



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

January 26, 2023

**HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA
6:00 pm**

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

Not Present: Scott Carlson

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.

Jane Dye, 39 Ruggle Rd, expressed her appreciation of the battery project and that HMLD is taking it on. Dennis Mahoney, 56 Fox Hill Dr, echoed Jane's sentiments and mentioned that batteries are a part of the energy future and happy that Holden will be doing this.

Approval of Minutes

November 30, 2022

Motion by P Elkas, seconded by P Liddy II to approve the November 30, 2022 minutes. Unanimously approved.

Financials

C Knower shared the financials. She is presenting December's preliminary financials as there are still closing entries to make before the auditors come on 2/16 and 2/17.

- The total metered load for December was 10,196,223 kWhs. Power bill from MMWEC for December was only for 9,005,000 kWhs. This difference is due to the meters at Chaffin's not being read and sent to MMWEC correctly since October 26th. The end of October, all of November and all of December will have resettlements that will be added to our upcoming power bills in March, April and May. HMLD was unaware that MMWEC was estimating our load each day until the end of December when Callie noticed the November invoice had the same metered load entered for each day. MMWEC is working on getting an estimate to me by January 31st of how much the resettlement costs will be.
- HMLD's load is up approximately 1% from 2021 to 2022.
- HMLD hit a demand of 19,364 on December 24th at 6:00pm.
- The total transmission costs for December were \$226,852.58
- MMWEC's NextZero program completed 5 residential home energy audits during the month of December 2022. The total rebates for the month of December were \$4,322.00. HMLD issued \$840.00 in appliance rebates, \$1,600.00 in Cool Home rebates, and HEI rebates of \$1,882.00.
- In November 2022, liens were issued total \$10,059.94 for past due electric accounts.
- HMLD wrote off \$1,107.04 for tenant accounts and owners that could not collect payment from.
- The total past due balance at the end of December as \$62,013.86, \$22,202.11 higher than December 2021 and \$29,554.81 higher than November. This number is drastically higher as one of the commercial customers was past due at the end of the month. This is now cleared up.
- The metered load is up 305,977 kWh from December 2021 and the electric sales is up \$376,308.08.
- The total Electric sales for December was \$1,650,372.29 and HMLD billed 8,308 customers.

- Due to the resettlement issues with the power bills for November and December, the current over/under for purchase power charge is going to change. Currently, it shows that HMLD has over collected \$337,326.48.
- Looking at the income statement and comparing 2022 to 2021, HMLD collected \$2,842,998.65 more in operating revenues (collected \$16,891,658.33) and paid \$1,447,048.85 more in power production expenses (for a total of \$11,147,709.01 which will be more once we have the resettlements). HMLD spent \$64,770.64 more in distribution expenses, \$8,092.16 more in customer account expenses, \$253,125.16 more in administrative and general costs.
- The total other income was \$153,484.37 less than 2021 due to investment losses.
- HMLD did a rate stabilization transfer of \$915,619.85 to working capital, which is considered an investment in the plant.

Operations Update

C Monsini shared that the storm from last week from late Sunday night into Monday resulted in 4-6" of heavy wet snow. The crews went out around 1am Monday morning and then early morning they called for Mutual Aid and were assisted by Littleton, Shrewsbury, Westfield and South Hadley due to the amount of calls and downed trees. Elliot Tree and M&M Tree also aided with the volume of tree work required. HMLD is extremely grateful for their assistance. B Tupper said one of the great things about the partnership is that they all train the same way so when they work together it is seamless. 3,500 (42% of customers) experienced outages. By mid-morning Tuesday all customers were restored. Great teamwork from everyone including the office staff staying late and the help from the assisting towns. P Elkas asked if there were any material shortages. B Tupper and C Monsini explained that they have stocked up due to supply issues, so they did not experience any shortages as they had plenty of back stock which they will be mindful to refill.

- Solar projects have slowed due to the time of year.
- Transformer order is still on schedule for April/May
- Forestry Division are continuing trimming
- M Power software and programs - GIS mapping is functional and once there is more data they will present that to the Board.
- Bullard St Circuit Expansion - Poles and transformers are complete from Doyle Rd to the Chaffin Church. Preparing for pulling in messenger first week of February
- Chaffin Substation - T1 was energized 1/18 and load was put on it 1/20. Fencing was completed, all testing has been completed and the site has been turned over to HMLD. The only pending item is paving to be completed in the spring.
- AMI software integration details are being finalized. Should begin receiving some of the infrastructure in April/May. Itron will be on site the week of March 13 for some field surveys.
- Personnel - Derek Peto was promoted to Substation Utility Foreman. With AMI and the new substation this is a new position. Ben Allen was promoted to Truck Foreman. A Groundman position was advertised, over 100 applications have come in and interviews will begin next week.

Manager's Miscellaneous

B Tupper went over the Battery Project that they are looking at doing through MMWEC. The Board then entered the Executive Session to discuss.

Upon returning to Regular Session B Tupper read the motion and it was approved 5-0 in support of the Battery Project.

Other Business

S Sendrowski opened it up for a recommendation for Chairman. The members of the Board were all in agreement to endorse S Sendrowski for another term.

Motion by P Liddy II, seconded by D Golden to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm