

*Paxton Municipal Light Department  
578 Pleasant Street  
Paxton, MA 01612-1300  
Light Commission Meeting  
September 14, 2021*

2021 OCT 14 A 10:52

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wheeler at 5:41 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 August 10<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 Nanigan Road. They are now working on Burtenmar Circle and West St.
  2. They:
    - a. Upgraded a service on Keep Ave.
    - b. Changed out a bad meter on Crestwood Road.
    - c. Installed a streetlight on pole #25 Hill St, per the BOS.
    - d. Repaired streetlights on Asnebumskit, Pleasant St., and Marshall St.
    - e. Pulled old poles on Pleasant St and Howard Ave.
    - f. Installed new URD service on Wildewood Drive.
    - g. Checked out high amperage on Grove St. Found meter wasn't grounded.
    - h. Disconnected the generator and transformer down the substation.
    - i. Cleaned up overgrowth down the substation while waiting on Milton Cat techs.
    - j. Removed trees from wires on Marshall St., Laurel St., and Old Lantern Circle.
    - k. Removed vines from guy wires on Laurel St., Whitney Dr., Asnibumskit, and Ashwood Road.
  3. The linemen worked with National Grid to switch the substation back online. National Grid experienced an outage on the highlines requiring them to shut down the substation and switch over our feed to Rutland. This caused a quick blip in the middle of the night for Paxton residents. National Grid did not follow the proper protocol and inform PMLD of the switch. This has been addressed.
  4. They are continuing to renumber utility poles throughout the town on rainy and very hot, humid days.
  5. There were a lot of vacations in the past month and one lineman has COVID. He did not get it while working but on vacation, so the rest of the staff was not exposed.

## 6. Outages:

- a. August 21<sup>st</sup>: Indian Hill, Squantum Rd., and Nipmuck Rd. A tree limb on the wires blew a fuse. This impacted 44 customers lasting 1.5 hours.
- b. August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Grove St. Tree came down taking out a home owners service.
- c. September 1<sup>st</sup>: Knollwood Drive, a fuse was blown by a squirrel, affected one customer and lasted 30 minutes.
- d. September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Davis Hill, tree on the lines blew a head fuse. Outage lasted 1.5 hours.
- e. September 6<sup>th</sup>: Camp Street, customer had ½ power. URD failure. The linemen ran a temporary OVH service until the homeowner could decide how they would like to proceed. Outage lasted 2.5 hours.

## B. Office and Operations

1. Most recent round of shut off notices went out to 48 customers. On the day of shutoffs only 1 customer was shutoff due to nonpayment.
2. PMLD's accounts receivable 90 days past due balance is \$12, 241. This is down \$10,000 from July thanks to the hard work of the office staff. Last year at this same time, it was \$55, 155.
3. 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. Landis & Gyr shipped all the meters to PMLD. The manager refused the delivery to delay the start of their warranty. The meters are currently warehoused in Stuart Irby's warehouse until needed.
4. The funds, \$3780.00, from the state grant for the AMC EV charger have been received. After involving our lawyer, Plymouth Rock finally paid their invoice of \$13,496 for the Rte. 122 MV accident. Verizon has paid their invoices for pole replacements. It was minimal at \$3, 108.00, mostly due to the lack of work completed in 2020 due to COVID restraints. The manager is working on updating the contract with Verizon. The current contract has been in place since 2014.
5. The manager applied for a safety grant through the insurance company, MIIA. If we receive the grant, it will be used to buy arc flash face shields, personal voltage detectors, clamp on digital meters, new 40' hot sticks and a load break tool.

## C. Financials May 2021:

April revenue decreased from April by \$5,633. Operating cash decreased by \$64,854. \$39, 052 was for the new pickup truck and the rest was for the cost of the generator rental at the substation. Non-operating income decreased by \$9,133 which is mainly due to investment losses and fewer jobbing's. The truck funds will be replenished from our depreciation account in June. PMLD's purchase power costs decreased by \$14,000.

Mike Benoit asked the manager for more information on the income statement since it reflects almost a half million-dollar loss versus this same time last year. That is due to the PPA charges from last year versus the lowered PPA this year. Last year it was \$.025 and this year it was \$.01. That totals \$173,000. There have also been the generator costs this year that PMLD did not have last year totaling \$62,000. And lastly, for budgeting purposes the

manager added a recurring monthly journal entry equal to last year's pension expense adjustment per the actuary. This was done to avoid a large end of the year adjustment, which was \$234,435 last year. To date, the entries have totaled \$105,500.

D. MMWEC Project Updates: There are no new project updates.

MMWEC has completed a "Roadmap to 2050" for PMLD. It details their projections for sales, the current power portfolio %'s and projected power %'s as well as their recommendations for PMLD's future portfolio diversity.

Starting in 2022, all MLP's will be required to provide the MDEP with a GGES policy (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard). PMLD needs to set a policy that outlines what types of energy and technologies PMLD should be acquiring and the speed in which we hope to reach the states targets of 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040 and 100% by 2050. Currently PMLD's power portfolio is 56% from non-carbon emitting electrical sales.

The manager is going to ask MMWEC to present their roadmap to the board along with their recommendations and their financial impacts. The Board was agreeable to MMWEC presenting in October. Before then, the manager will provide the board with "Roadmap to 2050" for PMLD.

E. Manager's Vehicle: The Ford Explorer needs roughly \$3000 worth of work done; it has 140,000 miles. The manager would like to use some of capital budgeted for this year's meters to purchase a new vehicle. The board agreed.

F. Fiber-Internet: The manager spent some time at Sterling Light department discussing their fiber internet project with the Sterling manager. Sterling is just in the beginning phases of rolling it out to their customers. They are getting their internet from Shrewsbury Light for wholesale and providing it to their customers in tiered packages depending on the GB size. The manger would like to send out a survey to the Paxton residents to enquire about interest in such a project before contacting any consultants. The board agreed to the survey and was also in unison that they would want an experienced consultant to provide further information.

VI. Executive Session: under MGL Chapter 30, Section 21a, 3

Orell made a motion that the board go into Executive Session to discuss union negotiations between PMLD and the Local 486 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Benoit seconded the motion. The board will reconvene in open session before adjourning.

Roll call vote to enter Executive Session:

Orell: 'aye'

Benoit: "aye"

Wheeler: "aye"

Motion was agreed upon 3-0 to enter Executive Session.

Benoit made a motion to leave Executive Session. Wheeler seconded the motion.

Roll call vote to leave Executive Session:

Orell: "aye"

Wheeler: "aye"

Benoit: "aye"

Motion passed 3-0. The board reconvened in open session.

VII. Other Business:

A. The substation generator hit the peak for the months of May, June and August. Due to a mechanical failure, the July peak was missed. Milton Cat will be refunding PMLD for the July loss and any of the linemen's overtime due to their mechanical issues. MMWEC is handling the billing and will true up with Milton Cat in October. The generator will be removed in the next week or so.

B. Orell wanted "Discussion of Managers Contract" added to the next agenda.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

The Next Meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Approved Minutes Submitted on behalf of the Paxton Light Commission

by Tara Rondeau on 10/12/21 Tara Rondeau