



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

April 15, 2021

HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA

6:00 pm

Members present: Gary Harrington, Steve Sendrowski, Pete Liddy II, Peter Elkas, Richard Farrell, and Scott Carlson (arrived at 6:45pm)

**Zoom: Heather Isaac – Goulet, Salvidio & Associates
Jane Dye, Dennis Mahoney**

Staff present: Jane Parenteau, General Manager – HMLD, Barry Tupper, Assistant General Manager – HMLD, Matthew Ide, Executive Director, Energy & Financial Markets - MMWEC

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

March 18, 2021

Motion by P Elkas seconded by S Sendrowski Approved by 5-0

2020 Audited Financials

H Isaac reviewed the Internal Control Report. She stated since HMLD does not have a CPA on staff, that the Drafting of Financial Statements findings are typical for all MLPs. Ms. Isaac also discussed the Construction in Progress, Merchandising and Jobbing and General Ledger findings. She noted that HMLD Materials and Supplies were resolved from the prior year comment.

Ms. Isaac reviewed the Assets & Liabilities as well as the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for 2020. (See attached 2020 HMLD Financial Statement).

Ms. Isaac discussed the OPEB Trust Fund and reviewed the Notes to the Financial Statement.

Ms. Isaac thanked the staff at HMLD.

MMWEC 2015A

M Ide introduced himself and explained that there are 3 components: Electrons (energy), Capacity – revenue paid to generators and Transmission – wheels the power from generators.

M Ide stated that MMWEC works with HMLD to build a portfolio to satisfy both the Capacity and Energy needs for HMLD. He stated that the 2015A Project is designed to address HMLD's capacity needs. He indicated that 35% of HMLD's capacity is acquired through the market, 52% is assets with entitlement obligations, 6% comes from bilateral transactions and 8% is attributed to the 2015A project.

M. Ide reviewed a table which contained HMLD's 2020 Energy and Capacity position. He spoke about Massachusetts 2050 roadmap and that this type of project is included in the roadmap. M Ide indicated that capacity markets assure that sufficient generation exists to meet demand. He spoke about the differences in the New England markets versus the Texas market and the events of this past winter in ERCOT.

M Ide indicated that wind will be the #1 source of energy in the future. He indicated that the transformation of the grid will require peaking plants to run when the wind is not blowing, and renewables are not available. He discussed the reliability component of peaking plants.

D Mahoney from 56 Fox Drive had a few questions regarding the 2015A project. He stated that since 2015, there is a new climate bill which focuses on renewables. He stated the operational date was 6/1/20 and asked what the delays were attributed to. M Ide indicated there were some unforeseen delays. In general, certain parts took longer than expected and MMWEC underestimated the time for permitting. D Mahoney asked if there were penalties for missing the initial operational start date. M Ide indicated that MMWEC was able to utilize the market rules in the Reconfiguration auction so that the participants did not incur any penalty. M Ide stated that the 2015A project has a 30-year life and that participants are contractually bound by Power Sales Agreement. Discussion regarding the cost of project ensued. D Mahoney stated that a couple of the participants have requested to withdraw from the project. M Ide indicated that MMWEC will use best efforts to see if other participants are interested in securing the entitlements of the systems who no longer want to proceed forward. D Mahoney asked what other capacity options were considered. Discussion of battery storage ensued. D Mahoney urged the MEPAB to consider the health and climate impact of this project. He also stated that the location of project 2015A is within ½ mile of an Environmental Justice (EJ) community.

Operation/Capital Update

B Tupper indicated that all the poles on south end of Bullard Street to Shrewsbury Street have been replaced. He stated that meters count by form and class is complete for the AMI RFP. B Tupper spoke about new construction projects that are under way including Seven

Saws, Tea Party, Greenwood estates (began installing conduit and structures for the electrical grid this week). B Tupper indicated that Forestry is focusing on trimming high growth areas. (Bailey Rd) S Carlson asked about a new pole on Reservoir Street. B Tupper stated it was installed to provide service to a customer. S Carlson questioned why it was not underground and B Tupper stated that all services on Reservoir are overhead.

2021 Capital Budget Update

Chaffins sub replacement project is under way, bid opening for power transformers and switch gear was March 11th. Bid will be officially awarded tomorrow. The 2 transformers came in just over 1.6 million, the first one has a tentative delivery date of February 2022. Switch gear came in just over 1.5 million and has a tentative delivery of February 2022. Framing poles for the B2 circuit build out on North side of Bullard Street under way. Bullard sub regulator upgrade, 2 regulators have arrived. We are working to replace the riser poles, so we can pull in the new conductors and install the new regulators. LED conversion for the HMLD is ongoing. New electric water meter system RFP is complete and will be posted on Monday April 19th.

Personnel:

Eric Horn has given his resignation, he is 1st class linemen that started in 2013. Eric is leaving to go work for the federal gov.as a lineman in Hawaii, we wish him all the best.

General Info:

Negotiations between the Light Department and the HMLD union are ongoing.

Other business

J Parenteau indicated that she would be out on medical leave beginning on May 4, 2021 and suggested that the next MEPAB meeting be on June 17, 2021. There was unanimous consensus.

The April 15, 2021 MEPAB Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:45pm on a motion made by P Elkas and seconded by S Carlson

Approved: August 19, 2021