Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

February 13, 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

There weren't any minutes to be accepted at this meeting.

Customer Survey Discussion

Continued discussion was made about the customer Survey questions were reviewed question by question to discuss content and form of each question. Commissioner Cousins noted that the first four questions were general questions about the department operations and general customer satisfaction, and the remainder of the survey questions dealt with conservation, energy efficiency and the decarbonization of RMLP. Additionally, it was discussed that leading questions can result in survey bias. Survey bias can be avoided by forming the survey questions properly. Examples such as "tell us how wonderful our performance is" and multiple-choice questions that are weighted towards a specific outcome should be avoided.

It was asked and decided on the number of questions that should be asked being twelve and thought it was a respectable number. There was a lot of discussion on question number seven and eight. The board felt that it was a good resolution to survey.

Office staff have updated the information as it came in and is up to date. The office staff will be working with Northern Data to get that information to J.C. Marketing.

Battery Storage Project Update

On January 24^{th,} our legal counsel and Scott Edwards of GML had a productive call with Citizens Energy regarding the site license agreement. Both sides made concessions and Citizens Energy is organizing further edits and comments



to give back to us. PLM informs Manager Matt Brown that the impact study should be ready for review on February 17th. Brown met with PLM and all signs showed things were moving forward.

Managers Update

MLP Solar Update: We now have 34 total residential arrays with 2 in the queue.

Energy Challenge: The energy challenge was rolled out in 2023. We showed a year's worth of residential usage on our website. Eight out of the twelve months we showed lower usage, and this was a large factor as we saw a lot of heat pump rebates. Overall, there was a reduction in kilowatt usage over the last year for residential rate payers.

<u>MEAM Survey:</u> Manager Matt Brown read the agenda from the meeting. There are two new executive committee members on the board, Kim Holmes, the General Manager from Taunton, and Manager Brown. There are seven members total and a MEAM Secretary and Treasurer. Commissioner Mark Cousins mentioned the topic of double poles in communities. He said Rowley had a good report with Verizon and Comcast and the system used through Njuns works well. This was a topic discussed at the meeting.

End of Year Report: Currently everyone is working on the end of the year reports and inventory. We are close to finishing and handing things off to our accountant to start the DPU report.

<u>Construction Projects</u>: We are about 98% complete on the Mansion Drive project. There are a couple of outages that need to be completed and then we call phase one complete. The crews have also been working on Prospect Street pulling in new primary wire to replace what is there because of new construction.

<u>Substation Project:</u> 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 Negations with Non-Union Personal

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

Adjournment

Bryan DePersia made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Danby Whitmore seconded. All voted in favor at 6:48 PM with a roll call vote with everyone saying yes.

Minutes submitted by Eric R. Grover

Mark Cousins, Chair

Danby Whitmore, Clerk

Bryan⁴DiPersia, Member

2/13/24