

Paxton Municipal Light Department
578 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612-1300
Light Commission Meeting
October 26, 2022

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairwoman Orell at 5:30 p.m.
Members present: Emerson Wheeler, Yvette Orell, and Tara Rondeau, Manager. Public
Attending: None.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Wheeler motioned to approve the agenda; Orell seconded the motion.
Motion passed 2-0.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Wheeler motioned to approve the September 27, 2022, minutes; Orell
seconded. Motion passed 2-0.
- IV. Public Comment: None
- V. Managers' Report:
 - A. Operations and Electrical Systems Updates:
 1. The linemen:
 - a. Performed streetlight maintenance on Pleasant St. and Shenandoah Dr.
 - b. Continued trimming on Indian Hill Rd.
 - c. Covered service wires for a contractor on Colony Lane.
 - d. Replaced an underground streetlight on Pierce Circle. The original light was
damaged in a MVA. Waiting on Police Report for more information.
 - e. Set a transformer, ran the primary and secondary wire, and energized a service
on a new construction home on Suomi St.
 - f. Pulled in new tree wire and removed the old primary wire and hardware on
Rockland Rd.
 - g. Trimmed branches on the primary wires on West St.
 2. They performed switching with National Grid.
 3. The Linemen cleaned the batteries at the substation, checked their water levels and
removed leaves on the property.
 4. They continued installing AMI meters.
 5. Outages:
 - October 1st: Bel Arbor Dr.: A transformer blew affecting 7 customers, lasting 2
hours.
 - October 10th: Briarcliff Lane: Replaced an overloaded transformer. Affected 6
customers, lasting 2 hours.
 - October 11th: Asnebumskit Rd.: A fuse blew affecting 1 customer, lasting 45
minutes.
 - October 15th: Pleasant St.: Report of no power to one home. Their breaker had
tripped.
 - B. Office and Operations
 1. PMLD's accounts receivable 90 days past due balance is \$6,141. Last year at this same

time, it was \$13,210.

2. Last round of shutoff notices before the winter moratorium went out. There were forty-five 18-day notices and seventeen 3-day notices resulting in only one shutoff.
 3. The Manager and Billing Clerk met with a representative from Badger to discuss billing issues on the water depts. commercial accounts. It was discovered that in some instances the water dept. is only replacing the ert inside the meter and not the actual meter. PMLD was not aware of this and did not have the proper information to adjust in the billing system. Each account was verified with the Badger representative for accuracy.
 4. The Manager attended the Northeast Subregion Infrastructure Summit to discuss the states initiatives and grants on improvement of the infrastructure supporting water, transportation, and energy.
 5. For the last two months, PMLD has charged a PPA per kWh of \$.015 and \$.0275. The Manager is tracking this monthly and responding accordingly. In a poll of local Munis, each Muni is handling the increased energy costs in a similar manner. Ashburnham has increased its PPA to \$.05, Groton raised its base rate 15% and currently has a PPA of \$.02, West Boylston and Templeton will be adding a PPA charge as well. MMWEC provided the Manager with their most recent 6-year power cost projections. PMLD's revised projections for 2023 are \$700,000 higher due to an increase in our energy costs.
- C. July Financials: Operating revenue increased over June by \$68,000. Power costs increased by \$73,200. Overall net income increased from June by \$46,500 and non-operating income increased by \$50,850. These increases can be attributed to an increase in residential electrical sales and payments received from some MVA's. At the end of July, there was \$22,625 left in PPA liability.

D. MMWEC Updates-

Millstone: Unit 3 for the months of July and August operated at full or near full capacity.

Stonybrook: Stonybrook Intermediate units generated 23,837 MWh in July.

Berkshire Wind: For the month of September, production was historically lower than usual. This is due to Turbine 6a still being out of service.

Eagle Creek: 3-month production from July-Sept. was 9800 MWh lower than the same time last year. Pembroke Hydro and Gregg's Falls have been offline due to insufficient river flow because of the drought in NH.

Seabrook: Nothing to report.

NEPOOL: the NEPOOL all hours 12 month moving average is double what it was a year ago. This is due to an escalation in natural gas prices and geopolitical issues that have resulted in a shortage of delivered fuel to Europe creating US export opportunities to deliver natural gas from what otherwise would go into storage, further compounding in increase in energy prices.

Hydro Contracts: MMWEC is working on renewing the Canadian hydroelectric supply contract which expires in 2025.

Batteries: MMWEC has chosen to work with Delorean on the battery storage projects. They provided PMLD with 2 options. One is for a 20-year joint agreement with a 56/44 split on the transmission and capacity savings with Delorean. The second option is for PMLD to buy a battery outright. Each option provides the 20 years projected savings. There is increased savings, less risk, and no out of pocket costs to PMLD with the joint agreement. The Manager feels that

the solar, battery and wind industry is very volatile right now. Companies are popping up and folding within a few years so the no risk option would be the best for PMLD. The board agreed.

Pooled Loan: MMWEC has a pooled loan program that members can utilize for capital projects or customer incentives. They are currently working with the DOE to get a grant that would cover the interest costs on the loans. MMWEC needs to know if PMLD would like to participate in the pooled loan program and for how much.

Orell made a motion that PMLD participate in the pooled loan program offered through MMWEC borrowing \$600,000. Wheeler seconded the motion.

Vote:

Orell "aye"

Wheeler "aye"

Motion passed 2-0.

The manager will put together a program packet that provides the terms, qualifications, restrictions, and caps.

E. AMI Updates: To date, 859 meters have been installed.

VI. Fiber Updates: The Manager has an upcoming meeting with Matrix to discuss their timeline for providing PMLD with the results of the feasibility study. The Manager is attending on Nov. 3rd, 2022, the Regional Fiber Connect 2022 conference being held in Columbus OH. The manager hopes to get a better understanding of the pros and cons and risks in taking on fiber broadband.

VII. Other Business:

1. National Grid prices are expected to be \$.48 to \$.50 per kWh this winter. Even with an added PPA charge this winter, PMLD will be anywhere from 50-65% less than NG.
2. The Manager has received word from the State that they will renew the Substation Lease Agreement for another twenty-five years at the same terms. The BOS will have to sign the agreement.
3. PMLD will be participating in the 2nd annual "Light Your Truck" on December 3rd.
4. Benoit read over the packet of information provided to the board ahead of the meeting, since he could not attend, he shared comments, concerns, and questions with the Manager. Benoit supports the joint agreement with Delorean for a battery. He wants the manager to check and see if Delorean would provide training to the Fire Dept. on battery fires as well as provide the materials needed to put one out. Benoit is also in support of the pooled loan program. He suggested a newsletter go out with an explanation to the rate payers about the PPA charges and increased costs. The rest of the board agreed.

VIII. Adjourn: Orell motioned to adjourn; Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The Next Meeting is November 29th, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

Approved Minutes Submitted on behalf of the Paxton Light Commission

by Tara Rondeau on 11/29/22 Tara Rondeau

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