



**Members present: Steve Sendrowski, Richard Farrell, Dan Golden, Peter Elkas, Scott Carlson**

**Not Present: Pete Liddy II**

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

**Determination of quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Steve Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

*Motion by Dan Golden, seconded by Richard Farrell to approve the minutes for June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Unanimously approved by 4-0 vote. (Scott Carlson arrived after the approval of the minutes)*

**Financials**

C Knower reviewed the Financials for July 2022

- Cash is balanced with the Town through June.
- Power Production expense is \$1,101,634 higher in 2022 than at this time in 2021.
- The total transmission costs for July 2022 were \$305,754.49.
- The total billings for electric sales and bills for July were \$1,622,108.60 and 8,302 bills were sent out.
- MMWEC's NextZero program completed 8 residential home energy audits in July and there were a total \$1,725 in rebates.
- As of July, arrears total \$40,422.40.
  - Scott asked if this number was higher than normal. Callie explained that the aging reports were run incorrectly on August 1<sup>st</sup> so the arrears only included payments through the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month and a few days were missing from payments.
- Power production, miscellaneous distribution, station expense, dues, meetings and other general expenses are all over budget at that this time due to increased power costs, payroll reclasses, fuel costs and multiple large truck repair expenses.
- Miscellaneous income is higher than budgeted due to catching up on 2021 billing.

**Manager's Misc.**

B Tupper provided updates:

- Customer billing issue with Worcester Water was sent to legal. HMLD sent Worcester Water a letter stating the 5% discount was not legal and the discount would be stopped on 9/1/22. The letter also stated that the discounts given over the

236 months needs to be repaid back in the same amount of time totaling \$457,317.05. We are waiting to hear back from Worcester Water.

- Joint Action Battery Procurement Agreement with MMWEC is still ongoing. MMWEC did come do a site visit and determined it would be acceptable for the larger battery unit.
- Procurement delays continue to be an ongoing challenge. Actively stocking items and adding to our stock that we would not normally have on hand.
  - Transformers and cable – we are doing good and staying ahead with transformers are trickling in weekly.
  - We are above normal safety stock and trying to go beyond
- Sarah Flagg has resigned as the recording secretary. She has thanked everyone for her time with MEPAB.
- Offshore Wind Project 2021A has hit a hurdle and an agreement is being worked on.
- Policies - Asking MEPAB to vote on these policies to give them validity and show the board approves these policies.
  - **Bidding and Procurement Policy** – follows all of the same rules we have always followed and used Chapter 30b as a guideline. The Town follows Ch 30b but the Light Department follows Chapter 30b and Chapter 164. This policy is in effort to make purchasing procedures clear for everyone involved.
    - *Motion by Peter Elkas, seconded by Dan Golden to approve the Bidding and Procurement Policy following the Procurement Process Summary Chart dated 08/25/2022. Unanimously approved by 5-0 vote*
  - **Clothing Policy: Salaried and Non-line Personnel** – Employed, active non-line personnel that are not covered by the collective bargaining units Article 21(uniforms). Eligible individuals will have been with the HMLD for no less than three months in addition to any members of the MEPAB/Board of Commissioners that have service for a minimum of one consecutive year.
    - *Motion by Dan Golden, seconded by Peter Elkas to approve the Clothing Policy: Salaried and Non-line Personnel dated 08/25/2022-2. Unanimously approved by 5-0 vote*
  - **Recognition Policy: Service and Retirement Awards** – All active employees will be recognized as they reach milestone anniversaries of employment and retirement.
    - *Motion by Dan Golden, seconded by Scott Carlson to approve the Recognition Policy: Service and Retirement Awards dated 08/25/2022-3. Unanimously approved by 5-0 vote*
- Vehicles ordered are still an ongoing issue, will hopefully receive the truck and SUV in October 2022.
- HMLD Meter truck was totaled in the parking lot on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 after hours. We are in the process of getting the insurance claim processed. HMLD wants to take the

insurance funds (potentially \$20,000) plus any excess needed to fund the purchase of a new or used vehicle to replace the meter truck.

- After using the pulling trailer from Littleton Electric Department, HMLD has decided to start looking for a used wire pulling trailer. HMLD is looking to spend under \$50,000 on this purchase.
- Rick Grensvitch retirement party is Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the HMLD Garage to show our appreciation for his 20+ years of service to HMLD.
- In June, Scott asked about abandoned services there are currently 8 abandoned services and 4 homeowner requested.

#### Operations Update

C Monsini provided updates:

- Financials are by previous month whereas operations updates are current since the last meeting.
- 17 after hour outage calls to date since our last meeting. There was one major outage on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> that was caused due to extreme heat which caused T1 to trip. T1 was restored within 10 minutes.
- 3 new solar project applications from June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- DigSafe is steady at a high rate with requests due to paving.
- Transformers – we had 30 on order as of May, 18 have come in. We did another order for 3 more pad mounts and there should be a quick turnaround and should be received by the end of the year.
- Forestry Division – steady in trimming and doing a lot of takedowns for the Bullard St project and working with the DPW for hazardous trees.

#### Capital Budget Update:

- Bullard Street Circuit Expansion- Pulled in 3900 feet of three phase from Malden Street to Wachusett Street on July 30<sup>th</sup>. That circuit is now energized.
- Chaffins Substation Update – T2 has been dressed and tested. UPG is going to finish testing on the relays for the new switch house on 8/26/2022.
- AMI Update – contracts have been finalized and signed. The purchase order has been signed and will be sent to Itron. HMLD will work with Itron to come up with a schedule to start this project. HMLD will be ordering meters as soon as possible.

#### Personnel:

- HMLD has hired Gregory Goodhile as part time custodian. Greg started on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, he is doing a great job. We are happy to have him at HMLD.

#### Public Comment:

- None

#### Other Business:

- Scott Carlson asked about the Mini Turbine in Peabody – 2015A. The funding went through, project has been started. Barry will get an update on this for the next meeting.

*Motion by Richard Farrell, seconded by Scott Carlson. The August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 MEPAB Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.*