



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD
January 27, 2022
HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA
6:00 pm

Members present: Scott Carlson, Steve Sendrowski, Pete Liddy II, Peter Elkas, and Dan Golden

Not Present: Richard Farrell

Staff present: Barry Tupper, General Manager – HMLD; Chris Monsini, AGM; Callie Knower, AM;

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by S Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

November 18, 2021

Motion by P Liddy II, seconded by P Elkas to approve the minutes for November 18, 2021. Approved by 4-0-2 (D Golden abstains) vote

B Tupper introduced Dan Golden as a new member of the Board.

B Tupper reviewed the Draft November Financials.

- Operating Revenue and Production Expenses are up a little due to increased sales.
- Customer Accounts are slightly up.
- Administrative and General Expenses are lower due to staffing changes and vacancies.
- Depreciation is flat as expected.
- Net Operating Income was down.
- Distribution Expenses are slightly lower than last year.
- Year to date Net income \$799,521 vs \$1,194,000 last year.
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B Tupper said the discussion with the Board of Selectman regarding rate increase was positive and they expressed gratitude for all the work from HMLD and MEPAB.

Arrears Update

B Tupper gave an update on arrears. \$39.8k (.27% of total revenue). It will likely increase due to the moratorium for shut off during the winter time. Dan Golden asked what the breakdown is of residential vs commercial. B Tupper will get those numbers for the next meeting but stated commercial customers generally stay current.

Operations Update

B Tupper provided updates.

- Holiday decorations have been removed
- After hour calls have been a minimum
- Pole conversions in the maze are completed
- In the process of ordering transformers to stay ahead of the backorders. Stock level is currently ok but preparing for future projects and have good relationships with other municipalities should a big need happen.
- Service change outs and construction services have kept busy
- Last night (1/26/2022) HMLD received an emergency call from WRHS office, discovered some issues but were able to repair and restore service successfully.
- Tree trimming had been halted due to staffing issues but all positions have been filled and a new foreman has started.

S Sendrowski asked how many linemen HMLD has. B Tupper replied 9 linemen in various stages so with that and partnerships with other municipalities they are well staffed to handle emergencies.

Capital Update

- Bullard St Substation has been moving smoothly. Two 3 phase URD risers have been built and terminated from the substation. Old regulators have been removed and 6 new ones installed. This gives HMLD full capacity the way this was designed.
- Bullard St Circuit is ongoing. Overhead wire is being run. Backordered material has arrived.
- Construction of Chaffin substation has been opened to bid. All materials are on order.

Personnel

- Chris Monsini, new Assistant General Manager was introduced.
- Callie Knower, new Accounting Manager was introduced.
- James Evers, new Forestry Foreman, was sworn in as Tree Warden yesterday as well
- Spencer Pauline, new 3rd Class Lineman
- Anthony Rossi, new Groundsman
- 2 new forestry applicants are onboarding

P Liddy asked for an update on the AMI meter project. B Tupper explained that the contract has been awarded and the paperwork is in process with the lawyers currently. Due to coordination with Water and Sewer Dept. and staffing changes there have been delays. Contracts should be completed soon and moving forward. D Golden asked about the meter. B Tupper explained about the capabilities of the AMI meters and positive benefits to customers and HMLD to improve communication and develop outage management. C Monsini spoke to his experience rolling out this program for Hudson. B Tupper stated that a procedure and process will need to be developed regarding customer data and shut off process which would be presented to MEPAB and the Board of

Commissioners. Timeline for project is uncertain at this time but should become clearer after contract is finalized.

Other business

P Liddy asked about Alden Labs. B Tupper stated the relationship has not changed but they are aware of the potential and looking into options.

D Golden asked about the old DPW space. B Tupper mentioned that the Town Manager has plans for mixed use development.

S Sendrowski asked for recommendations for Vice Chair of MEPAB. P Liddy made a recommendation for P Elkas.

Motion by S Carlson, seconded by P Liddy to appoint S Sendrowski as Chair and P Elkas as Vice Chair. Approved by a 5-0-1 vote

Motion by S Carlson, seconded by S Sendrowski. The January 27, 2022 MEPAB Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.