



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

October 26th, 2023

HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA

6:00 pm

Members present: Steve Sendrowski, Scott Carlson, Ryan McCarthy, Richard Farrell and Dan Golden

Member not present: Pete Liddy, Peter Elkas

Staff present: Barry Tupper, General Manager – HMLD; Callie Knowler, AM - HMLD

Public Present: Jane Dye 39 Lovell Road – Kudos on the battery project and Holden leading the way.

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by S Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by S Carlson seconded by R Farrell to approve the September 28th, 2023 minutes. Unanimously approved.

Financials

C Knowler shared the financials.

- Cash is balanced through September with the Accountants Office.
- Operating revenues are \$1million higher than we budgeted, and power production expense are \$1.6 million under budget.
- The same accounts as the past few months are still the only accounts that are over expensed; maintenance of overhead lines and dues, meetings and other general expenses which includes the fleet maintenance and fuel costs.
- You will see down at the bottom of the financials we have made our first transfer back to the rate stabilization fund. This will occur when we pay MMWEC next month for the September billing. We did \$500,000 for the September invoice and will do the remaining \$500,000 for the October invoice.
- The HMLD's total metered load for the month of September was 9,205,511 kWh, which is a 11.7% increase from the 2022 figures.
- HMLD hit a demand of 24,399 on September 7th at 5:00pm.
- The total transmission costs were \$282,526.59.
- MMWEC's NextZero program completed 7 residential home energy audits during the month. The total rebates for the month were \$14,706.03 (Cool homes \$10,000, WiFi thermostats \$125.00, Appliances \$1,745 and HEI rebates \$2,836.03)
- As of September, arrears totaled \$53,494.49. \$7,071.92 of that is a past due receivable for pole damages, not electric use. Our electric past due balance is \$46,422.57 Of that amount, \$24,115.26 is from 60+ day protected accounts due to financial hardship, age or medical. If we removed the pole damages and protected accounts, the total past due is \$22,307.31. Currently Rob is working on the liens which go to the

Assessor at the beginning of November, the current total lien amount for Electric only is \$30,700.84. This number will change as payments are made between now and the final lien spreadsheet is created.

- I am happy to announce that I have taken on a new project and we are working with five other community-owned electric utilities to partner together with the Beneficial Electrification League and the Northeast Public Power Association to launch an electrification and load management program that will reduce energy burdens for our low-income residents. We will build an electrification framework that specifically targets utility customers in Massachusetts disadvantage communities as project beneficiaries of electrification. This will support the transformation to clean energy and bring the communities closed to the goal of carbon free by 2050. We are working with Groveland, Littleton, Middleborough, Middleton and Rowley. The grant is for \$300,000 for the six communities as part of the energy efficiency and conservation block grant.

Manager's Miscellaneous

B Tupper shared updates:

- Battery Energy Storage Facility, 5MW, 22 MWH, Energy Storage Service Agreement has been signed. Commercial Operation Date of October 2024 is expected. We have received a lot of great publicity, everyone seems very excited to get this project underway. A lot of time and effort went into the process and we are very excited.
- Director of operations and engineering, we have extended an offer, waiting to hear and get the final paperwork in.
- Supervisor training for all mid-level supervisors has been completed. They all did very well and they all received some good information from that.
- MEPAB Budget presentation is scheduled for 11/30, must be that week, if we cannot get a quorum we will need to find a day that will work. We are scheduled to present to the Board of Commissioners on December 4th.
- Public Power Luncheon was on 10/4 at the Senior Center, we served over 100 seniors. Our own Greg Goodhile took point as the day's chef, he and Anthony Rossi handmade lasagna for everyone.
- Thanks to all of you that gave us your opinion on the Main St. Christmas lights, we decided to go with white to match the LED Main St lights.

Operations Update

B Tupper and C Knower shared updates:

- Outages in September (5 instances with a total of 66 outages), nothing major. This is down from last month's 8 instances with 144 outages
- The Forestry division – finishing up Reservoir St, also trimming High street and Princeton St.(on going)
- Forestry has actively ground twenty stumps around town this week. We rented the stump grinder as we do not have our own.
- GML has completed the 1st phase of pole testing which consists of 278 poles. Out of the 278 poles that were tested 23 poles were failures. Line crews have completed setting poles from the list. It required contracting of a high-pressure boring digger for 3 of them.
- Setting poles on Avery Heights to reconductor the circuit.
- (On going) equipment upgrades, changing porcelain cutouts to polymer. Pump stations have all been completed except for one.
- Multiple developments, projects, new services and service upgrades are in the works and completed. Some of which are as follows: Reservoir St (wire is on back order, pushed out until next month) open wire (copper) replacement to tree wire and pole replacements, 619 South Rd, Elmwood Ave (on going), Fisher Rd EXT. (in process), Sunshine Ridge (proposed estimate has been sent), Paquette line rebuild (in process), Worcester water primary metering replacement, Jackson Woods (on-going) and Tea Party (on-going)

- Installed temporary solar street lights on Laurelwood. We are working on a future plan to permanently reconductor that road and remove the backyard feeder.
- Working on preparing an accurate operating budget for November MEAPAB Meeting
- The Bullard street circuit expansion update:
 - The cut over on Bullard Street is 99% complete there is one pole left to transfer
 - Fall voltage reduction has been conducted for load shed – every spring and fall we do this and reduce the load by 5% to see how much it affects the grid.
- Chaffins substation update:
 - G. Greene is finished up the landscaping as of 10/19/23
 - We received the automatic ventilation fan from Myers to be installed by UPG
 - Fall voltage reduction has been conducted for load shed
- AMI Update
 - We have installed 4 cellular APs, Derek received training last week and was shown how to properly install all of the APs and relays.
 - Water received about 3600+ meters last week.
 - We are still working on changing the 5 fiber/ethernet APs to cellular. If ITRON denies this change, we will be looking at purchasing modems that can make these cellular based APs.
 - We are getting ready to do our first article testing, this will make sure the meters are to the specs we requested. If all is good, the green light to ship the meters will be given.
 - MPower is getting ready for us to test our meter changeout software. We will have all meters in the database so that when a lineman goes out to do a changeout, they will use a tablet to scan and record all aspects of the changeout which will upload directly to the billing software. This will alleviate a lot of manual data entry.
- Personnel - Randy Doiron has been promoted to 1st Class Lineman

Other business

- Town had an auction online and we were able to get some money from that sale.
- HMLD is still using the 7 Adams Road location to store the meters for the AMI project when they come as well as some of our equipment.

Motion by R Farrell, seconded by S Carlson to adjourn the October 26th meeting at 6:30pm. Unanimously approved.