

*Paxton Municipal Light Department*  
*578 Pleasant Street*  
*Paxton, MA 01612-1300*  
*Light Commission Meeting*  
*August 10, 2021*

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wheeler at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Emerson Wheeler, Yvette Orell, Mike Benoit, and Tara Rondeau, Manager. Public Attending: None.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Orell motioned to approve the agenda; Benoit seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Benoit motioned to approve the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 minutes; Orell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- IV. Public Comment: None
- V. Managers' Report:
  - A. Operations and Electrical Systems Updates:
    1. The linemen have completed trimming on Mower St and trimmed the trees at the Water Tank. They are continuing to trim and chip on Nanigan Road.
    2. They:
      - a. Ran in new primary wire on Grove St. and removed old primary.
      - b. Energized and swapped over transformers for the new primary wire on Grove St.
      - c. Ran in new primary wire on Davidson Road.
      - d. Upgraded transformers on Highland Ave and Pond St.
      - e. Replaced some failing meters.
      - f. Upgraded primary wire on Mower St.
      - g. Installed new secondary service to a garage on Suomi St.
      - h. Repaired streetlights at Pole #56 Pleasant St and pole # 4 on Larchwood Rd.
      - i. Removed trees from lines on Holden Rd, Pleasant St., Asnebumskit, Marshall St. and Pleasant St.
      - j. Removed a dead tree on South St.
      - k. Removed branches on the wires on Walbridge Rd., Pleasant St., Burtenmar Circle, Squantum Rd., Walnut St., and Highland St.
    3. The linemen worked with the DPW to fix the guard rails at the Paxton Center School.
    4. They are continuing to renumber utility poles throughout the town on rainy days.
    5. Outages:
      - a. June 17<sup>th</sup>: Brigham Rd and Brooks Rd had blown fuse at pole #66. Power was back on in half hour.
      - b. July 17<sup>th</sup>: Pumping Station on Grove St had half power due to a bad breaker. Power restored within the hour.

- c. July 27<sup>th</sup>: South St. storm took down a tree, on wires. Affected 52 customers. Power was restored in 1 hr. and 10 mins.
- d. July 30<sup>th</sup>: Jonelle St. affecting 3 customers, squirrel popped a fuse at Pole #36 on Pleasant St. Power back on in 35 mins.

#### B. Office and Operations

1. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the office staff sent out the first round of shut off notices to 39 customers for non-payment. In the end, there was only 1 voluntary shutoff from a landlord who was evicting the tenants.
2. After the next billing cycle, on August 9<sup>th</sup>, the office staff sent shutoff notices to 49 customers for non-payment.
3. PMLD's accounts receivable 90 days past due balance is \$22, 322. Last year at this same time it was \$56, 397.
4. There have been no complaints, comments or concerns about the changes that have been made to the rates.
5. Due to manufacturing delays caused by COVID, Landis & Gyr is having a hard time getting the modular chips needed for their gateways. The first gateway is now projected to be in the end of Sept. The AMI meter install is on hold for now.
6. All paperwork has been submitted for the state grant for the EV Charger at AMC.
7. JJ Kane sold the 2009 pickup truck sold at auction for \$5017.50.

#### C. Financials April 2021:

April revenue decreased from March by \$12,402. This is due to a decrease in residential and small commercial sales. PMLD's purchase power costs decreased by \$11,000. These numbers do not reflect any movement on the investment accounts held with the treasurer since those are now quarterly.

#### D. MMWEC Project Updates:

**Berkshire Wind:** The year-to-date availability factor for June was 81.79% and the unit capacity factor was 15.48%. During the week of June 21<sup>st</sup>, Eversource performed work on the Partridge station installing a new transformer, this resulted in a weeklong shutdown, decreasing availability and capacity. To avoid issues like this in the future, Eversource installed 2 manual air brake switches which would allow Berkshire Wind to stay powered on during future planned maintenance etc. The overall production for June was lower than the historical average monthly production, it was 1671 Mwh vs 2112 Mwh.

**Seabrook:** The year-to-date availability factor for June was 100% and the unit capacity factor was 100%. Seabrook operated at full power for the entire month of June. The next scheduled refueling outage is October 2021 with an estimated 24-day duration. Payments to the decommissioning fund have been suspended since the fund value exceeds the forecasted decommissioning costs.

**Millstone:** The year-to-date availability factor for June was 71.04% and the unit capacity factor was 68.97%. On June 10th, Unit 3 entered a scheduled forced outage to replace a reactor coolant pump seal and to replace the #11 turbine bearing. It was down for 11 days but work was completed and it was operational during the heatwave at the end of June, which had the highest loads to date in 2021 for New England. The next scheduled refueling outage is planned for April 2022.

**Stony Brook:** The year-to-date availability factor for the peaking plant was 99.54% and the intermediate unit was 99.4%. The unit capacity factor for peaking was .43% and intermediate was 9.35%. In June, the intermediate units were dispatched 8 times, with combined operating hours of 272.8. The peaking units ran twice, for a combined time of 7.35 hours.

**NYPA:** Agreements have been reached, which are essentially unchanged from our prior agreements. The NYPA Board of Trustees must first approve the agreements before they go to the governor. The new agreement term is through 2032.

VI. Other Business:

A. Code of Conduct Documents

PMLD's legal counsel reviewed the Code of Conduct documents that were provided to each of the Light commissioners by the Town of Paxton. Mr. Doucette drafted new documents that changed the wording from the Town of Paxton to the Paxton Municipal Light Department. All other content and wording was not changed. Each of the board members felt that the original documents did not reflect the light departments autonomy.

A motion to adopt the Code of Conduct documents presented by legal counsel was moved by Benoit and seconded by Orell.

Vote to accept:

Wheeler: "aye"

Benoit: "aye"

Orell: "aye"

Motion passed 3-0. The Board signed the documents and asked the Manager to scan them into record and then send them up to the Town Clerk.

B. The generator at the substation has been remotely turned on by MMWEC during projected high peaks. They hit the peak for the months of May and June but missed it in July due to a mechanical failure. Milton Cat will pay for the loss.

C. Cybersecurity. The Manager checked with the Town, and we are covered under our current insurance policy. The manager is not sure if the coverage is enough considering the recent attacks and threats to the energy sector. The manager is attending a PURMA conference at the end of Sept. which will be about cybersecurity and presented by the FBI. The manager will follow up to ensure PMLD has enough coverage and protections in place.

Benoit mentioned the use of dual authentication as a possibility.

D. The Manager and foreman met with the Fire Chief in Spencer to discuss the possibility of PMLD running a fiber line for their emergency services. A further meeting with more details was needed.

This brought up the possibility of PMLD providing internet to the residents of Paxton. The Manager was already looking into the idea and has upcoming meetings with general managers who already provide internet service to their customers. Benoit suggested hiring a consultant to get overall costs, benefits, and rate of return.

E. Benoit asked the manager if MEAM still had a small summary booklet of MGL Chapter 164. The manager stated she would look into it.

VII. Adjourn-Benoit motioned to adjourn, Orell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

The Next Meeting is September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Approved Minutes Submitted on behalf of the Paxton Light Commission

by Tara Rondeau on 9/15/21 Tara Rondeau

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