

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



April 14, 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

Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

Citizen Query

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

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

There weren't any minutes completed for this meeting.

Managers Update

MLP Solar: Total pledge of \$80K good through June 2021. \$34,326.00 has been awarded, and \$45,654.00 is available for roughly 7 more systems.

RMLP Website: The website has a new "news" section to better keep the public informed about what is going on. It is a way to have a better engagement with the community about various announcements or issues.

MEAM Meeting: Highlights are that there were 6500 bills none referred to the committee, just Covid 19 and the effects and backup. The climate bill is on the governor's desk to have the Net Zero Emission done by 2050. It was signed on March 26, 2021. There is a bill proposed to add 3 years of service or age related to the Covid19 and essential public-sector for retirement. There are two identical bills one in house and one in the senate for the same item. The MEAM annual meeting will be in Plymouth on May 20 & 21 at the Hotel 1620.

ATM Town Warrant: Manager Matt Brown revisited the ATM Warrant with Debbie Eagan. She suggested Brown send a letter to the board of selectman and her and see if they were opposed to not sponsoring our ATM warrant moving forward for the following years. Town council said it did not seem necessary because the money is the MLP's by law regardless of whether the town takes the vote or not. If a vote is taken and is voted no, the town would not be able to keep the money for a town purpose. Mark Cousins felt comfortable with doing away with the practice and Brian DiPersia did not think we needed it because there not any budget items or anything the board would have to deal with.

Danby Whitmore made the motion to do away with the ATM warrant. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 6:14.

Construction Projects: The crew has been working on installing new primary for the last phase of the Bradford Street 4 KV upgrade. There are some poles on Summer Street that need to be set.

Falcon Ridge: We have been working on this project as time allows. During the April school vacation break we will be doing the underground riser and new wire to the Girl Scout Camp. This will get the single phase off the old pole and finish up on the phase one work. The crew has pulled in four sections of wire and installed the sector and transformer

cabinets in the development. Comcast has finished their work in the intersection, and we have contacted Verizon to transfer their wires.

Highway Department Stormwater Project & Light Department Obligation

Manager Matt Brown met with Highway Supervisor Pat Snow, Conservation Agent Brent Baeslack, and RMLP Superintendent Mark Anderson regarding the stormwater project behind the town buildings. It looks as though it is going to cost eight thousand dollars from each department to plan and design the project. The highway department will work along with a contractor to perform the work and keep the cost down as much as possible. Much of the project will be out back, therefore we should not have to cut into any of the asphalt parking lot.

Governors Passing of MA Roadmap Bill

March 26th, 2021, Governor Baker signed the 2050 Roadmap Bill. (net-zero greenhouse gas emission limit by 2050) Section 33 of the bill addresses MLPs. The Climate Bill recognizes the importance of Municipal Light Plants (MLPs) in the Commonwealth's clean energy future. For the first time, MLPs must comply with state power portfolio regulations, specifically the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards (GGES) for retail energy sales. With 41 MLPs representing hundreds of thousands of residents, Section 33 of the new law will formalize the clean energy work already well underway at the Municipal Level.

24 Daniels Road – Continued Discussion & Consideration for A new RMLP Location

Manager Matt Brown continued with the discussion of 24 Daniels Road. He has been in touch with a few business owners in town as there have been some properties coming up for sale. After going out to look and see if each place met our needs, he decided that either the building was not up to our needs or there may have been some traffic issues such as entering or exiting the road in a bucket truck.

One piece of property worth looking into was the corner of Wethersfield and Route One. This piece of property is owned by Edward Surette and was just recently cleared of trees and brush. This piece of property would be ideal as we could start from scratch with a building and make it fit our needs. This property is very similar to what the water department has over on Central Street. Close to Route One and in a residential neighborhood with access onto Central Street. Brown spoke to Bernard Cullen who is an abutter to the property and would be opposed to the building. He said the town has some property over on Haverhill Street near the old well one. After looking at the property it looks as though it is a little wet and would not be ideal for entering or exiting onto Haverhill Street.

Commissioner Brian DiPersia said maybe we could do something with what we have on Summer Street rather than build a new building. The thought a few years back was to put up a Morton Building in the back of the property and use that for trucks and line crew. The group discussed a few of the locations that were not up to traffic standards.

The one question the entire board had was there any way of getting income from selling either properties. Brown said he would have to check with counsel, Duncan & Allen, and see what the law is. From last months meeting, when a property is deemed surplus and handed over to the town, it becomes the property of the town and the town keeps anything made off it. Brown said he would check with council and see what their opinion was on it.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added in by the chair.

Enter executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation with General Law Chapter 30A Section 21 [A] [2] for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and not to reconvene in open session. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 7:05.

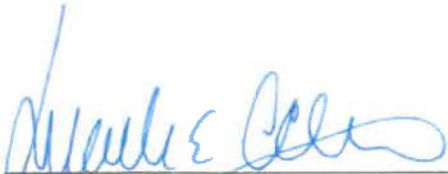
Back To Regular Session

There was a motion to close the executive session. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 8:01.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 8:02.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Mark Cousins, Chair



Danby Whitmore, Clerk



Bryan DiPersia, Member