

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant



January 11, 2024, 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 6:00 PM.

Citizen Query

There wasn't anyone participating in citizen's query.

Review and Accept Previous Minutes

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, November 8, 2023, provided, the corrections made by the board were edited prior to the meeting.

Bryan DiPersia made the motion to accept the regular minutes for November 8, 2023, 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 6:04.

After reading the minutes from the previous meeting session, December 12, 2023, provided, the corrections made by the board were previously edited prior to the meeting.

Bryan DiPersia made the motion to accept the regular minutes for December 12, 2023, 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 6:04.

2024 Budget

Manager Matt Brown presented to the Board the 2024 budget for review. There was some discussion on how things were factored out, but it was straight forward. There was discussion on the reduction of the purchase power adjustment that will help with the upcoming year. There was an increase in the merchandising and jobbing by eighty thousand dollars because of the stock needed for the building of houses and developments in Rowley. We get this back at the completion of the project.

Commissioner Danby Whitmore had questions on accounts 591 & 596 as to the increased cost for 2024. Brown said 591 would need some updating to the building and 596 is for streetlights. Other than that, everything looked good by the board.

On the capital budget, money was moved over for 368-line transformers for products that were ordered in 2023 and haven't arrived yet. Hence it was budgeted for 2023 but will be paid out of the 2024 account. 392 was also discussed as a new plow/dump body pickup is in the works as the 2011 Chevy 2500 is 13 years old and well over the fleet replacement schedule.

Danby Whitmore made the motion to accept the 2024 O & M and Capital budgets. Bryan DiPersia seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Mark Cousins, "I," Bryan DiPersia, "I" and Danby Whitmore "I." Voted in at 6:18.

Customer Survey Discussion

There have been discussions over the last few meetings about the survey. There is now a complete list of questions for the survey and discussion over the context from each commissioner was made. Manager Matt Brown has enlisted Ann Hadley of JC Marketing to assist in the survey with a cost of three thousand dollars. There is a bill stuffer in this month's invoices encouraging our ratepayers to update their contact information. We will then advertise our survey once it is finalized and populate the results.

Office staff have updated information as it has come in and is up to date and will be working with Northern Data to get that information to Ann.

Battery Storage Project Update

Legal has finished and reviewed the license agreement. Our side has responded with some changes, and we are currently waiting for a response from Citizens. Then legal will start negotiating the battery agreement provided we can agree on the license language.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Update: There was one interconnect we did on the 8th. We now have 34 total residential arrays with 2 in the queue. There have been some inquiries over the last week via phone on the process of installing solar in Rowley.

Holiday Lights on The Common: The crew has turned off the lights and jumped on taking them down with the incoming weather coming in. As always, nothing but positive comments were made during the holiday season.

Construction Projects: Currently we are working on installing secondary cable on Mansion Drive. That project is going very well.

The office and line staff are working on year-end inventory and getting information for the yearly DPU report. Our auditors were out to verify some of the counted items on January 2nd.

Manager Brown forgot to mention at the December meeting that the office lighting was upgraded with new LED fixtures per the Rise Energy study back in the summer of 2022.

So, to re-cap we have done the lights in the office and garage, weatherstripping on the garage doors, and a hybrid hot water heater for the building. Everything was aging and failing and was time to be replaced.

Substation Project: PLM is working on a cost estimate and construction schedule for a new substation transformer. This is going to be more than likely a 20 MVA to replace the T1 & T3 transformers. The station was built in the 1980s and is about 35 years old.

All Other Items Not Anticipated by The Chair

There was nothing added by the chair.

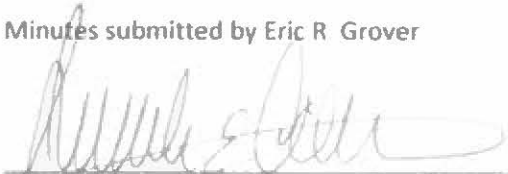
Executive Session under GLC 30A, Section 21 a Strategy for Negotiations with Non-Union Personal

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

Adjournment

Danby Whitmore made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan DiPersia seconded. All voted in favor at 7:05 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

1/11/24