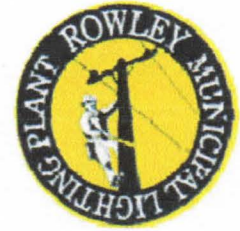


Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



January 12, 2022, 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.

Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:02 PM

Citizen Query

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

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

There were not any minutes to approve for this meeting.

MEAM Meeting 1/19/22

Matt has not received a meeting agenda, but when it is published, he will pass it along to the board.

Budget 2022

Manager Brown presented the Board with the 2022 Operations and Maintenance Budget along with the 2022 Capital Budget. The Board looked over the two Budgets and inquired about a few line items such as 392 on the Capital Budget being transportation. Brown explained the price of gas will be going up in the next few months and wanted to be proactive in the Budget. Residential Sales was brought up on the O&M Budget and the question was asked why it has gone up since last year? Brown explained with Covid 19, more places were requiring their employees to stay home and work. This put the residential sales higher, and some small businesses were already lower because of the lack of staff and not opening. One last item was the municipal sales was cut back. The reason being is that some of the accounts were reclassified from prior years back to where they should have been.

Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the 2022 Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant O & M Budget of \$7,829,500.00 and the Rowley Municipal Light Plant Capital Investment Budget for \$619,000.00. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 6:13 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Climate Change/Resiliency 5 Year & 10 Year Goals Discussion

The Board has been given this some thought over the last few months to investigate the future of the RMLP plan. As a collective group, there were a lot of great ideas. First, the idea of municipal buildings could be looked at. For example, the heating system at the Town Hall, slight changes to the RMLP operation center, put solar on the buildings such as the police and fire stations. There could be a study on heat pumps, new windows, and insulation at some of the existing Municipal Buildings and see how much it could be beneficial in the long run. Danby said it would be interesting to see what a quote on solar and heat pumps would be on some of these buildings, also to see where the larger trucks and option sizes stand with hybrid vehicles.

The Powerhouse Substation was brought up regarding battery storage. The problem still lies with this being on hold because of the reconstitution. It is a great idea, but in meantime we should have an answer on his issue. Also, there was talk about what we could do with the 24 Daniels Road site. It was discussed that Matt should investigate with counsel and see just what can be done with it. To see what we must do for the future incase we want to put a building there and what we will need to do to make it happen. Maybe contacting the Conservation and ZBA to get a clearer picture of what can be done is in order. This would impact traffic but given the location it is not too far away from Haverhill Street.

The discussion turned into a thought process for the future. The Board talked about various sources of power such as the Town of Hull and Duxbury were thinking about a wind project out in the bay just outside their towns. Trash generation and the use of old landfills were brought up for the use of methane to heat or be used as some sort of energy source. The topic of fuel cells, even in the initial stages, could benefit the RMLP. The topic of more solar fields could be another option except that due to the load on the system, our engineering company PLM said we should hold off with any new arrays wishing to open here. Places like the Northern Pass project failed when it was voted down in New Hampshire and Maine. [Quebec Hydro Project]

There was a lot of discussion to this topic. We will investigate all the topics brought up and see what we can do better for the Town of Rowley in the near future.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Program Update: Currently there are two residential solar customers in the que.

Rebate Update: There have been a slight increase in the number of rebates, but the noticeable rebates have been the heat pumps in the last couple of months.

Cordless Yard Equipment Rebates: Matt has been working with ENE on getting a final list put together on lawn cordless equipment for the yard. He should have a better list of what we will be offering at the next meeting. It is looking good, and he thinks everyone will be pleased.

Town Hall/Library EV Charger Update: As of now, there has not been any change in status on this. Matt has talked to other MLPs, and they are in the same spot as far as communication with the state. He is hoping something will turn around in the following month to get this project started.

Construction Highlights: The only real highlights is that Falcon Ridge is still being worked on by the crews. More houses are being built and sold.

Policy Book: The policy book has been looked over. A couple of corrections need to be made. There were a couple grammar errors found and some discussion went into page 17, Worker's Compensation Leave and 18, Parental Leave that were needed to be corrected. The Board took a vote onto adopt the handbook.

Mark Cousins made the motion to except the Employee Handbook except for the to corrections on page 17 & 18 as noted. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:12 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added in by the chair.

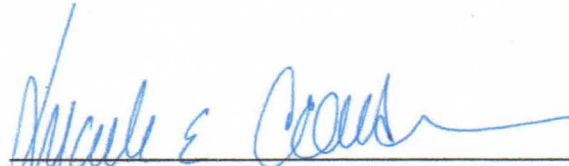
Adjournment

Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:14 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Danby Whitmore, Chair



Mark Cousins, Member



Bryan DiPersia, Clerk