



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD
March 17, 2022
HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA
6:00 pm

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

Not Present:

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

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by S Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

January 27, 2022

Motion by P Liddy II, seconded by P Elkas to approve the minutes for January 27, 2022. Unanimously approved by 6-0 vote

C Knower reviewed the Financials and explained that financials will be 2 months behind due to MMWEC's purchase power report only being submitted on the 21st of each month.

- For January there is a net loss of (\$280,303.06) mainly due to the cost of power production and the rate increase which began in January did not have an impact on January's numbers.
- Total Meter Load for January 2022 was 10,692,733 kWhs a 4% increase from January 2021
- Total transmission costs for the month of January 2022 were \$280,267
- Not shown on financials the total cumulative under for Total Power Expenses vs Total Power Revenue in 2021 was \$248,839.20 and for January 2022 it is under an additional \$326,463.16. This will be monitored closely until April/May
- Rebates there were 2 residential home energy audits. HMLD issued \$7,494.00 in rebates: \$280.00 in appliance, \$4,550.00 in Cool Home, \$214.00 in Wi-Fi thermostats and \$2,450.00 for Home Efficiency Incentives.
- Arrears as of January 2022 are \$47,249 for past due accounts. Down \$53,988 from the same time last year. S Sendrowski asked when the moratorium ends. B Tupper answered Mid-April.
- Income versus Budget – Misc. Distribution Expense is higher than planned due to clothing for new employees. Station Expenses are up due to purchasing harnesses and climbing gear. Payroll and Customer Service Expenses are up now that positions have been filled. Outside Services is higher due to some payments to the Town and Auditors.

S Carlson asked how much power was purchased in Feb. B Tupper said they will have the numbers in another week or so.

B Tupper addressed D. Golden's question from the last meeting in regard to commercial accounts and arrears. He explained that typically past due commercial accounts represent 2% of accounts. By the time final notices go out that number drops to zero. It has been 6 years since a commercial customer account was disconnected for non-payment.

Manager's Misc.

- 2021 Audit will be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting.
- Updated Agreements - the Pole attachment agreements with Charter 1985(up 112%) and Verizon 2006 (up 60%). P. Elkas asked what the total revenue is for these. B Tupper answered it is roughly \$28k Charter and \$70K with Verizon billed annually. Small Cell Verizon may be another agreement forthcoming.
- Peak 2021 - Daily peak in 2021 was 26.9 MW on June 29th. Highest usage month was August.
- Go Helps - 2021 (Next Zero Re-Branding 2022) - These are the energy efficiency program. Minimum spend required by law based on revenue was \$35,582. In 2021 HMLD spent \$43,467 on administrative and service fees for this program. Additionally, HMLD spent \$72,830 on audits and rebates through the programs. Total spent by HMLD on the two programs in 2021 was \$136,582. MMWEC is rebranding this program into Next Zero Re-Branding and is similar to the Go and Helps programs. Links are on HMLD's website.
- Chaffin Substation Status - Construction contract has been awarded to ES Boulos from Maine. They are setting up and preparing the site
- The 2 power transformers are ready for witness testing at the end of the month.

Operations Update

C Monsini provided updates:

- New Bucket truck 25 was delivered and is in use.
- Crews have been working on removing double poles. NJUNS Program - National Joint Utility Notification System has been set up to better communicate and track the poles and stay on top of them. 250 double poles show up in the system and are being addressed by the crews.
- PV - A lot of inquiries about solar projects have been coming in. S Sendrowski asked how many residential panels there are in town. B Tupper estimates there are about 97, primarily rooftop. B Tupper explained that the Town limits the size of the system and there are not any current rebates through the Town. D Golden asked if this is a net zero for the customer or the Town bought back anything. B Tupper explained that if there is any overage at the end of the year in March they could cash it out however no current customers are at a point where they are generating excess either residentially or commercially.
- After hour calls have been at a minimum. S Carlson and S Sendrowski expressed gratitude in how the HMLD responded to a recent outage.
- Tree crew is fully staffed, and trimming is in full swing.
- Lead times on wire and transformers are still on extended lead times (up to a year) but HMLD is proactively ordering and an order from last year came through recently.

- Capital Project update - Bullard Street - wire has been entered and energized out to Malden St. Crews are working from Malden St out to Wachusett St.
- Chaffin Substation - \$2,577,000 awarded to ES Boulos a preconstruction meeting happened on March 8 and they are now underway in preparing the site.
- AMI Project - Itron has a deadline of March 18, 2022 to have all signed documents back to HMLD so they anticipate that everything will get squared away by the end of next week.
- DPW Building transformer is installed, wired, and ready to energize. HMLD is now waiting on the electrical contractor to make secondary connections and pass all inspections. Contractor has been experiencing delays with the switchgear.

Motion by D Golden, seconded by S Carlson. The March 17, 2022 MEPAB Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.