



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

June 22, 2023

**HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA
6:45 pm**

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

Not Present: Richard Farrell

Staff present: Barry Tupper, General Manager – HMLD; Callie Knowler, AM;

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by S Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by D Golden, seconded by P Liddy II to approve the April 27, 2023 minutes. Unanimously approved.

Financials

C Knowler shared the financials.

- Operating revenues are \$862,345.31 higher than budgeted. Power production is \$1,073,760.97 under budget however this will change as Jan, Feb and May resettlement charges still need to be finalized. The overall power expense is drastically lower than projected in part to mild weather and proactive hedge purchases that were made.
- Also under budget through May were Total Distribution expense, overhead/underground line expense, customer install expense, admin and general expenses, office supplies and general plant maintenance.
- Over Budget expenses were Station expense (due to overheating issues and higher payroll), Gas and Electric for 7 Adams road is a new expense and is split with the Fire Dept. Maintenance of Overhead Lines is over budget due to multiple legal invoices. Dues, Meetings and other General Plant expenses are over budget due to truck repairs, gas/diesel charges and training. Pension and Benefits are over budget due to enrollment changes for the health insurance.
- Projects net loss of \$299,581.12 for May and the current net income of \$1,638,981.95.
- Total metered load for May was 7,774,825 kWh (9% decrease from 2022)
- Hit a demand of 14,482 on May 31st at 7:00pm
- Total transmission costs were \$200,428.21
- Over collected on PCA Charge \$1,749,831.75 however once the resettlement charges are finalized this number will change. The meters at Chaffin Substation were

not being read properly during those months so the numbers were only estimated. In addition to the resettlement a transfer of \$915,619.85 to the Rate Stabilization fund needs to take place. This amount was previously pulled from Rate Stabilization to fund Working Capital early last year. After resettlement has been finalized this transfer will occur.

- MMWEC's NextZero program completed 4 residential home energy audits during the month. The total rebates for the month were \$16,250 (Cool homes \$14,225, Wifi thermostats \$230, Appliances \$1,295 and HEi rebates \$500)
- As of May, arrears totaled \$47,224.43. HMLD has resumed normal shut off procedures as of April. Since the end of January, arrears has been lowered \$34,855.38

P Elkas asked if there is any policy in regards to potentially adding an interest charge. B Tupper explained that currently they would lose the early payment discount but may look into that.

Manager's Miscellaneous

B Tupper shared updates:

- Pole testing is being conducted to determine longevity. Along with the testing the company is adding the pole information into the GIS (Power outage management system). Main roads are the focus right now.
- Terms and Conditions are on the website now as approved.
- District Attorney Early visited HMLD to award a certificate for the school safety programs that were done this year. Electrical and Bike safety was the focus.
- Main St flags were replaced this year.
- Mountview project with the 8th grade Civics class happened. Focus was on Green Energy and the groups created ads about Green Energy based on their research. The top 5 were posted on the HMLD Facebook page
- Representative Ferguson came in to discuss the bills that she is working on.
- Battery project is close to moving to the next phase after some back and forth. Hopefully in-service will be spring/summer next year. P Liddy II asked how the battery gets connected to the system. B Tupper explained there is little that HMLD needs to be done and the infrastructure is there.

Operations Update

B Tupper shared updates:

- There were 4 Outages in May but nothing major.
- There are currently 2 Solar projects approved and under construction.
- PO was recently created for transformers. Lead time is 46 weeks and HMLD has current stock. Trying to stay ahead. Poles are being brought in consistently.
- Working with Verizon to identify Double poles and HMLD has been working after hours to remove them.
- The Jefferson Mill project is coming up in the next couple of weeks. Old transformer to be removed and feed through to Mill Pond. The new development won't be signed off on until plans have been reviewed and approved.
- Scheduled equipment upgrades starting with pump stations are being revisited.
- New services and service upgrades for several new developments are ongoing including Sunshine Ridge, Elmwood Ave, Jackson Woods, Tea Party Circle, etc.

Capital Budget updates -

- Bullard St circuit expansion. Crews are currently working to shift to a new circuit.
- Chaffin Substation - MEPAB visited the site prior to the meeting and toured the new station.

- HMLD is working on MMWEC for steps to install battery bank
- AMI - beginning August 2023 after testing has been completed. The meters will be attached to poles. Test meters are part of the preliminary system so that everything can be worked out before full roll out. S Sendrowski asked about how underground neighborhoods will be metered. B Tupper explained it works on a mesh network and the meters communicate with the collectors.
- HMLD is fully staffed.
- Preliminary quote for the truck was received and it will be revised in the next budget. It was higher than expected so HMLD is actively getting competitive quotes as well.

Other Business

S Carlson informed that the all inclusive playground may be requesting support from HMLD for EV Chargers.

Motion by S Carlson, seconded by P Liddy II to adjourn the June 22, 2023 meeting at 7:30pm. Unanimously approved.

Prepared by: Sara Flagg, Recording Secretary

Approved: _____