

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
P O BOX 247  
168 WORCESTER RD  
PRINCETON MA 01541  
TEL: 978-464-2815  
FAX: 978-464-5377

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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**Action Items:**

Mr. McKeon will continue to look for grants.  
Commissioner Gott will discuss fighting battery fires with Chief Bennett.  
Mr. McKeon will check with the Planning Board on the location of the Battery Storage Containers.

**The public meeting was called to order at 3:07 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 February 20, 2024 written agenda.

**Meeting Minutes:**

**January 9, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes-** The Board voted unanimously (3-0) to accept the minutes as written.

**General Manager's Report:**

**Current Bank Balances-**

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated February 20, 2024. 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 details dated February 20, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January-December 2023, with a target of 100.00%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 114.70% and expenses were 105.52%.

**Update on Operations:**

**New Bill Format-**

The office staff has collaborated with NDS (Northern Data Systems) to develop new transaction codes for the latest bills and ensure sufficient lines for various billing combinations. Once the transaction codes and extra lines have been added, sample bills will be sent for approval.

**MMWEC Battery Storage Project-**

Mr. McKeon is awaiting a new layout showing the location of the battery storage containers on the PMLD property. DeLorean will check Princeton's zoning laws and operate the batteries. During the meeting, the Commissioners, Mr. McKeon and Mr. Courville, discussed installing a PMLD meter at the site to monitor the electricity flowing in and out of the battery storage containers.

### **Sterling Interconnect-**

Mr. McKeon and Mr. Stelmach met with PLM Engineering regarding the Sterling Interconnect project. PMLD received a grant for the Interconnect study. Once this grant is applied to the study, Sterling and Princeton will split the remaining cost. The study will include comparing hourly loads, a load flow analysis, comments on wind turbines pushing back, system modeling, routing analysis evaluation, reverse power analysis, circuit maps, and a cost estimate to do the work. A reliability study will also be conducted on the Sterling and National Grid circuits.

### **Grant Opportunities-**

Commissioner Gott suggested contacting Dan McNaulty at the Local IBEW. He would be willing to help PMLD with the labor piece of writing grants. Commissioner Gott also mentioned that the Town of Princeton was looking into hiring a grant writer.

### **Other Updates-**

- Extended poles on Thompson Road.
- Stripped out old copper.
- Replaced three poles in the system.
- Finished extending lines on Old Colony Road for three new homes under construction.
- Connected solar power to a home on Boylston Avenue.
- This month, a couple of services were connected.
- The PFAS hut on Mountain Road was connected.
- The PMLD well pump was replaced.
- PMLD plans to convert Worcester Road to 13-8kv from Princeton Center to PMLD or The Barn Restaurant.
- The wind turbine's hydraulic line burst. New hoses were made for both turbines, and they should be up and running within the next few days.
- Customers currently have two different heat pump rebates, depending on the size. Only two rebates are allowed per household per year.

### **Policies for Commercial Solar & Battery Storage:**

NextZero offers a Prescriptive HVAC Program for heat pump rebates for commercial customers. The commercial businesses in town have yet to apply for heat pump rebates. Currently, there is no sizeable commercial solar in town. The Board discussed VPP (Virtual Power Plant). Mr. McKeon will seek grants to upgrade to AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) smart meters. The meters will communicate between the customer and the utility to help reduce a customer's load.

### **Landfill Solar & Community Solar:**

Commissioner Chase discussed how the committee would need a letter stating that the landfill was appropriately capped. Unfortunately, the DEP and the Town of Princeton can't find the letter. The committee will reach out to the Engineering Firm that capped the landfill. If paperwork cannot be found, a licensed site professional must examine the landfill to ensure it was capped correctly. The DCR must also permit the Town of Princeton to run transmission lines on DCR property. The interconnection project with Sterling would be necessary since the capacity on the National Grid side is at its maximum load. The wells on the property must be tested in the next monitoring cycle, scheduled for this year.

### **Facebook/Website:**

There is no new information for Facebook or PMLD's website.

### **New Business/Parking Lot:**

Mr. McKeon will head to DC with MMWEC for a Legislative Rally concerning public power and rural utilities. Commissioner Rys is interested in attending the MMWEC annual meeting. Commissioner Gott discussed the Select Board's new policy on recording meetings. The PMLD board meetings have been recorded and stored on our server since 2019.

Commissioner Gott motioned to adopt a policy of our recordings and storing – that we record every public meeting and store it on our server indefinitely.

Commissioner Rys- 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion  
Commissioner Chase- yes

Approved (3-0)

**Public Session:**

No guests for public session.

**At 5:08 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.**

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Karen Mammone***

***Recording Secretary***