

# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



## May 18, 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.

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Danby Whitmore opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

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#### *Citizen Query*

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

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#### *Review and Accept Previous Minutes*

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, April 13, 2022, provided, the corrections made by the board were previously edited prior to the meeting.

*Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for April 13, 2022, 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 6:05.*

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#### *MEAM Meeting May 19-20 Plymouth MA*

Manager Brown would like to attend the annual MEAM Meeting as he has already emailed the board with the agenda. Mark Cousins said he is planning to attend on Thursday's portion of the meeting. There are good speakers scheduled, and it is a great networking event.

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#### *Managers Update*

**MLP Solar Continuation Update:** As of this meeting, there are two systems in the works, we have one new installation that will be connected on May 9<sup>th</sup>, the day we read meters.

**Town Hall/Library EV Charger Update:** The license agreement with the Town of Rowley was voted and signed on April 25, 2022, by the Rowley Board of Selectmen. There have been new poles, guy wires, anchors, wire and a new transformer installed. We just have to splice in some secondary wire that feeds the animal control building and the cemetery garage. We can then work on the underground secondary that will feed the dual port pedestal.

**Electric Lawn Rebates:** There has been a lot of activity regarding the new electric lawn equipment rebates we have rolled out. Many of our Ratepayers have expressed the liking of the new program.

**Solar Billing:** Brigida is working with Northern Data on correcting the previous usage from past months. It will take some time to get the information built and in future months the data will be accurate.

**Collections:** RMLP performed its first round of terminations after the DPU hold which is the winter season. Collections are done May through October and this year 124 shut off notices went out. The day we did shut offs we had 44 on the list and we collected \$30,000 that day. Eric and Brigida along with the line crew deserve credit for their efforts.

**Summer Street Conversion Update:** The line crew was unable to remove the existing underground primary cable feeding Essex Management Group. We have secured a contractor, TW Excavating to trench and the RMLP staff will install new conduit and then we can complete the job. They are paying for the new 500 KVA pad mount transformer. The excavating and pipe was done on May 17<sup>th</sup>, along with an unexpected gas line hit mismarked by National Grid. Wire was pulled in today and the pole was framed. Elbows and terminations will be next and then schedule a time to covert to the new infrastructure. Then the stepdown transformers can be taken down in front of the VFW.

**Supply Chain Issue Update:** Like everyone else, we are experiencing the same supply chain issues as the rest of the industry. Simple items such as transformers are being quoted out to 60-84 weeks. The General Manager and Line Superintendent discuss regularly to make sure we have backups to existing equipment should it need emergency replacement. Bryan asked if other towns are willing to help in case of items needed. The answer is yes as all the municipals help each other out on a regular basis.

**Rodeo/Operations Expo:** RMLP line staff participated in the annual rodeo and operations expo in Plymouth New Hampshire. They represented Rowley well and Manager Brown stated he was proud of the staff for their participation and their results. Line Superintendent Mark Anderson was a judge, Sean LaBelle, Brian Herdman, and Jeff Valley made up Rowley's team. Dennis Morrison joined up with staff from Littleton + Mansfield to create another team.

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***All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair***

Manager Brown briefly said that a substation feasibility study should be done. We can look into ENE/Rise to maybe help us out on this along with an energy audit.

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

*There was a motion to adjourn to Executive Session and not return to regular session and seconded.  
All voted in favor in favor at 6:32 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

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Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

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Danby Whitmore, Chair

  
Bryan DiPersia, Clerk

  
Mark Cousins, Member