

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



February 16, 2022, 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.

Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:02 PM

Citizen Query

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

James J. Decoulos [Danielsville Development]

James Decoulos, Civil Engineer for the project, started off the discussion with a new development located off Daniels Road near the Old Wagon Wheel factory. He said he has been working with Mark Anderson, Superintendent of Distribution, very closely on the project and the communications has been excellent. He gave an overview of the project being a green community and getting a grant from the DEP to make this all happen. With a slide show, he explained his ideas to keep the project realistic and to make sure everything was what the scope of work was designed for. He said one thing they are doing is combining the septic system for each unit which will be shared as one common area. The development will have natural gas piped in, ground water heat pumps, and make all the houses solar ready if there should be a call for a roof top array. When they went to build Falcon Ridge, it was specked out for natural gas in the plan but that was cut due to cost. He wants to make sure all their due diligence is complete from the beginning. There is a housing project in Ipswich called Partridge Berry Lane which is under the same pretense to this project. James thanked the Board for the time and looks forward to collaborating more closely with us when the time comes to start the project.

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting, December 15, 2021, a vote was taken.

Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for December 15, 2021, with corrections made as noted. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore. Voted in at 6:36.

Special Municipal Employees [Danby Whitmore]

It was brought to the attention of Danby the town has a "Special Municipal Employee Listing" A full explanation of duties can be found on the state website: [Special Municipal Employees | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/special-municipal-employees)

Mark Cousins made the motion to ask the Board of Selectman for the Board of Commissioners to be considered as a "Special Municipal Employee" listing. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:38.

Future Planning: Climate Change/Resiliency 5 Year & 10 Year Goals Discussion

The Board discussed this a little more from the last meeting. There was discussion on battery storage and how it would be good to investigate this for the future. It was also discussed that a Board member could go to some of the planning Board meetings to be kept in the loop on what is going on in the town, for example the Danielsville development and future projects on the horizon. There was some concern that if a member goes, they should not be representing the Board, but they are there as a citizen and to refer everything back to our Board of Commissioners.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Program Update: Currently, there are two residential solar customers in the que. One more potential, and we have received three calls since we put the message on this month's bills.

Rebate Announcement Update: RMLP has increased the rebate offerings to include Heat Pump/Hybrid Water Heaters <55 gallons for \$300.00 and >55 gallon for \$100.00. Induction Electric Range for \$200.00. We have also included a new offering of Cordless Electric Lawn Equipment for 2022. The Board needs to agree on the amount and then we will write up an announcement and promote this in the monthly bill message box.

Town Hall/Library EV Charger Update: This grant was applied for in August of 2021. We have checked in three times with the State, and they say we are still under final reviews and have not been denied. We will be patient and just wait. [Our lobbyist hears that there is plenty of funds to go around and thinks the RMLP has a good chance.]

Construction Highlights: Verizon completed their transfers on Summer Street near the common [5 poles]. RMLP was right behind them to pull the poles that were in the road. Previously, the town requested that when we reset them to move them behind the sidewalk for easier plowing for the highway crews. We are continuing work on the voltage conversion and will plan on cutting over Burke Ave and our building this Saturday. An outage is required to perform this work.

Other Items: The staff has its annual first aid/ CPR certification training upcoming with the online portion of training ahead of time. All employees will participate in this training. Manager Brown had a team call with Kruger Energy, Montreal Canada with Zico Shaker. Inventory was completed and now the start of year end.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added in by the chair.

Executive Session

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 7:16.

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 7:27 PM.

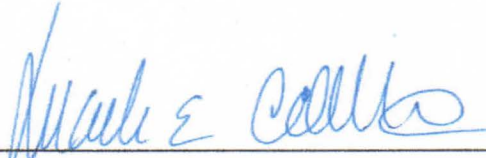
Adjournment

Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 7:29 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