

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



February 16, 2023, 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, Billing Clerk-Brigida Longo

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in.

Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Citizen Query

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

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

There were no previous meetings to accept.

RMLP Commissioners Meeting Schedule 3/14/2023

Commissioner Mark Cousins asked if we could schedule the next board meeting. March 14, 2023, was agreed upon from all in attendance.

MEAM Meeting March 15, 2023

The MEAM meeting will be held on March 15, 2023, at the 2023 NEPPA Headquarters Littleton, MA. Manager Brown will forward the MEAM meeting agenda to the board when he receives it, and ensure the board is added to the MEAM email distribution list moving forward.

2022 RMLP Town Report

Manager Brown provided the board with the draft Town Report for the year. Bryan said if the town report could include summary of key accomplishments to provide recognition for example the new lawn equipment on the rebate program. Upon receipt of final copies of town report, Manager Brown will distribute to the board accordingly.

Stretch Code/Green Communities

Manager Brown confirmed receipt of the email from the town regarding the adopted green community with new guidelines. Danby questioned the email from the Town Administrator. She would like a copy of the email forwarded to her. Bryan stated at the end of 2022, the DOR updated stretch coding building regulations and issued a specialized codes to cities and towns to adopt as a bylaw for 2023. Rowley is part of the green community where a town adopts the code to comply to be a green community. Any changes in these towns who adopted are to follow these updated guidelines which are built in stretch code requirements. Additional provisions in the Specialized codes allow the towns to obtain 2030/2050 greenhouse redirection. For example, new construction and renovations, commercial and residential and zero energy connections. These are based on most recent updates. Board of Selectman should be aware of these changes and what the board thought regarding the intentions of any future bylaws. This would need to incur in a general meeting by Board of Selectman. It has been stated the Town accepted the 2022 regulations automatically by being a Green Community. The Town of Rowley needs to review these updates at a future town meeting in order to accept new 2023 Specialized stretch code updates. Danby asked if the town reviewed the new provisions. Matt said the Town is aware of the updates and was in the process of reviewing them. Danby asked if the light board could be involved in these changes by stating that the RMLP supports this stretch code/green community. Bryan said we don't need to give any recommendations that is the Town decision. Bryan said the specialized codes may help the light department better planning and clarity of what is needed with new construction. Mark Cousins said that any new stretch code requirements that impact RMLP are given to RMLP by the builder in advance of any new construction for planning purposes. Matt discussed examples of the developments under certain provisions. Mark said most builders don't incur additional cost unless they must, this is less money in their pocket. Danby would like the light board as a whole to have a position regarding these regulations. Mark disagreed regarding the light board taking a position on stretch code regulations since it is based on the Town's decision and not the RMLP board. Manager Brown stated he believes the Board could take a vote and official position on the matter if it chose to do so.

Battery Storage Discussion

The project is still moving forward as discussions with the developers continue. DeLorean was the vendor chosen to do the project and we are just waiting for more information from them. The battery would be used as a peak shaver and help reduce departments' power supply costs. Manager Brown emailed the board information regarding MMWEC. Mark commented on how MMWEC administrative costs are broken up and how are charges calculated. The answer is unknown currently regarding the distribution of administration costs. It could be a percentage allocation plus any costs specific to RMLP. Manager Brown will send an email on a legal opinion. Bryan advised a financial opinion regarding undefined cost prospective. Mark said the language is based on percentage allocation. As an example, Mark noted that ENE pays costs not specific to RMLP's operations and the allocation is group wide. ENE also spends time, projects, specific to RMLP. We pay costs to ENE for both direct attention and overall organization. Mark said MMWEC, as a group, deals with battery storage that they manage. It is based on a percentage breakdown. Mark said the increase in cost and resources is a concern since it is unknown and can fluctuate. Matt said that the board will need to vote regarding accept the review process. Bryan said he is comfortable with Mark's explanation. Both Mark and Danby are concerned about future decommissioning of the battery if DeLorean has a failure and the rates that will be charged for charging and discharging. Danby also asked to have legal review by due to the low limits proposed in the contract as they are lower than what DeLorean is carrying. Mark said the rate charged by RMLP to DeLorean for charging their battery will need to be negotiated rate. The rate paid by RMLP to DeLorean for discharging their battery will also need to be negotiated rate a cap or maximum needs to be set or a fixed rate or multiplier. Bryan said this is a challenge. Bryan asked Manager Brown to share the proforma model that provides examples. Matt will look for the backup and provide to the board. Bryan said savings versus expenditures is the issue to ensure our balances are good enough. MMWEC should be processing this contract. Matt will check with legal for more information. Danby said that we should be properly insured on these projects because it was important and there was no reason for a large company like DeLorean with the large money projects to have such low liability limits. Legal counsel opinion on documentation and insurance is required for additional response. The next step is for the board to either vote to continue the review process for the battery storage or decline it. Danby would like to know which towns have signed up for this storage across Massachusetts. The vote is to allow the

Manager to sign the service agreement (even are though this is not a requirement under Chapter 164 sec. 56) to allow RMLP to move forward with the questions and review in detail of the agreement from MMWEC (DeLorean).

Managers Update

- **MLP Solar Continuation Update:** Manager Brown confirmed that there is a new array interconnected on 2/8/2023 on Merrifield Street. Solar billing will begin in March for this customer. There are 32 total solar systems within RMLP. Also, an additional 5 more customers pending completion for 2023. Mark confirmed that he would like the continuation of solar rebate on as a March agenda item. Due to the increase payout versus revenue, he would like to see RMLP cut back on solar incentives.
- **Supply Chain Issues:** Manager Brown confirmed supply chain issues are not getting any better. With the supply chain being such an issue throughout the country, it is not anything anyone can avoid and the RMLP is on top of ordering stock and items needed. Matt is helping organize information for APPA Legislative Rally (Transformers). Matt will share what he sends to NEPPA director with the board.
- **Power Supply/Financials:** Manager Brown confirmed we are watching closely and continuing to talk with ENE regularly.
- **Fleet Vehicles:** Manager Brown confirmed that the Fleet Vehicle is almost complete, and it is in Somerville. On 2/14/2023, Matt went to the pre-paint inspection @ James A. Kiley Trucks in Somerville, MA. All parts have been approved. They are in the process of building the truck. Should be ready within 3 to 4 weeks.
- **Construction Update:** Manager Brown provided the board a construction update regarding Route 1 transformer/ secondary job, prospect street, Mill Road-4 new lots URD fees/long driveways, and F4 feeder hardening work (new pole sets).

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

Local 104 CBA expires 06/30/2023, Manager Matt has talked with in house steward, and should receive something in writing from their representative in the coming weeks.


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

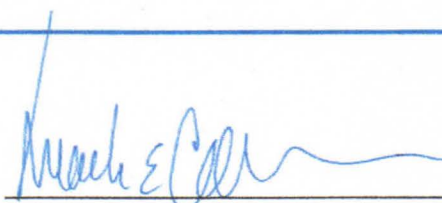
There was no reason to go into executive session for this meeting.

Adjournment

Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:10 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Brigida G. Longo


Bryan DiPersia, Chair


Mark Cousins, Clerk



Danby Whitmore, Member