

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
March 9, 2022**

**Action Items:**

- Commissioner Gott will draft a preamble for the solar policy.

The public meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

Present were Commissioner/Chairman- Rick Rys, General Manager- Sean McKeon, Chris Courville, and Karen Mammone. Attending via ZOOM Commissioner-Phil Gott, Commissioner-Richard Chase, and Ashley Reddy.

**Agenda:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the March 9, 2022 agenda as written.

**Meeting Minutes:**

**February 16, 2022 Public Meeting Minutes-** The Board voted unanimously (3-0) to accept the meeting minutes as amended.

*Under Parking Lot: typo should read EAC not ARC.*

**General Manager's Report:**

**Current Bank Balances-**

The Board read over the bank account balances report dated March 9, 2022. A copy will be placed on file. All bills are paid in a timely manner.

**2021 Cashflow Budget Review-**

Mr. McKeon presented the Board with a copy of the 2022 budget detail dated March 7, 2022. A copy will be placed on file. The cashflow figures were for January 2022 with a target of 8.33 %. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were at 8.41 % and expenses were at 6.30%.

**Depreciation/Reserve Fund:**

Since the pandemic, the MMDT (Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust) interest rate has been very low. Ms. Reddy called other utilities in the area and quite a few use MMWEC (Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company). After a conversation with their Representative, an analysis was completed for PMLD showing how much in interest PMLD would have earned. Mr. McKeon and Ms. Reddy will look into it a little further before possibly moving the Reserve Fund money.

**Update on Operations:**

- The conversion work continued this month on Brooks Station Rd. There is only one small section left to work on before PMLD will be able to energize the new wire.
- While performing a lightning arrestor audit, 9KV lightning arrestors on our transformer pad were found in the system. These 9KV arrestors were removed and replaced with proper size arrestors.
- Electric service for new construction on Isaac's Way was recently installed.
- Two IGBT's (Internally Gated Bipolar Transistor) were installed in the North turbine. The IGBT's help with voltage and phase control.

- Commissioner Rys and Mr. McKeon attended an end of life for solar and wind webinar. The online seminar discussed when the turbines are at the end of life, the tower and foundation may still have some value for a company to repower.

**MMWEC /Batteries:**

Mr. McKeon discussed with Matt Ide from MMWEC (Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company) what would be best for PMLD. Mr. McKeon thinks financially, housing a battery here would be better than buying into MMWEC's battery site. MMWEC is considering a group pricing of batteries for 17 MUNI's who are interested in purchasing batteries either wholly owned or shared savings. PMLD is interested in the shared savings model.

**Wind:**

MMWEC is going to buy into Mayflower Wind, which will give PMLD an opportunity to also buy power. Mr. McKeon will look at how much power PMLD could purchase and what PMLD's portfolio will look like. This will go into effect the year 2027, 2028 or 2029.

**Hubbardston Road Solar Project:**

Commissioner Chase discussed five to six residents from various boards will serve on the advisory board. Commissioner Chase will be walking the site on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm with Mr. Keevan.

**Solar Net Metering Policy:**

As a solar owner, Commissioner Rys excused himself from the discussion.

Commissioners Chase, Gott and Mr. McKeon continued to discuss Solar Net Metering policy. No decision on policy with discussions continuing at the next meeting.

**Website/Facebook:**

- The PMLD website is now ADA compliant.
- The HELPS Program is now called NEXTZERO. All rebates were updated on PMLD's website.
- Recently on Facebook, pictures of work in progress on Brooks Station Road were posted along with PMLD's job opening for a Groundman. The job posting resulted in 16-17 applications. The applications received will be carefully reviewed. Approximately seven will be notified for an interview.
- The job opening was also posted on the NEPPA (Northeast Public Power Association) website. The NEPPA job board is seen throughout New England and is a great source for employment in the field.

**New Business:**

Discussed future purchases of poles and transformers. All new poles should be environmentally friendly, and transformers should contain an environmentally friendly oil for a safer clean up.

Commissioner Gott mentioned PMLD grant request to help fund a second connection with Sterling will need to be submitted soon. The cap has increased from 2 million to 3 million per project and if there is a regional project the cap is 5 million. If PMLD receives grant funding for the second connection, the grant funding would be awarded in September with completion of projects by June 30, 2023.

**Public Session:**

No public comments

**At 5:35pm the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.**

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Karen Mammone  
Recording Secretary***