



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD
September 16, 2021
HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA
6:00 pm

Members present: Scott Carlson, Steve Sendrowski, Pete Liddy II, Peter Elkas, and Richard Farrell

Staff present: Jane Parenteau, General Manager - HMLD; Barry Tupper, Assistant General Manager – HMLD

Determination of quorum

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

Approval of Minutes

August 19, 2021

*Motion by P Elkas seconded by R Farrell to approve the minutes for August 19, 2021.
Approved by 5-0 vote*

B Tupper updated the board on the draft July 2021 financials.

- Operating revenues were very close versus same time last year.
- Power production is also in line with last year.
- Distribution expenses are down a little due to the focus on capital projects.
- Customer account and administrative costs are consistent.
- Investment income fluctuates with the market.

YTD for 2021 net income was \$254,686 vs 2020 \$372,989

P Elkas asked about the outside service employed. B Tupper explained that would account for consultants, attorney fees, etc.

Arrears Update

B Tupper updated that this was trending in a good direction until last month. The person who was making the collection calls was on vacation for a few weeks and that is why there is a small uptick. Something they will be working on is clearing up as much as possible prior to the upcoming winter moratorium. They will try to work with customers to bring these numbers down.

Operation/Capital Update

B Tupper provided updates.

Operations Update

- Poles for DPW on Quinapoxet St have been done.
- Dig safes are up 50% and they are looking into other avenues to free up time. S Sendrowski asked about home improvement impact. B Tupper agreed that has had a big impact.
- Forestry is focusing on clearing growth on Mason Rd
- The Maze conversion is nearing completion to upgrade the lines
- Getting PD details for projects has been a challenge but they are working with them to try and work through this. S Carlson asked if they use a dashboard for scheduling. B Tupper explained that they juggle things due to weather, priority, detail availability, etc. S Carlson mentioned that the last Bullard St substation couldn't be tracked easily because of scattered labor. J Parenteau explained that in construction in progress is used to track vehicle, labor and material cost.

Capital Update

- Replacement of the poles on Shrewsbury is only 10 poles away from completion.
- Greenwood estates – test on pump station has been done and just waiting for them to begin construction on the next phase.
- Bullard St build out will be in good shape.
- Chaffin Sub Replacement is on schedule and budget. It is moving quickly. Meeting with National Grid is being rescheduled and they are optimistic the term sheet is a good offer.
- AMI Meter Procurement – Interviewed top 3 candidates and evaluation is ongoing.
- New bucket truck 25 is complete and will be shipped after being on display for a show.
- HMLD Boiler replacement is awarded and contracts are being executed in a few weeks.

Personnel

- Mike Andre – 1st Class Lineman has been promoted to Foreman position.
- A few positions have been posted recently.
- Mediation for Union negotiations is nearing an end and an agreement is hopefully coming.

S Sendrowski asked who at HMLD is union. B Tupper explained there are 3 areas (Office, Lineman, Forestry) but represented by the same union and each area has a voice in shaping the contract. Management are the only ones not in the Union.

Other business

Next Meeting October 26, 2021

Motion by P Elkas, seconded by R Farrell. The September 16, 2021 MEPAB Meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.

Approved: November 18, 2021