

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
August 13, 2024 **AMENDED****

Action Items:

- Mr. McKeon will investigate the early years of turbine production
- Commissioner Chase will research low-income rates for utilities.
- Mr. McKeon will gather more information on Renewable Residential Rates.

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

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

Zoom- John Zimmatore (Advisory Committee) & Phil Thayer (MCAN- Massachusetts Climate Action Network)

Agenda:

The Board unanimously (3-0) approved the August 13, 2024, agenda as written.

Meeting Minutes:

June 18, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes- The Board voted unanimously (3-0) to accept the minutes as written.

Commissioner Rys' action item from the last meeting was to check the website for any needed updates. The wind chart wording should be changed to "the SCADA operating conditions of the wind turbines and the wind available."

General Manager's Report:

Current Bank Balances-

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated August 13, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. All bills are paid in a timely manner.

2024 Cashflow Budget Review-

Mr. McKeon presented the board with a copy of the 2024 budget details dated August 12, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January-June 2024, with a target of 50.00%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 54.45% and expenses were 50.87%.

Update on Operations:

General Foreman, Chris Courville reported on the following work:

- This month, three pole sets were installed.
- A new PMLD sign was installed. Replacing the old sign that was damaged during a windstorm.
- The Linemen have been trimming trees in certain sections of town where the contracted tree companies will be working this fall.
- A new home was connected with electric service.
- PMLD added a new solar customer this month.
- The crew has been busy replacing LA's (Lightning Arrestors) throughout the system.

- The wind site was brush mowed.
- Replaced the controller on the blinking light at the corner of Brooks Station and Ball Hill Road.
- To prevent power outages, the crew has been working on removing vines from poles.

Mr. McKeon mentioned that the line crew helped move the office equipment and furniture so new flooring could be installed and much-needed electrical outlets could be added.

One turbine is currently down. The part required is custom-made in Germany and will take a few more weeks to arrive at PMLD.

- **PMLD New Bill Format-**

Mr. McKeon thought the new billing process went well. Customers who pay with a credit or debit card will be charged a 4 % fee based on the bill. PayPal, Google Pay, Venmo, and Apple Pay will be charged a flat charge of \$3.00, and customers who pay with their checking or savings account will not be charged.

- **MMWEC Battery Storage Project-**

Lightshift has determined that the best place to install the battery storage unit is in the back corner of the PMLD property. The pole yard was moved closer to the building. This project should be completed by June 1st, 2025.

- **Sterling Interconnect-**

Mr. McKeon thinks Sterling will follow the recommendation to switch circuits to feed Princeton. The study showed that if Sterling unloads one circuit, it could be an express circuit to Princeton. One of the configurations showed that Sterling could supply power from three different circuits. Commissioner Rys asked if there would be flickering issues, and Mr. McKeon did not think that would be an issue. Mr. McKeon mentioned during the last meeting that one of the Commissioners asked about the chemistry of the Trina Elementa battery. It is a Lithium-Ion Phosphate battery. Both Mr. McKeon and Mr. Courville thought the study was in-depth.

- **Other Issues-**

Commissioner Gott discussed the concerns of the residents on Westminster Road. They would like their road paved, and years ago, PMLD was to install a parking lot. Mr. McKeon spoke to former Manager Mr. Brian Allen. Mr. Allen said the gravel parking lot was only for 3 to 6 cars located to the left of where the entrance gate is to the turbines. PMLD did not have the budget to pave a parking lot.

PMLD Sign-

Mr. McKeon contacted each Commissioner individually. Everyone agreed to proceed with the design of the new sign.

Nepool Proposal for Hourly RECs-AMENDED

The Nepool proposal regarding RECs was discussed, specifically whether time-stamped RECs have more value depending on when they were minted.

Commissioner Rys would like to go on record as saying, “This is how the future is going. We would like to support this type of thing if there is an option to support it.” He feels this is the way Europeans are going.

Mr. McKeon stated he was neutral on this issue because he wanted to understand it better. When the time comes to purchase RECs, he would like to continue selling Class-1 RECs and purchase Maine RECs for a 10th of the price and retire those. It would help keep the costs down. He supports looking into it further but is not supporting it currently.

Mr. Thayer spoke about what he learned concerning the Nepool proposal. It will cause short-term price volatility. On-peak prices will be higher, and off-peak prices will be lower, but over the long term, they will stabilize. It is where the market is going. ISO New England will be at a competitive disadvantage. The motion did not pass so that it will be discussed again at the Participants Committee Meeting on September 5th at 10 AM.

Commissioner Chase said he understands the concept but does not know the impact it will have. He would like to see how it will all work.

Commissioner Gott wondered if this could be combined with a renewable rate for individual ratepayers. It could be based on this and voluntary. Mr. McKeon favors a low-income rate, but how can one decide what low income is? One way would be to aid customers who qualify through one of the organizations.

Amended to read:

One way would be to aid customers who qualify through the organizations we use to vet those in need.

Mr. McKeon discussed the RRR (Renewable Residential Rate). It would be for residential customers, and the language would be the same as the current residential rate. Customers can choose to sign up for this rate. When they do, PMLD will purchase RECs for their annual consumption. Commissioner Rys stated, "He would sign up to be 100% green."

Mr McKeon will look into this discussion further and report to the Commissioners.

MUNI Insurance Pool-

Commissioner Chase mentioned that PURMA (Public Utility Risk Management Association), PMLD's insurance company, hasn't increased its rates in several years. PMLD also has insurance through MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association).

Updates on Facebook & Website-

Commissioner Rys mentioned a minor tweak with the wording on the wind graph.

New Business/Parking Lot:

Compensation Policy-

The Board discussed compensating salaried employees (Mr. McKeon and Ms. Reddy) during storm duty and standby. Commissioner Rys read the following:

During outage events or onsite stand-by events, salaried employees who are required to work more than four hours outside of their normal workday will be compensated one hour of straight-time pay per hour starting at the beginning of the fifth hour. Then, on non-work compensation, salaried employees who are required to work for an outage event or onsite standby event during a nonwork day will be compensated with one hour of straight time pay per hour of work starting at the beginning of the first hour. If you work on Saturdays, you get paid straight time for Saturday.

The salaried employee will fill out time sheets during these events.

The Board agreed (3-0) to favor this new policy.

Maine Wind Power-

Mr. McKeon discussed with MMWEC the possibility of buying wind power from Maine. Mr. McKeon is waiting to hear the price for the Maine wind and the RECs that will come with it. It would have to fit our portfolio, which MMWEC will advise PMLD on.

Public Comments:

No comments

At 5:06 p.m., the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone

Recording Secretary