Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

October 13, 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

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

There was a person logged on to the meeting with the name Mike. Manager Brown messaged the individual through the GoToMeeting messenger tool and did not receive a response.

Danby Whitmore opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

Citizen Query

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

MEAM Meating 11-10-21

There is a meeting planned for November 10th, but an agenda hasn't been posted with chances it will be a remote meeting. Mark Cousins asked if Matt Brown could send out the link to the meeting when it becomes available so the board could attend.

Office Staffing Update

Manager Brown and Eric are very impressed with the applicants.

The hiring process is:

- Choose 6 out of the 13 applicants.
- Interview all 6 and create a finalist list.
- Call back the finalist for a second interview, perform reference checks, rank them in order, and make an offer.

Managers Update

<u>MLP Solar Update Continuation Plan</u>: A formal scope of work has been provided by Energy New England. It is under review. The plan is to continue to encourage and assist homeowners in installing solar on residential rooftops.

Town Hall/Library EV Charger Update: The grant was submitted on August 17th for a level 2 EV charger at the townhall & library location. Matt emailed the MASS DEP Thursday October 7th for an update and have not received a response as of yet. It has been 57 days since the submission and the word from other municipalities is there is a back log due to Covid 19.

<u>Depreciation Fund</u>: As you know the Treasurer is responsible for managing all the towns funds. Currently the bulk of the depreciation is in short term bonds and the Treasurer will be moving around 10% into Bartholomew short term equity investments for a better return. As a courtesy she had reached out to make sure we didn't have any large capital projects such as a substation or a new building.

<u>Construction Highlights</u>: Falcon Ridge is still ongoing with a total of 9 homes connected to the grid. On Summer Street, the new poles and 3 phase Hendrix is installed. Running in new secondary will start shortly and then the cutover for the primary. 12 Main Street is about 90% complete with a new primary line brought into an underground pad mount. This project is being paid for by the developer.

Massachusetts Climate Action Network's [MCAN] 2021 MLP Scorecard Release-Initial Discussion

The RMLP was 33 on the list out of all the municipal lights across Massachusetts. Matt had provided information to the group back in the spring of 2021 when the town hadn't received its Green Communities designation yet and Matt had told MCAN it was in the works. There is a lot of criteria that goes into how to score responsibly such as an informational website to the timing of collection of data from the group. This is MCAN's second scorecard and in their report, they noted that the scoring criteria was changed. MCAN's scoring methodology includes the number of recs you have, power portfolio, transparency of information made to the public, websites, mailers and how much the municipality offers for energy efficient programs. The whole report was 174 pages. Some municipalities didn't respond back to the survey which pushed them to the back of the scoring chart. Matt will be contacting Energy New England to look things over for us and see where we could better educate our ratepayers.

Manager Brown suggested it would be best to put a list together in order to improve RMLP's score in the years to come. So, each board member was asked to submit a list of their areas of focus to the Manager.

Matt mentioned we only had 43 non-led lights on the system. Most of them are in underground developments where the lights haven't had reached their longevity to be changed to LED lights. Mark Cousins explained the definition of reconstitution and really brought it all together for the meeting.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing to fill this item by the chair.

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

There was no reason to go into executive session for this meeting.

Adjournment

Mark Cousins made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Bryan DiPersia second all in favor with a roll call vote. Mark Cousins, "I", Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I". Voted in at 7:12 PM.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

Danby Whitmore, Chair

Bryan Dipersia, Clerk

Mark Cousins Mambar