

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
P O BOX 247  
168 WORCESTER RD  
PRINCETON MA 01541  
TEL : 978 - 464 - 2815  
FAX : 978 - 464 - 5377

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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 9, 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. There were no others present.**

**Agenda:**

Commissioner Rys asked to add an item under “new business” to enable him to share information about the Energy Storage Association (ESA) conference he attended in Boston. The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the May 9, 2018 agenda as amended.

**Meeting Minutes:**

- ***March 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*** – The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the March 14, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. A copy will be placed on file and is available on PMLD’s website page.
- ***April 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*** – Commissioner Rys asked for more detail to explain that new solar PV owners under the current interconnection policy are uncompensated for excess power generation that PMLD receives and that energy received also reduces PMLD’s power purchases; and that he encouraged his fellow Board members to provide alternate financial calculations. Chairman Whitman asked that the minutes reflect his disagreement with Rys’ calculations and stated that the calculation is not reliable and applicable to PMLD based on the disclaimer in the report Rys presented to the Board. Ms. Trudeau confirmed the words to be written in the minutes. The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. A copy will be placed on file and is available on PMLD’s website page.

**PMLD Financials:**

- ***Bank Balances*** – Mr. Allen presented the Board with the bank account balances report dated May 9, 2018 (a copy will be placed on file). The Citizen’s Bank Operating account has a balance of \$179K, the Depreciation account has a total balance of \$924K, the MMDT Rate Stabilization account has a balance of \$823K, the Unibank Operating account has a balance of \$4K, the Meter Deposit account has a balance of \$36K. As of May 9, 2018, PMLD has \$0 listed for vendor accounts payable and is waiting for \$243K in electric customer account receivables. All bills are paid in a timely manner.

- **2018 Year-to-Date Operating Budget Review** – Mr. Allen presented the Board members with a copy of the 2018 working budget analysis spreadsheet dated 05/07/2018 (a copy will be placed on file). The cashflow figures were through March 2018 with a target of 24.99%. Mr. Allen stated that revenues are at 26.41% and expenses are at 24.92%. Mr. Allen stated that there were no concerns to address and the Board had no questions.

#### **General Manager's Other Business:**

- **Charter Utility Pole Work Update** – PMLD has complete 100% of the work, which included 51 pole replacements and 286 hardware adjustments. The original estimate for the total project that Mr. Allen presented was for \$178K. The total cost was \$177K. An invoice for \$91K has been sent to Charter; and \$86K will be billed to Verizon as part of the joint pole ownership contract PMLD has with Verizon. The Town Administrator has been given a copy of the invoice. Commissioner Conway shared his disappointment that the Town Administrator was unable to sell the Broadband Committee's pre-purchased telecommunication huts and recover that money.
- **Wind Renewable Energy Credits** – Mr. Allen signed two contracts with Cape Light and Nextra to purchase the wind renewable energy credits (RECs) for Q4 2017 at \$9.50 per megawatt and Q1 2018 through Q4 2018 at \$20.00 per megawatt. Mr. Allen explained that he was advised by Nextra market analysts to wait to secure contracts for future years. Mr. Allen signed a press release for Cape Light to promote their purchase of wind RECs from PMLD.
- **Peak Shaving Generator Rental** – Mr. Allen informed the Board that Energy New England (ENE) was supposed to present the idea to Nextra to review with their engineers and get an opinion before PMLD would move forward. As of today, there has been no communication. Mr. Allen explained that the generator would need to be in place by June 1<sup>st</sup> for PMLD to maximize the investment. The Commissioners agreed to call a special meeting before the end of May if ENE and/or Nextra present a positive opinion on the idea. Commissioner Rys stated that he would not be in favor of the idea because of the new MA Clean Peak Standard that is being developed to throttle down the use of diesel generators. Mr. Allen reminded the Board that the peak-shaving generator was the only option presented to him showing favorable savings on purchasing capacity in the future, if PMLD was successful at shaving peak through the summer.
- **Wind Turbines Update** – The annual springtime maintenance was started the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> the South Turbine displayed converter errors that could not be resolved in-house. Wind Tech and American Superconductor were contacted and the effort to troubleshoot the problem was still underway as of today. There are just a few more tests to perform before a decision is made to change out the converter. Mr. Allen said it's likely the converter may have to be replaced. This would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> converter (2<sup>nd</sup> one for this turbine) that PMLD would have to replace at the wind farm. The Commissioners were thankful that Mr. Allen has a converter in stock at PMLD to use. The spare converter was purchased earlier this year. Mr. Allen explained that our linecrew would perform the change out of the 800-lb piece of equipment and remotely work with Wind Tech and American Superconductor to reconnect, test and power up the new converter and insure the turbine is back online. Maintenance took 3 guys 3 days working 10-hour days and included 4-5 hours just for raising gear up and down each turbine to recalibrate, change and test everything from brakes, coolants to electronics. Mr. Allen anticipates a full day to remove and replace the converter. Risk Engineers from Zurich Insurance conducted an audit on May 1<sup>st</sup> of PMLD's wind farm operations for

the renewal of the insurance. Mr. Allen felt the audit went well and there were no major concerns to address.

- **Residential Rate Comparison of MLPs and IOUs** – Mr. Allen presented a copy of the March 2018 residential rate comparison of 1000kwh chart that lists municipal light plants (MLPs) and investor-owned utilities (IOUs) from highest to lowest in cost. Princeton is currently below Unitil, Eversource and National Grid. Most MLPs are lower than Princeton but the formula for the rate breakdown from each MLP can differ and may or may not include PPAs and additional line item charges customers incur from month to month.

**Other Business:**

- **PMLD's Human Resource Policy Manual Revisions** – The Board received a final draft copy of the proposed wording to be revised in the PMLD Human Resource Policy Manual for the work schedule, discrimination and harassment policy and vacation carryover policy. The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve as written the revised PMLD Human Resource Policy Manual dated May 9, 2018.
- **Environmental Action Committee Presentation** – Mr. Allen reminded the Board that Claire Golding and Phoebe Moore will make a presentation to the Board at the June 13<sup>th</sup> Commissioners Meeting.
- **Energy Storage Association Conference** – Commissioner Rys attended the Energy Storage Association (ESA) Conference in Boston April 18-20 and presented the Board and Mr. Allen with a summary of his meetings and discussions with industry representatives. Commissioner Rys explained the momentum and enthusiasm the state and key players in the renewables industry are experiencing; and offered some action items to work on. A copy of Commissioner Rys' written summary will be placed on file.
- **West Princeton Rd** – On May 2, 2018 via an email from Mike Thompson, Principal Account Manager at National Grid, Mr. Allen received written permission to allow PMLD to build and provide electricity to West Princeton Rd in Westminster (located at the end of Westminster Rd just beyond the Princeton town line) until which time primary metering is installed and National Grid can reclaim their Westminster territory customers. PMLD will be paid a fee by National Grid to use PMLD's distribution line through the primary metering equipment. PMLD has discussed the plan with the general contractor and PMLD is scheduled to build out the new services on/about May 29<sup>th</sup>. The general contractor is responsible for the costs associated with the new services.
- **Meter Data Collection** – Commissioner Rys shared his thoughts about investing in additional meter data collection technology. Mr. Allen explained that the billing reports he receives monthly are adequate to manage the business and reminded him that Princeton is a residential system, has no large industrial or commercial businesses and there is no need or desire to analyze individual residential activity.
- **July 2018 Commissioner's Meeting** – The Board agreed to cancel the July meeting due to vacation schedules.

**At 8:27 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Christine Trudeau  
Recording Secretary*