

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



April 13, 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 6:10 PM

Citizen Query

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

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting sessions, March 16, 2022, 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 March 16, 2022, with the corrections made. Danby Whitmore seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:13.

MEAM Meeting April 20th, 2022, May 19-20 Plymouth, MA

Manager Brown said there was not an agenda yet for the April 20th meeting, but when it comes out, he will email the Board. He also emailed the Board to remind them that Commissioners are welcome, just please let him know if you would like to attend.

DPU Report [Bryan DiPersia]

Manager Brown said the DPU report is in the final stages of completion. Bryan DiPersia asked if this could be put on the agenda as he would like to see the purchase power broken down a little more and format the DPU similar to some of the other municipals he has seen. He said you can download a template from the DPU website and change the fonts and make the report a little more professional looking. Mark Cousins said each report is different such as Ipswich has diesel generation and wind, as Rowley does not. RMLP's Accountant Katie Tilton has started the report and would need to be contacted before next year's report for changes. Manager Brown asked Commissioner DiPersia if he could send along a sample of how he would like to see the purchase power page reported for the following year.

Continued Discussion:

Daniels Road: Acting Fire Chief Mark Emery has asked if the fire department could use the Daniels Road property for some training exercises. They will not do any damage to the property; it is just search and rescue on the interior of the house.

Energy Audit 47 Summer Street [Heat Pumps/Solar]: Rise came in and performed an energy audit to the current operations center. A report should be coming in on suggestions and things to be done to help in conservation efforts. When the report comes in, it will be passed along to the commissioners.

Battery Storage: Manager Brown said he has been investigating battery storage for the Daniels Road Substation. Mark Cousins asked if it would be worth going in with a few towns and buy the project in bulk to get a better rate. He thought that PLM or UPG might know of a resource to get it done as they would know what is going on in the industry. Brown said PLM is aware of where we would like to place the unit and we are in a prime spot with the everything we need, we own. Bryan DiPersia said National Grid/Eversource own their own equipment so it would be easier to get things secured for them.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Programs Update: This program was continued on by RMLP voluntarily, and currently has two new systems in the queue. Manager Brown also reported fielding a handful of calls asking for details and general information. Commissioner DiPersia commented that he would like to see a specific solar drop down under the saving tab.

On a side note, there has been a great response to the new electric lawn equipment rebate program that was rolled out on our website. We have had ten rebates submitted so far.

Town Hall/Library EV Charger Update: Manager Brown has said the license agreement is ready to go and just needs to be signed. There are going to have to be three parking spots taken to make the project ADA compliant. Brown spoke with Head Librarian Pam Jacobs, and she did not think this would be a problem. Mark Cousins asked what the deadline was and if we ran into any problems could we extend that out. Brown was confident it would be completed before the expiration date but informed the board that RMLP could apply for an extension if needed.

2021 Audit Scheduling: The annual audit is scheduled to be kicked off the first week of June. This is just our regular audit.

Solar Billing: Danby Whitmore has asked if we could investigate making the solar billing look a little more professional and if we could find why there is some missing data on the usage section of the invoice. Brigida Longo reached out to Northern Data and said the way we were billing out the invoice was not reflecting the usage box. For now, we have corrected the way the billing is posted with Northern Data. In the future, we are looking into having a better-looking bill for solar customers.

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 Personnel

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 7:09 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