# PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

P O BOX 247

168 WORCESTER RD

PRINCETON MA 01541

TEL: 978-464-2815

FAX: 978-464-5377

# BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS October 16, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present were: Commissioner/Chairman- Rick Rys, Commissioner- Richard Chase, Commissioner- Chris Conway, PMLD General Manager- Brian Allen, Brian Booth, Phil Gott and Karen Mammone

## Agenda:

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the agenda as presented.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

August 14, 2019 Public Meeting Minutes - The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the meeting minutes as written.

## General Manager's Report:

- Current Bank Balances Mr. Allen presented the Board with the bank account balances report dated October 16, 2019. A copy will be placed on file. The Citizen's Bank Operating account has a balance of \$247,482.80, MMDT Depreciation account has a balance of \$1,120,121.88, MMDT Reserve Fund account has a balance of \$933,043.77, Unibank online payment account has a balance of \$6,889.64, Citizens Bank Meter Deposit account has a balance of \$38,529.93, PMLD Accounts Payable as of October 16, 2019 has a balance of \$95,086.65, PMLD Customer Accounts Receivables as of October 16, 2019 has a balance of 186,580.68. All bills are paid in a timely manner.
- 2019 Cashflow Budget Review Mr. Allen presented the Board with a copy of the 2019 budget detail dated 10/14/2019. A copy will be placed on file. The cashflow figures were for January to August 2019 with a target of 66.64%. Mr. Allen stated that revenues were at 71.14% and expenses were at 71.42%. Budget activity is on target and there were no concerns to address.
- Energy Report Review Mr. Allen presented the board with the PMLD Power Information Report.
  - o PMLD Power Information January-October 2019

KWh's Purchased from NextEra Energy -January to September 2019 (11,705,717 KWh) September 2019 (1,124,861 KWh)

#### Wind Farm Production

MWh's Produced-January -August 2019 (2,402,31 MWh)

#### Solar Customers

KWh's purchased *with* Purchase Power Agreement-January-September 2019 (76,093 KWh) 15 Customers

KWh's purchased *without* Purchased Power Agreement-January-September 2019 (80,885 KWh) 13 Customers-1 pending

## o PMLD Heat Pump Rebate Program

January-August 2019 (\$4000.00)

13 Customers participating

A copy of the full report will be placed on file.

#### • HELPS Rebate Program

PMLD has been participating in the following HELPS rebates

- Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat
- Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program
- o Cool Homes High Efficiency Central A/C and Heat Pump Rebate Program
- o Home Efficiency Incentive Rebate Program (HEI)
- o HELPS EV Charger Incentive
- Connected Homes

From January to September 2019, PMLD has sent \$27,000 in rebates to residents. A copy of report will be placed on file.

### • Vegetation Management

PMLD received 3 bids

- o \$106,000 All Reliable Services
- o \$127,000 Lewis Tree Service
- o \$220,000 Northern Tree Service

PMLD is looking for bids per pole, per road sections. Same company won the bid. Tree trimming services will begin on Monday, October 21, 2019, working 6-10 hours per day for 4 days.

#### • Wind Farm Maintenance

Mr. Allen informed the board bids will be opened on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Rys suggested Linemen Brian Booth and General Foreman Chris Courville look over the bids since they know the turbines. The town of Templeton will be involved in the selection. The award date will be in 30 days.

## • Update on New (Used) Bucket Truck

Mr. Allen mentioned to the board Littleton Municipal Light called to let him know PMLD would be able to pick up the truck next week. One of the linemen will take the truck directly to Altec and have the cable levelers worked on.

## PMLD Website

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners a new web site is in the works for PMLD. We have had a few issues and with the new website the residents will find it easier to navigate. There will be no advertisements and will cost \$1200.00 per year. Commissioner Rys has had a chance to look at the website. He thought it looked much better. Commissioner Chase asked about the pmld.com address not working. Mr. Allen said the website address will be working on the new website. Mr. Allen will send an email to the Commissioners when the website is ready.

#### • Update on Route 140 Project

As of right now, the Route 140 project is about 80% complete. PMLD is waiting for the state and street lighting so the final connections on the underground work to be completed. Mr. Allen stated he will need a letter from the Police Department to take down the overhead lights. Commissioner Chase asked about the rotary. Mr. Allen let the board know there will be lighting around the rotary.

# • Update on Union Contract with Line Crew

Commissioner Rys mentioned after 3 or 4 executive session meetings, an agreement has been reached. Mr. Allen stated our lawyers and union lawyers are looking over the final union contract.

# • PMLD Upgrade and Conversion Project

Commissioner Chase had requested a map and list of conversion projects completed and in progress. Mr. Allen submitted an updated report to the board showing what line projects are ongoing, in progress, in queue and the lines to be changed in the future. Copy of report will be placed in file.

# • Wind Renewable Energy Credits (RECS) for 2020

Mr. Allen let the board know they will need to decide soon on what to do with the RECS. The current contract expires 12/31/2019. Mr. Allen will have a couple of budgets for the November meeting showing how the Commissioners decision on decreasing, keeping rates the same or increasing a penny will affect the rates. A final decision will need to be made in December.

## Navaho Nation Project Request

Mr. Allen received a phone call last week about a mutual aid project for the Navaho Nation. Mr. Allen explained to the Commissioners the offer came in to send linemen for 1 or 2 weeks between April and June. PMLD would pay for all cost including air fare and shipping equipment. Navaho Nation are looking for four men crews. If we only send two linemen, they would be matched up with another municipal. The linemen were interested in participating. Mr. Allen mentioned to the linemen he would bring this request up to the board for their decision. The Commissioners decided (3-0) not to participate in the program.

#### • Public Discussion

Resident Mr. Gott spoke about the Environmental Action Committee. The committee has come up with a plan to decrease rates and is seeking input on their draft. Copies will be available at the Library and Town Hall. A green community is a top priority. The committee would like the town to designate a commercial property where green activity may take place for solar panels or a solar farm. Commissioner Chase suggested the old landfill might be a good location.

At 7:44 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone Recording Secretary