



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes
February 23, 2023
HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA
6:00 pm

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

Not Present: Pete Liddy II

Staff Present: Barry Tupper, General Manager – HMLD; Callie Knower, AM

Public Present: Dennis Mahoney – 56 Fox Hill Drive

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by S Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

January 26, 2023

Motion by R. Farrell, seconded by P. Elkas I to approve the January 26, 2023 minutes. Unanimously approved.

Financials

C. Knower shared the financials.

- The Light Department has balanced cash with the Town through December. We have not reconciled January yet, I am hoping to have the Town's numbers tomorrow.
- Operating revenues are \$329,230.50 higher than we budgeted, and power production expense is \$651,588.32 under budget. I did speak to MMWEC and we will have about \$30,000.00 of resettlements for January but our overall power expense is drastically lower than projected due to the mild weather and the proactive hedge purchases we made a few months ago.
- Total distribution expense, customer account expense and admin an general expense are all under budget for January. Other income is down due to interest expenses.
- We projected to have a net loss of \$481,796.60 for January and we currently have a net income of \$507,769.27
- The HMLD's total metered load for the month of January was 9,198,444 kWh, which is a 16% decrease from the 2022 figures.
- HMLD hit a demand of 17,783kW on January 16th at 6pm.
- The total transmission costs were \$266,892.22.
- The total billings for electric sales and bills were \$1,915,043.04 and 8,308 bills were sent out.
- The total cumulative under for Power Expenses and Power Revenue, as of is \$619,486.29. We will see about \$305,000.00 in resettlement costs for November through January which will put our overcollection around \$315,000.00.
- MMWEC's NextZero program completed 7 residential home energy audits during the month. The total rebates for the month were \$1,864.50 (Cool homes \$1,300, WiFi thermostats \$64.50 and HEI rebates \$500.00)
- As of January, arrears totaled \$82,099.81. This is \$34,850.81 higher than January 2022. We are working on writing a collections/shut off policy and the moratorium is set to end of March 15th unless the state extends it to April, like they have in years past.

Manager's Miscellaneous

B. Tupper presented.

- Battery Storage – the Board of Commissioners have approved the required documents and HMLD will be addressing the Board's concerns on remediation. HMLD has a meeting in the coming weeks with MMWEC to start the project.
- Auditors – the Auditors did their site visit last week and should be presenting in April/May to the Board.
- Bucket Truck Specs – HMLD has begun the process of creating the specs and getting quotes for the new bucket truck voted in the budget.
- Transformers – HMLD is looking at new vendors to get quotes from to purchase more transformers to add to our stock.
- EV Grants – HMLD is looking at EV Grants through the state to put in EV Chargers at the new fields coming to Holden.
- APPA Legislative Rally – Barry will be attending the APPA Legislative Rally next week to represent Central Mass.
- Depreciation Fund – HMLD would like to start transferring funds from Operating to Depreciation on a quarterly basis instead of a monthly basis. The board did not have any issue with this.

Operations Update

B. Tupper presented.

- February 2023 Operations Update
 - Re-cap on last month's storm: Although we recovered quickly, our crews have been cleaning up remanence and addressing damaged infrastructure, mainly house services.
 - 6 outages in January
 - Solar projects have slowed down, currently 2 new ones to review for approval.
 - Transformer order (25 pole mounts) placed on 10-12-22 is on schedule with estimated delivery for April/May 2023.
 - The Forestry division has finished trimming on Manning Street and are now focused on Causeway Street.
 - Crews have been working hand in hand with VZ and Charter through the NJUNS system to identify and remove double poles throughout the town.
 - mPower – Integrator is up and running with limited information/data. WMS is functional, training will take place in through February and hopefully be implemented by March 31st.
- 2022-2023 Capital Budget Updates
 - The Bullard street circuit expansion update:
 - Messenger wire pull from Shrewsbury @ Bullard St. To Chaffins Church and Hendrix wire to Doyle Rd. were both completed on 2-14.
 - Crews are now preparing for the next Hendrix pull (Doyle to Chaffins Church) projected to be on 3-1
 - S Sendrowski asked if we have taken into consideration the new rotary that has been approved and B Tupper stated that it has been discussed and Sr. Working Foreman M Viano has worked with the state.

- Chaffins substation update:
 - Chaffins Sub-Station is in fully functional order.
- AMI update
 - HMLD has been working vigorously with Itron to complete the soft-ware and networking integration details.
 - HMLD is expecting delivery of some infrastructure in April/May to begin installing in the field.
 - Itron will be on-site for some field survey's the week of March 13th.
- Personnel:
 - HMLD has made an offer to Stephen Gustafson to join the team as a 3rd class lineman. He is set to start his employment on Monday 2-28-2023.

Other Business

B. Tupper presented.

- Heating System - HMLD is having issues with the heating system still and may need to replace major parts of the heating system in the coming year. This will be costly and need to be budgeted.
- Office Renovation – the Office Renovation is almost done. HMLD employees, DPW employees and outside contractors have been used to complete this project.

Motion by *S. Carlson*, seconded by *R. Farrell* to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm.