



MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

July 27, 2023

HMLD Community Room, 1 Holden Street, Holden, MA

6:00 pm

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

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

Public Present: Jane Dye, 39 Lovell Rd and Dennis Mahoney, 56 Fox Hill Dr

Determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by S Sendrowski and determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by P. Elkas, seconded by P Liddy II to approve the June 22, 2023 minutes. Unanimously approved.

Financials

C Knower shared the financials.

- Operating revenues are a million dollars higher than budgeted and power production is under budget by a million dollars. Resettlements costs will lower this number.
- The only other major variances from budget to actual is that miscellaneous distribution expense is underbudget \$45,079.52. Maintenance of Overhead/Underground lines is over budget \$64,935.34. This is due to the winter storms we had and the need for mutual aid. Other General Expenses which includes transportation expense is over budget \$54,482.84 due to truck repairs and fuel costs.
- The HMLD's total metered load for the month of June was 8,894,403 kWh, which is a 2.5% decrease from the 2022 figures.
- HMLD hit a demand of 19,299 on June 25th at 7:00pm.
- The total transmission costs were \$170,326.37.
- We are currently over collected \$1,932,008.42 on the PCA charge. At this time, we are still waiting for resettlement charges from earlier months this year as well as for May from ISO-NE which will decrease this over collection. Along with waiting for the resettlement, we still need to transfer \$915,619.85 from the over collection to our Rate

Stabilization fund. We are waiting to make this transfer until all of the resettlement have posted.

- MMWEC's NextZero program completed 10 residential home energy audits during the month. The total rebates for the month were \$8,854.50 (Cool homes \$7,500, WiFi thermostats \$164,.50, Appliances \$690.00 and HEI rebates \$500)
- As of June, arrears totaled \$51,073.61. \$7,071.92 of that is a past due receivable for pole damages, not electric use. Our electric past due balance is \$44,001.69. Of that amount, \$18,851.86 is from 60+ day protected accounts due to financial hardship, age or medical.

Manager's Miscellaneous

B Tupper shared updates:

- Battery Energy Storage System – we are currently working with MMWEC and Delorean to make progress, there is a lot to go through with the contracts. We are considering increasing the battery to a 5 MW battery, it will give us a lot more opportunity to shave the peak and our savings and return will increase. This battery will also give us a longer duration. There is no financial change for the increase in battery size. We are still hopeful this will be up and running for Summer 2024.
- Project 2015A – they have begin testing. The expected commissioning completion date is August 31st and the commercial operational date is September 2023.
- Personnel – Assistant General Manager Chris Monsini has resigned from his position, his last day is tomorrow. We are in the process of evaluation our current org chart and positions to see if any changes need to be made.

Operations Update

B Tupper shared updates:

- 6 Outages in June, nothing major, all minor.
- Transformer Repairs – Working with TSI & sent out failed transformers for re-build or repair.
- The Forestry division – Finished trimming on Moscow, Princeton line to Wood st on Wachusett St. also trimming on Princeton St. 20 spans complete.
- Poles – Staying ahead of lead times for poles. Approx. 20 poles scheduled to arrive this week.
- Work with VZ and Charter has been on going through the NJUNS system to identify and remove double poles throughout the town.
- Jefferson Mill project “cut-over” to new transformer has started. Meters are being installed.
- GML has been conducting pole testing and gathering data for mPower. Line crews are going over poles to be replaced.
- (On going) equipment upgrades, changing porcelain cutouts to polymer. Starting with pump stations first.
- (On going) Multiple developments, new services and service upgrades are in the works and completed. Some of which are as follows: Elmwood Ave. Sunshine Ridge, Jackson

Woods (on-going), Tea Party (on-going), 67 Laurelwood (completed), 61 Mushcopauge Rd (completed)., Jefferson Mill cut-over started, 370 Sterling Rd (completed)., 560 Wachusett St (completed)., 51 Heather Circle (completed), 31 Fox Hill Dr. Dominos XFMR on Main St. has been replaced during a scheduled outage.

Capital Budget Updates

- The Bullard street circuit expansion update - (on going) Crews are currently working on cutting over customers to the new circuit while simultaneously removing the old Hendrix line. Shrewsbury St to Mark Bradford is complete.
- AMI update - HMLD has begun receiving First Article Test Meters and Infrastructure components. We anticipate testing to begin by August of 2023. Field survey was completed and finalized. Crew have been replacing poles to accommodate AMI infrastructure.
- Truck 21 – Failed hydraulic hose, upon inspection it was found that the upper boom needs complete hose replacement, parts on order. Currently out of service, expected to be out of service for a month.
- New bucket truck – we have received pricing from 2 vendors, waiting for one more. The quotes are considerably overbudget.
- WiFi system – the system is installed, and we have better wifi service and the cellular upgrades should be done by the next meeting.

2022 Audit Presentation

Presented by Jim Goulet and Heather Isaacs

- Audit Report – 3 pages long, the good news is, other than the Worcester County Reporting dating issue, the report is clean. One year out of the two is always out of compliance because of Worcester County.
- Pages 4 through 8 – is the simple terms of how the department is doing.
- In 2022, everyone's investment income is down, and the power supply was up.
- Operating cash is down considerably because the Chaffins Substation project.
- Depreciation fund is down because there were two transfers to operating due to the fact in 2021 no transfers were done.
- OPEB is underfunded in 2022 due to the market. The OPEB Trust is held by the Town Treasurer. Liability this year because underfunded.
- Only have on one audit comment regarding not doing our own financial statements, most, if not all, utilities have this comment. All previous comments have been corrected by Callie, Barry and the team.
 - Construction in progress was hard to audit in years past from an accounting perspective, but now it is auditable and traced.
 - Merchandising and jobbing – billing Verizon had fallen behind but this is now caught up due to operations and accounting working together.
 - General Ledger – had become very difficult to audit for a few years with no one taking accountability of the records, which was hard to audit. That is now

corrected. This is Callie's first year being responsible for the numbers, all the problems are gone, and it has been easier to audit.

Other Business

We do have a new member on the MEPAB Board, he was not able to be here tonight.

*Motion by P Elkas, seconded by P Liddy II to adjourn the July 27, 2023 meeting at 7:30pm.
Unanimously approved.*