

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023**

Action Items:

- Commissioner Rys will reach out to a contact at Bachman.
- Mr. McKeon will update the language on the commercial rate.

The public meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.

Present were Commissioner- Rick Rys, Commissioner- Phil Gott, General Manager- Sean McKeon, General Foreman- Chris Courville, Ashley Reddy, and Karen Mammone.

Attending via ZOOM: Commissioner- Richard Chase.

Agenda:

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the April 11, 2023, agenda as written.

Meeting Minutes:

March 9, 2023, Public Meeting Minutes- The Board approved amended minutes (3-0).

Under Wind Turbines- change "perimeters" to "parameters".

General Manager's Report:

Current Bank Balances-

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated April 11, 2023. A copy will be placed on file. All bills are paid in a timely manner.

2023 Cashflow Budget Review-

Mr. McKeon presented the Board with a copy of the 2023 budget detail dated April 10, 2023. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January-February 2023, with a target of 16.67 %. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were at 14.97 % and expenses were at 14.77 %.

Update on Operations:

- **Wind Turbines-** Chris Courville and Templeton Light Department Superintendent, Thomas Berry spent the day reviewing the turbines' software. Mr. Berry and Mr. Courville noticed one of the parameters showed "false" instead of "true". After looking through a documentation book, the parameter was changed back to true. The south turbine is now up and running. The north turbine is still down. Mr. Courville will look to see if the parameter has a problem.

Commissioner Chase discussed the Inflation Reduction Act grant. A Greenbacker Group owns and operates wind turbines for several MUNI's. It might be worth looking into this group to see if they may be interested in PMLD's wind turbines. One of the grants could be used to upgrade the turbines.

Mr. McKeon talked about the DOE Resiliency and Renewable Energy Grant. Mr. McKeon has applied for 80/20 of the price for a brand-new wind turbine. PMLD would pay 20% of the cost.

- **Sterling Interconnection-** The Sterling Municipal Light Department has hired a new Manager- Matt Stelmach. Mr. Stelmach and former Manager- Sean Hamilton favor the interconnection between the two towns. PMLD applied for a grant through the DOE, which would cover 80% of the cost.
- **New Bill Format-** There is still an issue with the new format on one customer's bill. Billtrust was notified and is looking into the matter.
- **MMWEC Battery Storage-**The surveying is complete, and MMWEC will let PMLD know the next steps for the battery storage project.

Other Updates:

- PMLD and MMWEC have put together information for customers on the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). PMLD will post the IRA information on the PMLD website and Facebook page.
- The PMLD Auditors will present their findings on Thursday, May 11, at 3 pm.

General Terms & Conditions-The Board of Commissioners approved the new wording for the General Terms and Conditions (3-0). In the General Terms and Conditions on page 12, paragraph 3, it will now read as follows:

“from charges for the installation, maintenance and repairs of equipment and facilities will be billed as applicable” to “will be billed at rates at the time of service”.

Non-Profit Rates- Mr. McKeon will update the language for non-profits who are on the commercial rate. Non-profits can choose if they would like to go onto the residential rate. The Non-profit change will go into effect when approved by the board and filed with the DPU.

Updates on MEAM, MMWEC, NEPPA and ENE Meeting- Commissioner Rys will attend the first day of two MMWEC meetings in Devens.

The Commissioners discussed during MEAM meetings; they can speak if recognized but cannot vote.

Facebook/Website:

Information concerning the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) will be on PMLD's website and Facebook page.

New Business/Parking Lot:

- The Board discussed reaching the residents of Princeton on the Generlink. Chief Bennett might be the person to reach out to.
- The Board discussed hosting a Senior Luncheon at PMLD. The date has not been determined.
- A “Thank-you” party for the residents who participated in the Earth Day Cleanup in Princeton will be held sometime in May. PMLD will set up a table and give out some PMLD gifts.
- A new EAC (Environmental Action Committee) member, Steven Jones, will be looking into forest land with approximately 30+ acres in town to be used to earn credit towards carbon capture. This program is still in the beginning stages.

Public Session:

No guests for public session

At 5:04 pm the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone- Recording Secretary