

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2023**

**Action Items:**

- Mr. McKeon will change the wording from windfarm production to windfarm generation.
- Mr. McKeon will send the Commissioners a copy of the Sterling Interconnect contract.
- Mr. McKeon will change the wording in the Interconnection Policy and send a copy to Ashley to post on PMLD's website.

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

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

**Agenda:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the written August 2, 2023 agenda.

**Meeting Minutes:**

**May 11, 2023, Public Meeting Minutes-** The Board approved the minutes as amended. (3-0)  
The Board would like audit findings added to the minutes.

**June 12, 2023, Public Meeting Minutes-** The Board approved the minutes as written. (3-0)

**General Manager's Report:**

**Current Bank Balances-**

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated August 2, 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 August 1, 2023. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January- June 2023, with a target of 50.00 %. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 46.94 % and expenses were 44.80%.

**Update on Operations:**

- **Storm Update-** Princeton has experienced unprecedented lightning storms over the last several weeks. Lightning struck Ball Hill Road, affecting Ball Hill Road and some of Worcester Road. The following weekend, lightning struck Mirick Road, Beaman Road, and Sterling Road's three-step-down transformers, causing power to be out all night while the transformers were replaced individually.
- **Core Drilling-** PMLD is still waiting for DeLorean to begin core drilling at the wind site for the battery storage project.

- **New Bill Format-** An in-office meeting was held with an NDS representative to discuss our new billing format and answer the Manager and office staff questions. He gave PMLD sample copies of different bills to go over. Mr. McKeon showed the Commissioners a mock statement of how the bill would look. NDS will send their mock version for approval.
- **MMWEC Battery Storage-** MMWEC (Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company) and DeLorean are still in contract talks.
- **Sterling Interconnection-** Mr. McKeon contacted the General Manager in Sterling to discuss the PLM Engineering study. The study has not been sent to Sterling. A contract is written but not signed by either Princeton or Sterling.
- **Landfill Solar & Community Solar-** At the 2023 Princeton Town Meeting, the Select Board was authorized to lease the landfill site for solar development. The Town Administrator will write up an RFP with input from the Solar Field Committee. Commissioner Rys went over four types of financial models for community solar.
  1. **Subscription Model-** Subscribers who purchase shares in the solar project receive credits on their electric bill for the energy that is generated. The model is popular because it allows subscribers to participate in solar benefits without installing solar panels in their own homes. The credits may not be fixed and could, over time, decline. This requires the PMLD to buy subscribers' power. This is something we may or may not want to do.
  2. **Lease Model-** The developer builds and owns the solar project and leases the panel to subscribers. The subscribers pay a monthly lease payment and receive credits on their electric bill for the energy generated. The model is popular because it allows the subscriber to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without making a large upfront investment. Again, it requires PMLD to purchase.
  3. **Power Purchase Agreement-** This means that the project developer sells the electricity produced by the solar farm to the subscriber at a fixed price. Again, PMLD would be required to purchase energy. We may want to do or have our own PMLD purchase.
  4. **Share Ownership-** You buy a solar panel, and whoever the developer sells the power to, you get a percentage from that it doesn't involve PMLD at all, but it is not really what's called Community Solar. It almost always says you get a discount on your bill. A lot of investor-owned utilities are required to basically pay the full retail rate- like net metering, in which case it would be very desirable for somebody to participate. This would be more than likely if we had to buy this power. We will give them the same deal we would provide the existing solar owners.

**Interconnect Policy on PMLD Website-** Mr. McKeon changed the wording on pages 5 and 16 in the Interconnect Policy. He removed and added language, so PMLD is following the rates. The cost of a net meter has changed to \$298.00. Changes for supplemental or additional review were \$100.00 per hour at a 10-hour cap. Mr. McKeon called PMI. The rate was modified from \$ 100.00 to \$200.00 per hour, removing the cap. Commissioner Rys suggested changing the wording from” PMLD recommends that you buy a system sized to your needs” to “PMLD recommends sizing your solar system to meet your own goals and to understand how much of your generation will be coincident with your load.” Commissioner Rys made a motion- “I make a motion that we approve Sean’s draft with the one change we just made.”

Commissioner Chase- 2<sup>nd</sup>

Commissioner Gott- 3<sup>rd</sup>

Approved (3-0)

**Facebook/Website:**

During the last storm, customers were updated on PMLD’s phone system and Facebook page. Discussed the possibility of updating the meters to make it easier to locate outages, but the whole system would have to be done at once, not as meters need to be replaced. The cost would be upwards of 1 million. The Board feels a lot is going on at this point.

**New Business/Parking Lot:**

No new business

**Public Session:**

Mr. Pellegrini will be the new representative for the EAC (Environmental Action Committee), replacing Commissioner Gott.

**At 4:55 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.**

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Karen Mammone***

***Recording Secretary***