

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

Action Items:

- Mr. McKeon will see if there is a report on electric sales specific to EV chargers and heat pumps.
- Mr. McKeon will ask other Municipalities what their plans are for wildfires at the next MEAM or MMWEC meeting.
- Mr. McKeon will contact Chief Bennett to discuss a plan for handling wildfire emergencies.
- Mr. McKeon will contact MMWEC to clarify precisely what PMLD will purchase on the hydro contract.

The public meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

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

Zoom: Commissioner- Richard Chase

Agenda:

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the written September 12, 2023 agenda.

Meeting Minutes:

August 2, 2023, Public Meeting Minutes- The Board approved the minutes as amended. (3-0)
Commissioner Rys recommended adding “per hour” to the Interconnect Policy.

General Manager’s Report:

Current Bank Balances-

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated September 12, 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 September 12, 2023. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January- July 2023, with a target of 58.33%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 60.81% and expenses were 59.65%.

Update on Operations:

- **New Bill Format-** NDS (Northern Data System) will create a final draft for PMLD’s new billing format. NDS will now handle both the software and billing. PMLD customers will still be able to use Unibank, but customers who use Billtrust will need to move to InvoiceCloud.

- **MMWEC Battery Storage**- PMLD is still waiting for the core drilling at the storage site. The terms still need to be negotiated on the rate PMLD charges DeLorean to charge the battery and the rate PMLD pays DeLorean to discharge the battery.
- **Sterling Interconnection**- Mr. McKeon has been working on a Deed Grant with Mr. Stelmach, Sterling Municipal Light Manager. This grant would pay 50% of this project's design and interconnection study.
- **Landfill Solar & Community Solar**- The Solar Farm Working Group is in the process of becoming a committee. PMLD would work on connecting the panels and potentially purchasing power. The Solar Farm Working Group will hold a virtual meeting on Thursday, September 21st at 10 a.m.
- **NextZero Selection Sheets for 2024**- The Board and General Manager agreed to keep the rebates and costs the same as the previous year. Last year, PMLD set aside \$75,000 for business and residential rebates.
- **Wildfire Prevention Plan**- The Commissioners and General Manager discussed PMLD's wildfire prevention plan. Everyone agreed to follow what the governing authority (Governor, Fire Chief, etc.) recommends during an emergency.
- **DEIF Capability for Retrofitting Wind Turbine Controls**- Commissioner Rys discussed a European firm- DEIF. This company replaces old controls in turbines with new ones. PMLD is not interested in replacing controls if something should happen to the turbines.
- **Other Updates**-
 - Along Mountain Road, ten high-risk Ash trees were removed.
 - The crew has been hot spot trimming along the roads of Princeton. (Removing anything within three feet of the road).
 - The Linemen have been working on setting poles in town.
 - The North turbine maintenance was completed, and the UPS batteries were updated.
 - The crew worked on balancing the load on Sterling Road. One transformer was carrying too much of a load.
 - Pole line extensions were completed on Ball Hill Road.
 - Mr. Courville and Mr. Sullivan (Princeton's Tree Warden) drove the tree trimming cycle for this year, looking for high-risk trees and deciding who is responsible for the removal.
 - The three step-down transformers were delivered.

Facebook/Website:

Facebook and the PMLD website will be updated with information on the new bill format.

At the Annual NEPPA Conference in August, General Manager Sean McKeon was awarded the "Special Recognition Award," and our General Foreman, Christopher Courville, was awarded the "Distinguished Service Award". Both were posted on Facebook. Congratulations to both!

Hydro Power Opportunity with Maine Class 2 RECs- Mr. McKeon thought the deal for hydropower was something the Board should consider. The opportunity to purchase hydropower would begin in 2024. PMLD could sign up now for 2028 when our contract with NextEra ends. He suggests buying enough to get to the 50% mandate the state has set.

Policy for New Poles in Princeton- The Board wrote the current policy years ago. The Board decided that anything on private property would be the homeowner's responsibility, and line extensions would also be included as part of the cost to the homeowner or builder. The current board decided that the policy will remain the same.

New Business/Parking Lot:

Commissioner Gott thanked Mr. McKeon and Ms. Reddy for changing the wording on the top sheet of the warrant.

Public Session:

No comments

At 4:49 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone

Recording Secretary