

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 24, 2018
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

Present were: Commissioner/Chairman, Jim Whitman, Commissioner, Chris Conway, Commissioner Rick Rys and PMLD General Manager, Brian Allen. NextEra Energy Executives – David Camardese and David Doscocil. Also present was resident, Richard Chase.

Agenda:

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the January 24, 2018 agenda as presented.

Meeting Minutes:

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the December 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes as amended.

Other Business:

- ***Heat Pumps for Residential Use Behind the Meter*** – The Board acknowledged Commissioner Rys' posts on NextDoor providing information about heat pumps, how they work, efforts to retro-fit to an existing home vs. new construction and the benefits. Commissioner Rys reminded everyone of the heat pumps he has in his new home, which was built just over a year ago. The Board acknowledged that there are heat pump rebates available through PMLD's HELPS program and an in-home energy audit is required (click on the HELPS links on www.pmlld.com for more information). Mr. Allen shared the information he got from banks about offering 0% financing. Fidelity/Barre Savings cannot support any type of 0% financing program for home improvement loans. Mr. Allen contacted the Credit Union that another municipal light department has a similar program with and confirmed that the program has been in place since 2012, however they have never had anyone go through the program. The Credit Union manager will research the program in more detail and let Mr. Allen know if they would consider offering/opening it up to more than just the one municipal

they currently have an arrangement with. Mr. Allen explained how the general terms of the application process would work. The applicant must first apply for the program with PMLD before applying for a loan with the Credit Union. Once the bank approves the loan, PMLD would work with the bank to pay the interest on the loan. The Board tabled the conversation until more information is available.

- **February Board Meeting** – The Board agreed to reschedule their February meeting from the 14th to the 21st at 7:00 PM.
- **Electric Rates Comparison – National Grid Rate for December 2017** – Mr. Allen informed the Board that his home’s National Grid electric bill for December 2017 averaged out to \$0.2444 per kilowatt. If he lived in Princeton, his bill would have been about \$8 less because he could have taken advantage of the 5% early payment incentive discount (National Grid has no early payment incentive discount). Everyone acknowledged that PMLD’s energy contract with NextEra Energy is a good thing for Princeton because the cost of energy is constant, and Princeton is not getting hit with the high energy costs that National Grid and other Municipals and Investor-Owned Utilities are dealing with this winter. The Board acknowledged that electricity has been very reliable this winter thanks to the PMLD staff and their commitment to vegetation management (tree trimming and removal). PMLD is one of the smallest municipals in the state with just over 1400 households (1500 meters), no industrial customers and only a handful of small commercial customers (the K-8 school is their largest customer); and manages two wind turbines with a staff of 6 (3 linemen, 2 office workers and 1 general manager who also works as the 4th lineman).
- **Meeting with American SuperConductor (AMSC)** – Mr. Allen arranged a meeting for Commissioner Rys to sit in on a meeting with PMLD’s wind turbine AMSC technical support manager, Sean Hodgson in early January to provide Commissioner Rys an opportunity to understand how AMSC supports PMLD and how the existing controls for the wind turbines work. Mr. Hodgson agreed to investigate additional services/monitoring that AMSC may be able to provide to PMLD to allow for faster/more efficient access to the wind turbines scada system during off-hours; and analysis of daily/monthly data and assessments on production and working efficiency of each turbine. The turbines current design and build prohibits the consideration for a new and improved cold-weather heating package retro-fitted in each turbine. The cost outweighs the benefit at this time and there is no recommendation to pursue it. Heaters for anemometers are being considered. Commissioner Conway would like to see some data on just how much time the turbines are offline after hours (nights and weekends). Mr. Allen will follow-up with Mr. Hodgson after he speaks to AMSC in Austria about remote applications and data analysis.

NextEra Energy Visist & Discussion with David Camardese & David Duskocil:

David Camardese and David Duskocil presented the Board with PMLD's Contract Overview and Outlook and information about the ISO-NE Market Updates. Chris Wilfong, Market Analyst for NextEra Energy, participated in the meeting via a conference call in from Florida at 11:37 AM to discuss the ISO-NE Market Updates (a copy of the January 24, 2018 handout will be placed on file). Mr. Wilfong confirmed the volatility of the New England market this winter, discussed the capacity auction trends and price history, impact of non-gas-powered power plant retirements, comparison of power prices and future ISO fuel security risk study. Mr. Duskocil presented the PMLD contract overview and outlook presentation (a copy of the January 24, 2018 handout will be placed on file). He also shared NextEra's successes in the industry and recognition as an environmental leader, summarized PMLD's contract which has been in place since 2014, discussed benefits to PMLD regarding conservative decision-making in regards to locking in energy and capacity rates, NextEra's support to provide PMLD with market analysis and resources for a variety of projects and contract requirements. The Board members were able to ask a variety of questions about things like NextEra's thoughts and opinions on the future of the industry, other wind turbine facilities, advancements in battery technologies, and natural gas imports and exports and its impact on the New England Region. Mr. Allen confirmed that PMLD is still affiliated with MMWEC because of the wind turbines debt refinancing. Mr. Camardese confirmed that NextEra offered PMLD stability and a long-term energy contract when MMWEC could not; and the contract has enabled PMLD to develop and manage to a set budget to sustain business and electric service to the Town of Princeton. Mr. Duskocil and Mr. Camardese agreed that once the capacity auction is over PMLD should lock into the capacity price. Mr. Allen asked them to also run the numbers for ancillary rates too. The Board agreed that fixed costs would be the best route for PMLD. Chairman Whitman would like NextEra to present PMLD with contract pricing beyond 5 years. NextEra Energy acknowledged their desire to provide services to other municipalities in the New England region. Mr. Duskocil will make sure the Commissioners are receiving their company newsletter via email. Everyone agreed that Mr. Allen should continue to work with Mr. Duskocil and Mr. Camardese and provide updates to the Board members as needed on topics discussed.

At 1:35 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Trudeau
Recording Secretary*