board of Selectman on November 16th as part of an energy saving incentive. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce a 20-year loan for a third party commercial upgrade to their businesses. Example of items on the list were windows, insulation, energy improvements, new roofs, battery storage, and the list continues. 40 towns in the commonwealth have joined this program as it would have to be supported by the Board of Selectman and the Town Treasurer.

Managers Update:

Covid 19 Update: We have submitted our expenses to Chief Broderick for FEMA reimbursement. These items included face coverings for the office and FR for the linecrew. Also, there was cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, paper towels, etc. We continue to wear masks in the building unless alone an office with the door closed. Each employee wipes down their workspace daily and the common areas are also disinfected daily and documented with employee, date, and time. We did re-arrange the office so that Eric and Sandra are as distant as the space will allow. Upon returning to full staff operation, we were required to have a Covid 19 Control Plan and every employee received one and a copy in the lobby which outlines hygiene, protocols, etc.

MLP Solar Programs: 27 total with one not matching DOER rebate program standards. \$24,066.00 has been awarded to the and \$25,934.00 remaining with 3 systems in the que. Two on Wethersfield Street and one on Kittery Avenue. So, this would leave the reserve at around \$8000.00 leaving just one array available.

Community Solar: 389 credits given totaling \$3,198.40 for 2020. Credits will be on the November bills and will continue to be in November's invoices moving forward.

Falcon Ridge [Intersection – Line Upgrade]: The intersection work/road shift is completed as of 11-10-20. We have the three-phase wire loaded on the trailer and will be running in the circuit of 2000 ft in the next week. We have stepped away from the project so the contractor could deal with the intersection changes.

General Construction: Christopher Road has received 10 new pole sets and 6 have been transferred. We will finish transfers and then Comcast and Verizon will need to do their work before we can remove the old poles.

Liens: The lien letters were mailed out on 11-12-20 and we will have a complete list to Assessor Sean McFadden by the first of December. The list was roughly \$108,000.00 and will come down as the deadline of December 1, 2020 for the assessor to process those bills.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added in by the chair.

"Executive Session if Required:"

This agenda item was not needed for the meeting.

Adjournment

Danby Whitmore made the motion to adjourn. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 7:28 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Mark Cousins, Chair



Danby Whitmore, Clerk



Bryan DiPersia, Member

Eric Grover

From: Danby Whitmore <danbywhitmore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Eric Grover
Subject: Re: Minutes For November

Hi Eric, actually what I had asked about was if we could coordinate with other towns in use and deals with the large power companies, and if the large purveyors of power could be engaged in a discussion of higher use of solar in towns and if they could use the backfeeding from the towns in high solar transmission times. Manager Brown said to date there had been no such discussions. We had put the battery question to bed last time as we said we needed to see if more battery options would be available with technological changes in the next year.

Thanks

Commissioner Whitmore (when did we get formal?!)

On Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 9:28 AM Eric Grover <egrover@rowleylight.com> wrote:

Good Morning:

Please find the minutes for last month's Commisioners meeting. I have attached it in a Word & PDF format in case you can't open one or the other.

Let me know if there is anything to correct before tomorrow night.

Thanks,

Eric R. Grover

Office Manager

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