

***Paxton Municipal Light Department
578 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612-1300
Light Commission Meeting
June 21, 2022***

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Benoit at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Emerson Wheeler, Yvette Orell, Mike Benoit, and Tara Rondeau, Manager. Public Attending: Benjamin and Beth Ann Barsom.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Wheeler motioned to approve the agenda with the change of moving public comment after the net generation policy discussion and AMI Opt-Out policy; Orell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Wheeler motioned to approve the May 17, 2022, minutes; Orell seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- IV. Net Generation Policy: Each board member was provided a copy of the Net Generation Policy. Benoit stated that he did not feel a need to increase the individual residential solar installation cap from a max of 10 KW. A discussion was had about the town wide total maximum residential solar installation cap of 150 kW. PMLD is now at 147 kW. The Board agreed that the cap may need to be evaluated, at a later date, if PMLD's load increases. All agreed.
- V. AMI Opt-Out Policy: The board was provided with a spreadsheet detailing the rates and policies of other Mass. MLPs with AMI. The Manager stated that she felt a formal policy should be drafted and that if the board so chooses to charge a monthly fee, it should not be made active until PMLD has installed all AMI meters and the AMR system becomes obsolete. The Board agreed with the Manager. The Manager will draft a formal policy for a later meeting.
- VI. Public Comment: Benjamin and Beth Ann Barsom wanted to voice their concerns about AMI meters. They wanted to know if PMLD was receiving a federal stipend for converting the whole town over to AMI meters. PMLD is not. Mrs. Barsom asked that it be documented that she feels a medical condition she recently experienced could be attributed to EMF. She feels the board should seriously consider the risks to the community's health. Mrs. Barsom also wanted it documented that the manager should be held accountable and liable for any detrimental effects related to the AMI meters since the Manager stated that she had read the entire 300-page RFP proposal from Landis and Gyr and approved it. Mr. Barsom asked about home management systems that can interact with homeowners' appliances and the invasion of privacy. The manager stated that the meters PMLD purchased are not equipped to do that. PMLD is not concerned how people are utilizing electricity as much as when they are using it. The AMI meters will allow PMLD to see who is using the most the electricity and when but not how. The meters will also send alerts for loss of power and potential theft. Information obtained from the meters can be used to later assist PMLD in determining policy and rate changes. Mrs. Barsom asked the board to investigate United Nations Agenda 21 and 30. Wheeler expressed to the Barsoms; that the board had read plenty of documentation from various agencies stating that the RF given off by an AMI meter is much less than a cell phone, microwave, smart tv, wireless router, etc. Mrs. Barsom would like the Board to consider her concerns and look into the matters that she has brought up.
- VII. Managers' Report:
 - A. Operations and Electrical Systems Updates:
 1. The linemen have continued installing the AMI meters, to date 610 meters have been installed.

selling Q4 2021 Recs, which will be reflected in the July billing. PMLD's Q4 rec sales are projected to be \$15,900.

E. AMI Updates: We have had 4 customers who have refused installation of the AMI meter.

VIII. Other Business:

1. The Manager and staff are collaboratively working on a new mission statement for PMLD.
2. In looking back on the 2018 SWOT analysis, 5 out of the 8 goals have been implemented. (AMI metering, improved inventory control software, employee team building activities, increased pole rental charges and improved community engagement).
3. It is proving difficult to find fiber consultants. Two Munis stated they would not refer the company that they had used. Benoit stated they could not move forward on a decision without a proforma.
4. The Manager completed the 2021 Annual Report for the Town. She thought next year, PMLD could put a dedication to Harold Smith. Benoit suggested the possibility of naming the building after him as the Wentworth Substation is named after a long term prior employee.
5. The Manager would like to create gift certificates that could be purchased over the holidays. Orell stated they had tried that in the past. The Manager could probably find info. about it as well as an already established GL account for gift certificates.
6. Benoit informed the Manager the school flashing lights are still on.
7. Benoit mentioned his concern for some dead pine trees on West Street that could come down on the power lines. The Manager will look into where the pine trees are located, on private property or the towns right of way.
8. The Manager is concerned about the failure rate of the LED street lights. She is working with MMWEC and Wesco to resolve the problem

IX. Adjourn: Wheeler motioned to adjourn; Orell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

The Next Meeting is August 23rd, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

Approved Minutes Submitted on behalf of the Paxton Light Commission

by Tara Rondeau on 8/23/22 Tara Rondeau

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