

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



November 10, 2021, Commissioner's Meeting

6:00 PM – Remote Go To 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.

Danby Whitmore opened the meeting at 6:01 PM.

Citizen Query

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

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting sessions, September 8, 2021, and October 13, 2021, provided, the corrections were made previously to the meeting by Mark Cousins and Bryan DiPersia.

Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for September 8, 2021, and October 13, 2021, 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.

MEAM Meeting Summary 11/10

Manager Brown spoke briefly about the MEAM meeting. Please see the agenda attached for the meeting.

RMLP Winter Season Readiness Review

The department is getting ready for winter by checking on all the necessary items we use to move snow. The crew has checked over all the equipment such as snowblowers and plow truck. We had two loads of poles delivered with the hopes of not needing them. Our tree trimming cycle for hazardous removals was completed in January 2021 and throughout the year.

Office Staffing Update

The RMLP is excited Brigida Longo has accepted the position as Billing Clerk and began work on the first of November. Matt and Eric are excited to have her on board and we are confident she will be a great asset to RMLP.

Massachusetts Climate Action Network's (MCAN) 2021 Scorecard-follow Up Discussion

Manager Brown summarized what MCAN was from both their website and what Mass.gov. lists. Under the previous director they were quite critical on MLPs. Under the new Director Sarah Dooling, they appear to have been more appreciative of the MLP's efforts towards Climate Change. They held a meeting with the MLPs before the scorecard came out to have the opportunity to explain their findings. The group has beliefs on what they think should be happening and it is reflected in the report. In the end, the most key factor is what is the best for the ratepayers of the RMLP. Bryan said, In the long run, they would like Energy New England and MMWEC to really come together and help the MLPs moving forward. Rowley is different from Peabody or North Attleboro; we can only do the best we can for the future. There are some smaller steps we can get done, but it will take some time to get the larger items accomplished. When the survey data was collected, we had our Plug in Hybrid car on order and the Town had not been designated a green community. Our new website offers a lot of information on energy savings. The RMLP has really improved its community outreach and engagement.

Climate Change/Resiliency 5 Year & 10 Year Goals Discussion

Danby explained we should be looking into the future as the Federal and State Government are looking to better everyone's energy habits. She explained we should have a four percent de-carbonization yearly plan in place and that a battery storage facility could help with that. Manager Brown said we are keeping a close eye on battery storage and the reconstitution factor that goes with that. He also mentioned RMLP has taken corrective action and believes we were the first department in town to have a plug in Hybrid vehicle. There are a lot of factors to each of the locations that MLPs are located, and a one size fits all approach will not work. Each of the MLP's is unique and will need different plans to attain the newly set de-carbonization goals in a fiscally responsible manner. To get four percent will take time and will not happen overnight. Overall, we must think about Rowley and what the future will bring. The idea was for the Board to produce some ideas for the future, and we can produce a plan for the years to come.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Programs Update: Manager Brown has been negotiating with ENE on a cost to RMLP to continue without DOER match. RMLP, as we have discussed, will match .60 cents up to 10 KW for a 6K max match. I have fielded approximately three calls since July 2021 asking about rooftop installations, and informed potential customers that we are working on details but will be offering a max match of 6K if they chose to move forward. I have not heard back from any of them saying they are moving forward. Solar installs have slowed down in the last year, and we still stand at 30 residential customers.

Public Record Requests: We have had a few public records requests in the past three to four months. One has been appealed through the Secretary of State's office and we are awaiting a decision.

Construction Updates: Between Falcon Ridge and the Summer Street 4K upgrade, it has been keeping our crews busy.

Brian Herdman: He has successfully received his Class A driver's license last week. [All linemen are now Class A drivers including myself] We will send the apprentice in either 2022 or 2023.

Town Hall/Library EV Charger Update: Our contacts at ENE say we will hear something shortly on the EV grant.

Collections: Eric and Karen Marchand have made great progress on reducing the amount owed on past due accounts. Less than fifty thousand is what we have in arrears and that is what a typical municipal our size has outstanding.

New EV: A Toyota Rav4 prime plug-in hybrid has been delivered. This is what I believe is the first town vehicle that is a plug in so hopefully other departments will follow suit. It is on the road, registered, inspected, and had the meter reading AMR system transferred over from the old meter reading vehicle. It was sold to the town.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added in by the chair.

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

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

Adjournment

Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 7:26 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Danby Whitmore, Chair



Bryan DiPersia, Clerk



Mark Cousins, Member