

# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



## March 10, 2021 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

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Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

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#### ***Citizen Query***

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

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#### ***Review and Accept Previous Minutes***

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, February 10, 2021 provided, the corrections were made beforehand to the meeting by the board.

*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to accept the regular minutes for February 10, 2021 with the corrections made. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 6:02.*

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#### ***24 Daniels Road [Continued] Dave Peterson***

Dave Peterson picked up from where we left off from the February meeting regarding some history to the Daniel's house located at 24 Daniels Road. Recently Habit for Humanity showed some interest in the rehabbing the house and making it affordable housing for a family. Peterson gave a history on the property and how he had a relationship with the family before they all passed on. Back in the early eighties former Manager Robert Merry acquired a piece of land to the rear of the property with a right of way for a new substation the town needed. An agreement was made that the RMLP would pay the land and house taxes and keep their son Bill employed on cutting the lawn. When Bill passed on in March of 2011, the entire property house, out buildings, and barns became the property of the RMLP. Though the house was stripped of its heating, electric and water system, in the early 2000 there was insulation, new windows and siding put on the house. In 2012 there was a new roof put on the house to make it sound as there were some leaks.

There was some discussion if we could go ahead and let the organization take over the house and do a rehab. We have our current substation there and would keep a right of way with whatever we decided to do. This property could become a future operations center for the RMLP. If we did not need it and it became deemed as "surplus" the town could take it and make the decision on its future. Any money made off the property we believe would go back to the town, not the department. The board discussed a few other locations for an operations center, but they would have to be looked at.

There was a letter from Ken Ward stating the condition of the house and the outbuildings. Everyone is in agreement that the property should be tidied up, and the front porch be taken down. RMLP would like to remain a good neighbor.

So for the time being, we should look at getting a contractor to come in and secure all the buildings at a reasonable rate. We should investigate any documents such as easements for the substation and any trust documents that may be there for the property and house. Danby said we should get a plan together and make sure it all happens.

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### ***Covid-19 Update/Discussion/Payroll***

Manager Matt Brown did a year recap of how Covid 19 was handled within the department. There was a Covid 19 plan put into place last year and if there were any positive cases, we could keep the department operations going. We took the best practice we could with the minimal staff we have, and we were back to full capacity by May of last year. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the Federal Mandate was cleared, and we were done with any reimbursement for cleaning items and time paid to the employees for being out. Brown said he it was a manager's call and he felt that what he did was warranted.

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### ***MEAM Meeting 3/24/21***

There hasn't been an agenda made public yet, but it would be a Zoom or online meeting.

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### ***Manager's Update***

**MLP Solar Programs Update:** This program is going along with great response. Enough funding remains for 6 new systems. There are currently 28 residential systems total. 80K total pledge including the half year extension for June 2021.

**Charging Station:** We have been having a discussion on installing a level three charging station at the Market Basket Plaza. Most recently in offer to protect the investment of ratepayer funds a level three charger would involve an easement to proceed. Market Basket was not in agreement with this. We should start to investigate another location for the charger. Matt was hopeful that Market Basket will change their mind, as he still believes it to be a good location and a win for the RMLP and them. Maybe a level two could be investigated at the town hall near the library in the future.

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### ***Pilot Payment To Town & ATM Findings***

Manager Brown presented a PILOT payment of \$21,547.87 to the Town of Rowley.

*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to accept the FY 2022 Pilot Payment to the town in an amount of \$21,547.87. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 7:09.*

Regarding the ATM questions on how it was written, it is all in how you interpret it. Construction Fund Vs. Depreciation Fund is the same thing just spelled out a little different. The question was asked if we even had to do it and other towns either do not or have given up the practice years ago. What we can do for this year is to submit it like we normally do to Debbie Eagan and then decide with a formal letter to the board of commissioners and selectmen next year.

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### ***Review and Approve RMLP Annual Report To The Town***

Manager Matt Brown submitted to the board what he was putting into the town report. Former Commissioner Sayad Moudachirou put together this presentation for the previous years annual report and it was decided to update the information and keep the same format. The board thought it was nice and to keep going the same way as last year.

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***Discuss Board Inclusion Regarding Power Contracts***

Regarding power contracts, the board would like to be informed on when and how we go about the purchase of power for the ratepayers of Rowley. The board would also like to be made aware of any long-term contracts ahead of time when possible. There was discussion of how purchase power falls under the General Managers duties per Chapter 164, and reference was made to a recent memo given to the town that spells out the Managers roles and responsibilities. It was agreed that Manager Brown would inform the board ahead of time for any projects presented that could be considered controversial. (e.g. Palmer Biomass)

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***All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair***

There was nothing added in by the chair.

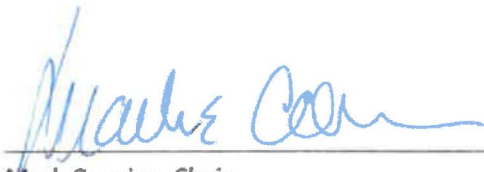
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***Adjournment***

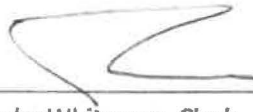
*Bryan DiPersia made the motion to adjourn. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:31 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

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Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Mark Cousins, Chair



Danby Whitmore, Clerk



Bryan DiPersia, Member