

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 21, 2018  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.**

**Present were: Commissioner/Chairman, Jim Whitman, Commissioner, Chris Conway, Commissioner Rick Rys and PMLD General Manager, Brian Allen.**

**Agenda:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the February 21, 2018 agenda as presented.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the January 24, 2018 regular meeting minutes as written.

**PMLD Financials:**

- **Bank Balances** – Mr. Allen presented the Board with the bank account balances report dated February 20, 2018 (a copy will be placed on file). The Citizen’s Bank Operating account has a balance of \$272K, the Depreciation account has a total balance of \$816K, the MMDT Rate Stabilization account has a balance of \$819K, the Unibank Operating account has a balance of \$21K, the Meter Deposit account has a balance of \$35K. As of February 20, 2018, PMLD has \$28K listed for vendor accounts payable and is waiting for \$152K in electric customer account receivables. All bills are paid in a timely manner.
- **2017 Year-to-Date Operating Budget Review** – Mr. Allen presented the Board members with a copy of the working budget analysis spreadsheet dated 02/21/2018 (a copy will be placed on file). The Board had no issues with the year-end budget figures. Mr. Allen confirmed that the 2018 working budget cashflow review will begin in March.

**Charter Utility Pole Work Update:**

Mr. Allen reminded the Board that the utility pole make-ready study that was done by the Broadband Committee and Verizon and make-ready work that was completed was insufficient in identifying the additional pole work needs for Charter. Mr. Allen explained that Charter’s contractor, Phoenix, has agreed to provide PMLD with a list of poles that require improvements. Phoenix and Charter representatives have been very reasonable and cooperative in sharing their

process and providing PMLD with information quickly, allowing PMLD to work on issues while Phoenix continues to do their work, and avoiding any delay in the project. Mr. Allen explained the code requirements for space between phone lines and electrical lines. The new company, Charter, adds a 3<sup>rd</sup> entity on each pole and put many poles out of compliance requiring action to move PMLD neutral wire, secondaries/house services, street lights and pull up midspan slack. PMLD and Bob Zack from Phoenix have identified 'show stoppers' which will be addressed first. As of today, PMLD has a list of roughly 50 new poles to install and transfer and an additional 200 poles to move existing attachments on. Mr. Allen shared that one PMLD crew is concentrating on setting the new poles right now, while the other crew is working on show-stopper improvements and pole reattachments. Mr. Allen shared the details of some of the work that has been completed on Thompson Rd and Radford Rd. There are concerns on the cost of these improvements and who is responsible for them. Mr. Allen assured the Board that he is tracking all the costs and will work with Charter, Verizon and the Town Administrator to process costs appropriately and fairly. There is approximately \$56K available through the Town to help pay for these additional improvements. Mr. Allen anticipates that the work can be completed in 2-3 months. PMLD has provided space on the northern corner on the Worcester Rd side of the PMLD property for Charter to install their 5x5x5 communication hut. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Allen and the crew for all their efforts, offered to help as needed and will share with the public that PMLD has not and is not delaying the project in any way. Mr. Allen will provide updates and share concerns to the Commissioners each month.

**Other Business:**

- ***LED Street Light Project*** – Mr. Allen confirmed that all the LED street light fixtures that were purchased through the grant have been installed. Additionally, any private property light fixture that was located along and shined upon a roadway was replaced with an LED fixture to provide consistency in illumination along the roads.
- ***Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) Solar Incentive Discussion*** – The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) confirmed that the Clean Energy Standard (CES) will not affect Municipal Light Plants (MLPs) because MEAM negotiated an alternative to work with MLPs to establish their own solar incentive program. Mr. Allen got a call from MMWEC asking for PMLD's interest in participating. PMLD offered to be a participant in the solar incentive program with \$10,000 in incentives as a preliminary, non-binding offer to MMWEC enabling them to draft a proposal that includes Princeton. Everyone acknowledged that this information is preliminary and non-binding. This is the State's way of incentivizing people to install solar under the SMART program which will open after the SREC 2 program ends in June/July 2018. Some MLPs have started invoicing solar customers a distribution fee at an average cost of \$2-\$4 per kilowatt to have them pay a fair share in distribution costs. Commissioner Rys is in favor of the program but not a distribution fee at this time. Commissioner Conway would like to know more before he shares his opinion. Mr. Allen shared concerns about customers who cannot install solar but must now pay for an incentive program and absorb the costs associated with energy that solar

customers no longer purchase. The Board acknowledged David Pratt's comment that the CEC is considering allowing generation for in-town use to meet state requirements. Mr. Allen reminded the Board that if Princeton wind energy productions were kept in-town then the contract with Nextera Energy would be at risk and would likely drive costs up. Chairman Whitman acknowledged that it would require a number of policy changes and contract negotiations that do not need to be considered at this time until the MLP solar incentive program is defined. Commissioner Rys would like to see Princeton be more innovative and still be cost conscious. Mr. Allen will pass along the information when available.

- ***The Department Of Energy Resources (DOER) MVP Pilot Discussion*** – Mr. Allen shared the DOER's MVP pilot program offering Massachusetts residential contractors an incentive to help Massachusetts residents reduce their home energy use, energy bills, and greenhouse gas emissions while improving home comfort and performance. Residents can contact contractors approved by the State to do home improvements and then the state will track the results. This program is a state program, separate from the HELPS program. Residents are still eligible for the HELPS rebates and programs offered in Princeton. The program will run through October 2019 and 0% financing options are available. More information can be found on the website - [www.mass.gov/guides/home-mvp](http://www.mass.gov/guides/home-mvp). The Board agreed with Mr. Allen's recommendation to provide this information on PMLD's webpage. The Board agreed that Mr. Allen no longer needs to pursue a Princeton specific credit union/0% financing program at this time.
- ***American Super Conductor (AMSC) Scada Optimization Request*** – Mr. Allen shared the February 20<sup>th</sup> email he received from Sean Hodgsons. AMSC is working to download data from Scada to see if they can create analytical reports on performance, down time, etc. Additionally, they are still working on providing an app or easier way to access the wind turbines monitoring system too. Commissioner Rys suggested that a response be sent to AMSC to see if they can develop an I-Phone and/or Android app that provides secure and remote access to the scada system to reset/restart the wind turbines to improve their capacity factor. Chairman Whitman would like to have a reliable internet system in place before implementing this.
- ***Duke Energy*** – Commissioner Rys shared some information about a Duke Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) study with Eaton Corp that enables customers to remotely shut off appliances with a WiFi operated circuit breaker. They are not yet available but may be in the future. Commissioner Rys would like to see if a program could be developed for Princeton to have customers be interactive and shed load during peak time as an alternative to expensive batteries. This effort would be voluntary, most customers may be uncomfortable to install technology that would remotely shut off in-home appliances during

peak times, but a voluntary system to receive texts or Emails near the moment of peak load, might be an option. Reducing peak load would allow the town of Princeton to avoid paying higher monthly transmission costs to National Grid and the NE- ISO.

**At 8:36 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn.**

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Trudeau  
Recording Secretary*