

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
August 14, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Present were: Commissioner/Chairman – Rick Rys, Commissioner - Chris Conway, Commissioner Richard Chase, and PMLD General Manager - Brian Allen. Also present was Matthew Ide-MMWEC, Stephen Smith-MMWEC, Brian Booth, Philip Gott, Ken Knowles, Jack Austin, Brian Pierce-IBEW-104, Chris Courville,

Agenda:

The Board voted in favor (3-0) to approve the August 14, 2019 agenda as amended.

Meeting Minutes:

The Board voted in favor (3-0) to approve the June 12, 2019 Public Meeting Minutes as written.
The Board voted in favor (3-0) to approve the June 12, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.
The Board voted in favor (3-0) to approve the July 17, 2019 Public Meeting Minutes.
The Board voted in favor (3-0) to approve the July 17, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

MMWEC Discussion:

- Commissioner Rick Rys gave a brief background on the turbines in Princeton. There are four possible options for the turbines:
 - Turbines sit outside of town as an ISO asset.
 - Bring the turbines into town-adjust terms of contract.
 - Do nothing-see more buyers.
 - MMWEC could act as a broker and sell back to Princeton.

After both sides discussed the turbine energy, the board would need to make calculations and see if this plan would work for Princeton. The board would need to work closely with MMWEC and Nextera to make sure there would no problems.

Lineman Brian Booth mentioned there are problems with the turbines.

- Parts are hard to find and are old.
- Equipment is becoming obsolete.
- Contracts are in place because of the parts.

MMWEC bought Princeton's MCAN score card.
Princeton scored 49/116
MMWEC Representatives discussed how Princeton could increase the MCAN score.
Princeton scored the highest in Energy Efficiency out of all the MLD's.

Representative from IBEW Local 104:

- Representative Brian Pierce from IBEW LU104 discussed the benefits the Union has to offer the Princeton Municipal Light Department.

Mr. Brian Allen mentioned this discussion was for the board to hear about the Union not for negotiating.

The Union strives for Code of Excellence in the work environment.

According to Foreman Chris Courville, by joining the Union, the linemen would have representation, secure benefits, and safety training practice. It also gives them a voice to discuss issues.

The Commissioners and Mr. Brian Allen would meet in Executive Session to go over questions and contract.

Mr. Brian Allen's roll would be to discuss any questions between the Commissioners and the Union Representative. He would go back, negotiate the contract, when the contract is approved by both sides, he would then sign it.

The Union does not offer training to work on turbines. Foreman Chris Courville mentioned the linemen are not trained to work on turbines. The turbines take the linemen away from their jobs, sometimes for days.

General Manager's Report:

- **Review of Financial Accounts** – Mr. Brian Allen presented the Board with the bank account balances report dated August 14, 2019. A copy will be placed on file. The Citizen's Bank Operating account has a balance of \$227,713.93, the MMDT Depreciation account has a total balance of \$1,141,411.50, the MMDT Reserve Fund account has a balance of \$929,449.96, the Unibank Online Payment account has a balance of \$1,433.82, the Citizens Bank Meter Deposit account has a balance of \$36,653.03. As of August 14, 2019, PMLD has \$138,052.14 listed for vendor accounts payable and is waiting for \$248,142.93 in electric customer account receivables. All bills are paid in a timely manner.
- **The Budget Document** will be available at the September 11th meeting.
- **Town Wide Outage**- On Wednesday, August 7th, lightning struck the top of pole, down the pole to the guardrail. Eight poles were affected on Mountain Road.
- **Open Office Position-Accounting/Bookkeeper Position**-The position has been reposted on the NEPPA website. Commissioner Chris Conway suggested posting on Indeed.com. Mr. Brian Allen has already received some interest.
- **Investment Strategy**- Mr. Brian Allen passed out paperwork with the rules on what the PMLD can and cannot invest in. The Depreciation and Reserve Fund are both currently at 2.4%. According to Bartholomew & Company, they suggest leaving everything as is. Bartholomew & Company will stay in contact with Mr. Brian Allen. If Bartholomew & Company feel PMLD should change their investments; they will come in and discuss with the board.

- **HELPS update-** There is currently a Pilot Program with Mitsubishi scheduled to run until the end of the year. Mitsubishi is offering manufacturers rebates on heat pumps.
 - \$300-Single
 - \$500 Multi
 - \$600 Cap limit

PMLD had \$1500 left in the account. Mr. Brian Allen added an additional \$5000.00 to the account. The website will be updated. Most of the funds are going to energy audits. PMLD already offers a \$250 rebate in addition to HELPS rebate.

DOER Solar Incentive Program-Currently there are no takers. We did have two interested in the program but have since changed their minds.

RFP-Wind Maintenance- PMLD is looking to work with Templeton since the town has the same machines. Looking for a better price.

Public Discussions and Comments:

- PMLD has purchased a bucket truck from Littleton. PMLD bought it for \$12,000. The truck will need cables leveler for \$5000 and possibly hydraulic hoses which may add a little more to the cost. The board was ok with this decision.
- The old PMLD truck was recently sold for \$2000.

At 8:08 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone

Recording Secretary