

Paxton Municipal Light Department
578 Pleasant Street
Paxton, MA 01612-1300
Light Commission Special Meeting
November 14, 2023

- I. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Orell at 5:30 p.m. Members present: Yvette Orell, Emerson Wheeler, Michael Benoit, and Tara Rondeau, Manager. Public Attending: None.
- II. Approval of Agenda: Wheeler motioned to approve the agenda; Benoit seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Wheeler motioned to approve the October 10, 2023, meeting minutes; Benoit seconded. Motion passed 3-0.
- IV. Public Comment: None
- V. Manager's Report
 - A. Operations and Electric Systems Updates:
 1. The linemen:
 - Replaced the bulbs at the Baseball Field.
 - Ran URD pipe, set the transformer pad, pulled in the wire, and installed the transformer for a new construction home on West St.
 - Tightened the guy wires on Pole #13 Pond St.
 - Replaced an overloaded transformer on Crestwood Rd, and installed a new one to split the load that was on the prior transformer.
 - Replaced a streetlight head on Boynton Parkway.
 - Replaced PMLD's LED light with an LED received as a loaner from Hull Light Dept.
 - Trimmed trees on South St., Boynton Parkway, Central Ave., Spring St., Pine St., Walnut St., Davidson Rd., and Birch St.
 - Switched with National Grid who was experiencing a transmission issue. PMLD was fed from the Rutland line.
 2. They mowed at the substation and cleaned up the leaves.
 3. The linemen responded to a call of a strange box attached to one of our poles. Turned out to be a camera installed by the state police. Paxton PD was aware. The issue is that PMLD was not consulted, and the electricity was connected directly to our lines without our permission.
 - Outages:
 - October 22nd: Brooks Road. A squirrel on the line blew a fuse. Lasted 50 mins, affecting 23 customers.
 - November 3rd: Crestwood Rd. and Asnebumskit Rd. Transformer failed. Lasted 40 mins affecting 18 customers.
 - B. Office and Operations
 1. 90 days past due balance is \$4,362.83. Last year at this time, it was \$7,324.83.

2. Lien demand notices went out. There were 6 for electric, 23 for trash and 29 for water. They are due the week of the 20th. Currently there are 3 electric outstanding, which look like they will be liened at year end.
3. The new Verizon account for our main phone lines has been made tax exempt and we will be receiving a \$17.49 refund. Still working on Microsoft.
4. PMLD has been diligent about asking those who attach anything to our poles to remove them. There have been no issues. But, one customer has reattached items after we have spoken with them and sent letters. The Manager would like to set a fine for those who attached after receiving a warning. The board feels that a fine does not need to be established, instead they should pay for the lineman's time to come out and remove the items. The Board asked the Manager to draft the policy.
5. A draft agreement was submitted to the Town of Spencer for streetlight maintenance.
6. PMLD has agreed to the finalized contracts between PMLD, MMWEC, and DeLorean. The contracts are now with DeLorean's legal. If all goes well, DeLorean is looking to schedule our battery deliveries at the same time as Holden.
7. Cherie is still out. She is utilizing FMLA which will expire on December 29th. Matt is picking up some extra hours to assist Amy.
8. Thanks to the TA and S. Lombardi, PMLD is now getting a dumpster through Pellegrino. We will be saving \$80 a month.
9. The Manager is working on the preliminary budget and the rates.

C. August Financials

Operating revenue increased from July by \$69,252. Power costs decreased by \$34,691. Non-Operating income increased by \$9,191. Net income increased by \$102,526. AMC, residential, and small commercial had increases in sales while other rate classes sales were flat.

D. MMWEC Updates

The Fall Joint Action Newsletter just came out today. The Manager was not able to read it before the meeting. There is no new information to report on any of the projects.

The Manager has a zoom meeting this Thursday with ISO, National Grid, Eversource, and Leeward about a proposed large battery project on Rockland Ave. MMWEC will also be on the call representing PMLD. Benoit stated that he had heard about that project from the Rutland Fire Dept. Chief who said that Leeward had met with the Rutland Town Administrator and the Fire Dept. about the project. This was interesting news since the whole project is in Paxton and not Rutland. No one has reached out to anyone in Paxton. The Manager has many concerns about this project not only from the standpoint of electricity usage and sales but for the Town as well. This project would be the biggest in the state of Massachusetts.

At the most recent Central Mass. Managers's meeting concerns were brought up about the leadership and direction of MMWEC.

E. AMI Updates: To date, 1450 meters have been installed. Nothing new to report.

VI. Net Generation: Cap, Policies Review

Before the meeting the Board was provided with a spreadsheet that provided over the last year, what the current revenue generated by six solar customers was and what it could have been under a different rate structure. The Board tabled this topic until a later date when all rate

classes structures were discussed.

VII. Executive Session under M.G. L. c. 30A, 21, 10. Benoit made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential, competitively sensitive information through MMWEC which could adversely impact their ability to conduct business. Wheeler seconded the motion.

Roll call to enter Executive Session:

Benoit: "aye"

Wheeler: "aye"

Orell: "aye"

Entered Executive session at 6:32 PM.

Exited Executive Session at 6:48 pm. Returned to Regular Session.

VIII. Other Business:

1. PMLD will once again be participating in the town's Light Your Truck event.
2. We have some outstanding MVA claims that we will be submitting to Doucette at year end if we do not receive payment before then. For one of the accidents, the insurance information that we were given was not accurate. Benoit suggested reaching out to Eva at the PD and asking her if she can track down the correct information.
3. Auditors are in next Monday, November 20th.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

The Next Meeting is December 12th, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Approved Minutes Submitted on behalf of the Paxton Light Commission

by Tara Rondeau on 12/20/23 Tara Rondeau