



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

Not Present: Scott Carlson, Pete Liddy

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

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Steve Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

August 25th, 2022

Motion by Peter Elkas, seconded by Richard Farrell to approve the minutes for August 25th, 2022. Unanimously approved by 4-0 vote.

Financials

C Knower reviewed the Financials for August 2022

- Cash is balanced with the Town through August.
- The total metered load for the month of August 2022 was 11,463,865 kWhs which is 1.76% increase from the August 2021 figures. HMLD's load is up approximately 2% year to date.
- HMLD hit a demand of 26,420 kW, which occurred on August 8th at 4:00pm.
- August 2022 transmission costs were \$362,470.19
- During the month of August there were 9 outages.
- The total billings for kWh sales were 11,009,983 and the total electric sales was \$1,843,855 and we billed 8,332 accounts in August.
- Income vs Budget statement – operating revenue has increased due to the PCA change and the higher kilowatt hour usage. Purchase power is still trending high. Station expenses are higher due to large payroll reclasses in operating. Customer accounting and collections is overbudget due to payroll for customer service and Invoice Cloud. Dues, Meetings and other general expenses is over which is where fuel and truck expenses are charged to. We have a net income of \$432,000.00.

Steve S asked about long-term power contracts and pricing.

- Barry explained that HMLD is in the process of changing the PCA charge. HMLD met with MMWEC and our consultant this week to go over the forecast and projections for the end of the year and 2023.
- HMLD is looking into different options which involve using rate stabilization and how much to cover the PCA shortfall as well as raising rates.
 - If we do not do anything, we are projecting we would be under collected \$1.3 million in power purchasing costs. We would need to take \$1.3 from rate stabilization which would put us around 1.5-2 months of power costs available.

- If we took \$800,000.00 from rate stabilization and then adjust the rates with a \$.03 PCA increase in October, we would project \$226,000 in overcollection.
- Another option would be to take \$800,000.00 from rate stabilization and then do a \$.01 increase in October, another \$.01 in November and another \$.01 in December.
 - If we do smaller adjustments and follow it month to month, we can adjust the PCA each month. In order to do this though we have to get caught up and even out then follow the trends monthly. We are trying to be fiscally responsible to cover the power costs without over collecting or under collecting at the end of the year. If we were to transfer money from rate stabilization, we will do everything we can to replenish that over time to get back to having 3-4 months available in the rate stabilization.
- The option we are leaning towards is \$500,000 from rate stabilization and \$.02 increase in October, \$.015 in November and \$.015 in December would get us to \$64,000 to the good by year end with the current projections.
- One of the other options would be \$325,000 from rate stabilization and a \$.03 increase in October, \$.01 in November and \$.01 in December.
- There is no perfect scenario but based on past conversation and the philosophy we try to follow we want to take a small portion from rate stabilization and slowly increase the rate and make small adjustments as we go and when we can bring them back down.
- The PCA is designed so that the Manager can adjust it when necessary.

Manager's Misc.

B Tupper provided updates:

- Mystic COS - The Mystic Generating Station reliability must run (RMR) contract is an allocation of the supplemental capacity payments paid to Mystic resources retained for fuel security, and is billed a month in arrears, with the first charge technically being applicable to June costs. ISO-New England asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a waiver from its market rules so it can keep two units of the Mystic Generating Station, a gas plant near Boston, online beyond 2022. ISO-NE said enacting cost recovery for the 1,700 MW of generation is necessary because the units' retirement would likely mean the closure of an adjacent liquified natural gas (LNG) import facility the grid operator says is essential for "fuel security." The waiver is needed because current rules do not allow cost recovery for such risks. The additional cost are being applied to all "load" the worst for us so far has been \$45,000.00. We have used this number for our future power cost projections.
 - This is the best explanation we currently have in regard to these costs.
- Mutual Aid – Florida – The request came in Monday at 10:00am and we were able to send down a crew of two guys and one truck. The crew is staged in Jacksonville, waiting for the storm to pass and then tomorrow they should be assigned a municipality to work with.

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- Vehicles that were approved for procurement in January are still an issue. The vehicles have not been built yet and we do not have an exact build date. The dealer is looking for other options. We are planning to put a bucket truck in the capital budget for 2023 due to the bid process and lead times on builds. The last truck took almost two years to get.
- 2015A – Construction is proceeding on schedule. The main foundation concrete pour has been completed and the generator is on site. The project is on track for its scheduled completion in advance of its ISO-New England capacity supply obligation beginning in June 2023.
- Nuclear NextEra – we are actively looking into the nuclear agreements that will be coming up. Right now, we are beyond the 50% minimum required by 2030 for the states green gas initiative.

Operations Update

C Monsini provided updates:

- 2 After hours calls have occurred to date since the last MEPAB meeting on 8-25-2022. With no major outages.
- 3 New solar project applications submitted since the last meeting
- DigSafe's are in abundance due to construction in town.
- Remaining transformer deliveries are on track. Will be placing another order early next week with an estimated delivery time frame of February 2023.
- The Forestry division has been trimming on Mason and Adams Road.
- Public Power luncheon will be @ 12 noon on 10/5 @ Holden Senior Center.
- Crews are making some underground cable repairs before the winter. Torrey Lane, Nottingham Drive and General Hobbs Road.
- Purchase Order issued for mPower Integrator System. We will begin working with them in Oct. This will help map out the infrastructure in the field and tie into our AMI system.

Capital Budget Update:

- The Bullard street circuit expansion update:
 - Pole transfers are complete from Doyle Road to Chaffins Church pending two (2) 50' poles expected for delivery this upcoming week.
 - Projecting for messenger and wire pulls to be completed from Shrewsbury @ Bullard St. To Chaffins Church.
 - Above will be a total of four (4) pulls, one (1) messenger pull, and three (3) Hendrix pulls.
- Chaffins substation update:
 - T2 switchgear, meter socket and control wiring are installed.
 - The perimeter fencing will start being installed this Tuesday, Oct. 4th. Approx. 80% will be installed.
 - Outage scheduled for Tuesday Oct. 11th W/ National Grid to de-energize the A53 line. (T2)
 - Planning on energizing new T2 the following Tuesday Oct. 18th and put under load on Oct. 21st.

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- Following Monday Oct. 24th, take outage for B54 Line (T1) and begin switch gear demolition/construction.
- G. Green will return on Oct. 31st to begin excavation for T1 pad and trenching.
- AMI update
 - Itron has assigned a project team (Brad Adams, Debbie Bradford, etc.) to Holden. We have had 2 meetings via Microsoft Teams to develop meter configurations, the next meeting will be this Wednesday Oct. 5th to hopefully wrap that piece up.
 - Itron will be coming out in person on Oct. 11th and 12th to preform Field Network Site Survey Training and a project review of the schedule, milestones, and deliverable requirements.
 - Notified NDS about upcoming integration with Itron. NDS team is ready.

Public Comment:

- Richard Bates (Selectman) thanked everyone for volunteering their time.

Motion by Steve Sendrowski, seconded by Richard Farrell. The September 29th, 2022 MEPAB Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.