

Paxton Municipal Light Department
578 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612-1300
Light Commission Meeting
November 29, 2022

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Benoit at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Michael Benoit, Emerson Wheeler, Yvette Orell, and Tara Rondeau, Manager. Public Attending: None.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Orell motioned to approve the agenda; Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Orell motioned to approve the October 26, 2022, minutes; Wheeler seconded. Benoit abstained from the vote. Motion passed 2-0.
- IV. Public Comment: None
- V. Managers' Report:
 - A. Operations and Electrical Systems Updates:
 1. The linemen:
 - a. Pulled an old pole on Brooks Road.
 - b. Continued trimming on Asnebumskit Rd.
 - c. Relocated a transformer for better access and upgraded a house service on Asnebumskit Rd.
 - d. Performed streetlight maintenance on 2 lights on Pleasant St.
 - e. Updated a house service on Richards Ave.
 - f. Set the poles, ran wire and energized the lights at the baseball field for the Recreation Dept.
 - g. Reangled the light at the substation after a complaint of it being too bright when at the stop light on Suomi St.
 - h. Continued the upgrading of the AMI meters.
 2. They picked up 4 utility poles from Holden Light Dept. We ordered with them to save on shipping costs.
 3. The linemen put up the holiday lights and wreaths on the common for the Town.
 4. They got all of the trucks inspected.
 5. Outages: Over the last month, we received one call for an outage that turned out to be in Leicester.
 - B. Office and Operations
 1. PMLD's accounts receivable 90 days past due balance is \$4,759. Last year at this same time, it was \$9,529.
 2. Liens this year total \$3,624. We have one outstanding from last year for \$190.
 3. PMLD was closed on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Everyone used either vacation time or personal time.
 4. The Manager met with the water Superintendent to confirm accuracy of the commercial meters.

5. This past months' billing had a PPA charge of \$.005. PPA liability is at \$116,929. An error was found on the PPA spreadsheet, that once corrected, increased the liability. This will help PMLD going into the next few months which are predicted to be extremely high energy bills. The manager suggested that if the board wanted the liability off the books for the year end closing, a small credit could be given on the next billing. Benoit suggested that it wasn't wise if the energy bills will be so high. Everyone agreed.
 6. The auditors completed their preliminary audit. Everything looked good but they did not have any figures from WCRR for the pensions.
- C. August Financials: Operating revenue decreased over July by \$42,343. Power costs decreased by \$4,262. Overall net income decreased from July by \$112,500 and non-operating income decreased by \$54,260. These decreases can be attributed to a decrease in electrical sales in all rate classes as well as some investment losses.
- D. MMWEC Updates- Nothing new to report on the projects. MMWEC has not given an update on the battery project or the pooled loan program.

Winter Reliability: MMWEC provided an update on the issues surrounding winter reliability. Their memo stated that MMWEC shares ISO New England's concerns that the region has a reliability vulnerability in the winter. Under the low probability of a prolonged cold snap this winter, load shedding may occur. This risk is derived primarily by a reliance on gas-fired generation to meet demand needs during times of high demand caused by extremely cold winter weather. During these periods, natural gas availability is often reduced for electric generators as it is needed to meet heating demand needs from gas utilities. This lack of fuel for electric generation can reduce electric generation supply at a time when it is needed most. In MMWEC's opinion, it is too late to come up with solutions for this winter. Their memo outlined the operating procedures that would be taken by ISO, MMWEC and Public Power if load shedding was required.

- E. AMI Updates: To date, 920 meters have been installed.
- VI. Fiber Updates: The Manager had a conference call with Matrix on November 21st. They have completed the mapping and zoning of Paxton. Their next step is to finalize the financials for the proforma. These should be completed by mid-December.
- VII. Other Business:
1. The BOS signed the substation land lease. The manager is working on a hazard assessment of the property which is required by the state.
 2. The manager met with the Emergency Coordinator and the TA to discuss the winter reliability issues. A second meeting was proposed to have time to get a better understanding of how other towns will be handling these risks.
 3. Steve Doucette reached out to the car insurance company who was giving us a hard time on paying their MVA claim. They agreed to pay in full. We may need to enlist Steve once again for a contractor who has not paid the balance of a bill. PMLD discovered that the property was already transferred out of the contractor's name.
 4. Wheeler asked if remote meetings were still allowed and whether every one of the board members had to be remote or if some could be present and others remote. The manager will reach out to the TA for an answer.
- VIII. Adjourn: Orell motioned to adjourn; Wheeler seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

The Next Meeting is December 15th, 2022, at 5:30 pm.

Approved Minutes Submitted on behalf of the Paxton Light Commission

by Tara Rondeau on 12/15/22 Tara Rondeau

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