

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
ZOOM PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2024**

Action Items:

Commissioner Chase requested a copy of the draft contract with Sterling.
Mr. McKeon will report the average low-income bill in Princeton to the board.
Commissioners & Mr. McKeon will write down budget ideas and rates concerning a low-income rate.

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

Present were Commissioner- Phil Gott, General Manager- Sean McKeon, General Foreman- Chris Courville, Ty Monroe (Resident) Ashley Reddy, and Karen Mammone

Zoom- Commissioner- Rick Rys, Commissioner- Richard Chase & John Zimmatore (Advisory Committee)

Called to Order: 3:02 PM

Agenda:

The Board unanimously (3-0) approved the agenda as written on September 10, 2024.

Meeting Minutes:

August 13, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes- The Board voted unanimously (3-0) to amend one sentence under the “Nepool Proposal for Hourly RECs”

The sentence read, “One way would be to aid customers who qualify through one of the organizations.”

The Commissioners would like the sentence to read, “One way would be to aid customers who qualify through the organizations we use to vet those in need.”

The Board agreed unanimously (3-0) to approve the amended sentence.

General Manager’s Report:

Current Bank Balances-

The Board reviewed the bank account balances report dated September 10, 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 September 9, 2024. A copy will be placed on file. The cash flow figures were for January-July 2024, with a target of 58.33%. Mr. McKeon stated that revenues were 63.54% and expenses were 58.88 %.

Update on Operations:

- Mr. Courville updated the board on the repairs being made to the turbines. The technicians have been working on the south turbine, replacing the rear bearing on the generator, and the grounding slip ring will also be replaced.
- **PMLD New Bill Format-**
The new billing format had an issue with the file sent to Unibank, which has since been resolved. The board discussed a possible new service rate for residents who would like to purchase 100% green energy by paying a premium on their bill.
- **MMWEC Battery Storage Project-**
PMLD is still waiting for the ISO study. Lightshift and PMLD's goals are the same: reducing transmission and capacity charges. PMLD will solely own the LNS (Local Network Service). When the connection with Sterling takes place, Sterling will bill PMLD for the LNS charge.
- **Sterling Interconnect-**
The PLM study is complete. Mr. McKeon has not heard from Mr. Stelmach (SMLD Manager) about whether his questions have been answered. Work is to be done in both towns before the interconnect can proceed.
- **Nepool Proposal for Hourly RECs- (AMENDED)**
(From meeting- August 13, 2024) 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 looked into hourly RECs. To create a REC, PMLD must make at least one megawatt an hour. It can take many hours for PMLD to create a REC. A whole megawatt would be required to be developed in one full hour.

Mr. McKeon also found that utilities are either in or out when selling hourly RECs. Utilities cannot sell expensive RECs hourly and then sell the rest in aggregate.
- **Other Issues-**
The Board discussed a possible low-income rate. Currently, no Central Mass towns offer an effective low-income rate to residents. Some towns offer a senior rate; others waive their service charge. We discussed using the organizations PMLD works with to help a resident qualify for the low-income rate. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Updates on Facebook & Website-

The Board discussed removing the 2024 data for the wind turbines until the end of the year and then adding it in the new year.

New Business/Parking Lot:

No discussion

Public Comments:

Resident Ty Monroe joined the meeting to discuss the solar policy in Princeton. Mr. Monroe found the website's wording a bit confusing and hard to understand for the average resident. After much discussion, the Board will review the webpage and revise the policy if necessary.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mammone- Recording Secretary