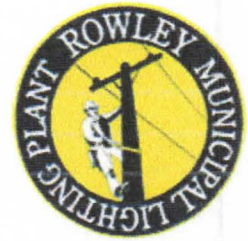


# Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



**March 14, 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, Office Manager Eric Grover

See attendance sheet for the public sign-in. Resident Kevin Snow logged on.

---

Bryan DiPersia opened the meeting at 6:09 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 session, February 16, 2023, provided, the corrections made by the board.

*Mark Cousins made the motion to accept the regular minutes for February 16, 2023, 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 6:13.*

---

## ***MEAM Meeting March 15, 2023***

Manager Brown stated the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting would be canceled in person due to the weather. Instead, they will hold it via Zoom, and he will get the link out to everyone so they can attend if they would like.

---

## ***Battery Storage Project Continued Discussion***

Manager Brown said that our legal firm has done a brief review of the agreement and the next step is for the council, the manager and DeLorean to follow up on negotiations for any last unknown items. MMWEC will still be involved in monitoring peak times when things need to be shaved. Duncan & Allen is the legal firm we are using, and they have never seen a project with so many open ends before. Commissioner Mark Cousins wanted to make sure MMWEC played a central role. Commissioner Danby Whitmore noted full costs are not being represented. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia asked Proforma financials and what Brown thought about the project. Brown said he would like more input from Duncan & Allen and to get more concrete numbers in place to clarify the contract as there are a lot of open-ended items. Brown also wanted to make sure this project could in fact be done on RMLP property. It is important to get the best deal possible for RMLP Ratepayers and make sure the general manager is comfortable moving forward.

Cousins asked how many other towns have signed up for the project and the number wasn't known. DiPersia said he believed that Ipswich had signed on. Resident Kevin Snow said MMWEC is not giving numbers and asked why anyone would sign a contract with so many unknowns about rates and fees they are going to put forward. DiPersia said we need a better range of expedition costs and more negotiations back and forth before anything should be done. Brown said we need numbers to negotiate the best deal, and the numbers are not known until departments sign up.

---

### ***Solar Rebates***

The solar MLP/DOER program expired and the RMLP continued on its own. The program ran from 2019 to 2020 and then was extended into 2022 with extra money to jumpstart the program. 0-10 KW DC max is allowed for an array with a sixty cent per watt for a \$6000.00 max rebate. Currently the twenty-eight cents residential charges twenty-six hundred customers for a total of nine thousand per year we collect on this. Now the federal government is offering thirty percent and Massachusetts is offering a fifteen percent (up to \$1000) rebate. With the new federal and current state incentives, Commissioner Mark Cousins believes the RMLP six thousand rebate really isn't warranted any longer. Cousins proposed that we finish out the year and then starting in 2024 no longer fund the program. Currently the conservation budget line item is between fifty and sixty thousand dollars, and as was stated above, nine thousand in from the income of the ratepayer's invoices.

It was mentioned the twenty-eight cents is the right amount to charge. Maybe a customer satisfaction survey could be drafted up to assess the value of solar we are spending on. That and maybe put a spreadsheet together to see what the cost of recs was over the last few years to see the value as this is something Energy New England could supply us with no trouble. Resident Kevin Snow said the MLP solar program ended in 2021 and Groveland did not continue with it separately. Brown said the electric lawn equipment was a big rebate hit along with the heat pumps.

---

### ***Managers Update***

**MLP Solar Continuation Update:** There was a new 7.25 KW array connected to Merrifield on February 8. \$36,000 in rebates have been used in 2023 with a total of 32 systems now.

**Supply Chain Issues:** There really isn't a change in the supply chain issue. Information from the APPA Legislative Rally brought a discussion of transformer lead times. Brown will share what he sends to the NEPPA Director and the RMLP Board. The board did receive the information sent to Energy New England on the significant price increase on equipment.

**Power Supply/Financials:** RMLP is still watching this closely and we are continuing to talk with Energy New England regularly about where it is going. The outside accountant had some issues with Northern Data Systems this past weekend, but she should have December's numbers closed out this coming weekend. It appears without the final numbers, RMLP had a small surplus for 2022 even with the poor market and investment conditions.

**Fleet Vehicles:** We are in the same place as we were last month.

---

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

Manager Matt Brown just wanted to let the board know Local 104 CBA expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. I have talked with the in-house steward, and I 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.

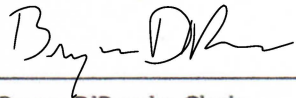
---

**Adjournment**

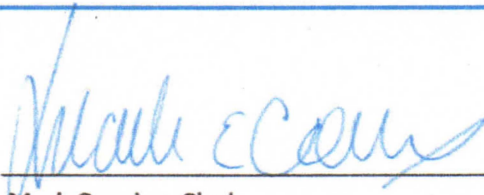
*Mark Cousins made the motion to adjourn. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 7:19 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.*

---

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Bryan DiPersia, Chair



Mark Cousins, Clerk



Danby Whitmore, Member