

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



July 12, 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.

Mark Cousins opened the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Citizen Query

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

Energy Use Challenge Update

The energy challenge information is now live on our website. Commissioner Danby Whitmore thought it would be a good idea to do the same as Ipswich and get the challenge out there to our ratepayers. Manager Brown had a few ideas on how to get the word out there but wanted to get some feedback from the board. Brown suggested a bill stuffer in the next round of bills with something in the small window box on the bill itself. Also, we can use our Facebook page as that is free and lots of people share our page with others. The graph on the website could be changed each month, but Brown suggested doing it quarterly. Commissioner DiPersia requested it be updated monthly. The board was very happy with the results of the project.

Battery Storage Project Update

Manager Matt Brown said that Reading, Littleton, Groveland, and Rowley are looking into another option for a battery storage project at our substation. Brown sent an email out to the other departments so they could report back any concerns that they may have. The group talked about frequency market, peak shaving, and the effect it will have on the ratepayers as far as potential cost savings. Manager Brown was not certain he would allow participation in the frequency market part of the project. There are potential issues such as noticeable dimming lights and he wanted to see the numbers for savings with and without this part of the project. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia asked if the proposal can be sent out to the board for review.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Continuation Update: There are three potential solar customers who have applied for service, one decided to drop out. There are 33 systems currently.

RMLP Survey Continued Discussion: Manager Brown sent the board information on the in-house Ipswich survey, which was a one page document. Commissioner Mark Cousins suggested maybe Great Blue would be willing to come in and talk over their survey to spend about 15 or 20 minutes to talk about the survey. Maybe we could get a reduction on the price and then they would know what we are looking at. Then everyone could compare doing it in house or outsourcing to a company like Great Blue.

Fleet Vehicles: The new truck is here, the old one has been traded into the dealer. Next week the logos and height requirement vinyl will be installed on the truck.

Solar Rebate Discussion: The board discussed in prior meetings the solar rebate program and the thought of either doing away with it or limiting the number of new customers. Manager Browns suggested compromise was to limit the number of solar arrays to two starting in 2024. Everyone already in the process would still be allowed to participate in the offered rebate. There are federal and state incentives out there a homeowner can receive without the help of the department. Commissioner Mark Cousins asked if it was a requirement for a ratepayer to get an energy audit before putting in a heat pump. Manager Matt Brown stated he thought it was but would double check. Commissioner Bryan DiPersia stated that made sense and thought it was a good idea to have it on the form. DiPersia stated it wasn't a good idea, in his opinion, to cap at two ratepayers per year. There should be a more positive spin put on future solar installations in Rowley. Everyone agreed to continue the discussion at future meetings.

Town Fiber Project: The Town of Rowley has some concerns about indemnification, it is up to the town to offer a solution. Our legal counsel is on vacation, but Manger Brown stated he would follow up with the two attorneys when everyone is back in the office and gets resolved.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added by the chair.

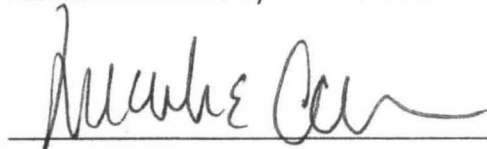
Executive Session under GLC 30A, Section 21 a Strategy for Negotiations with Non-Union Personal

Danby Whitmore made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the non-Union Personal and return to regular session for the sole purpose of adjournment. All voted in favor at 6:41 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

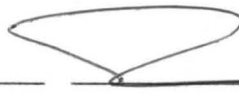
Adjournment

Danby Whitmore made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Cousins seconded. All voted in favor at 8:11 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

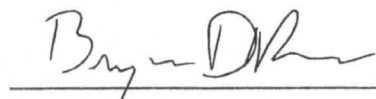
Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover



Mark Cousins, Chair



Danby Whitmore, Clerk



Bryan DiPersia, Member