

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 9, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Present were: Commissioner/Chairman - Jim Whitman, Commissioner - Chris Conway, Commissioner - Rick Rys and PMLD General Manager - Brian Allen. Also present EAC Member – Phil Gott.

Agenda:

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to accept the agenda as presented and add an additional item to discuss wind energy sales/purchase options under Other Business.

Meeting Minutes:

- ***December 12, 2018 Public Meeting Minutes*** - The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to amend the minutes to include more detailed information about the options discussed during the conference call with NextEra. Mr. Allen will include the written summary of each option Commissioner Rys put together. A copy will be placed on file and will be available online at www.pmlld.com.

General Manager's Report:

- ***Current Bank Balances*** – Mr. Allen presented the Board with the bank account balances report dated January 9, 2019. A copy will be placed on file. The Citizen's Bank Operating account has a balance of \$388K, the Depreciation account has a total balance of \$1M, the MMDT Rate Stabilization account has a balance of \$834K, the Unibank Operating account has a balance of \$25K, the Meter Deposit account has a balance of \$35K. As of January 9, 2018, PMLD has \$136K listed for vendor accounts payable and is waiting for \$284K in electric customer account receivables. All bills are paid in a timely manner.
- ***2018 Operating Budget Review*** – Mr. Allen presented the Board members with a copy of the 2018 working budget analysis spreadsheet dated 01/08/2019. A copy will be placed on file. The cashflow figures were through November 2018 with a target of 91.65%. Mr. Allen stated that revenues are at 97.58% and expenses are at 93.56%. Mr. Allen informed the Board that the reimbursement from Tallahassee FL for storm work (\$47K) was delayed. On Tuesday they requested additional financial paperwork (W-9, electronic transfer ACH information). He anticipates payment to be received before the end of the month. The Board had no other questions or concerns.

- ***PMLD Generator*** – Mr. Allen explained that the 38-minute power outage to the southern section of town on January 2nd, which included the PMLD building, revealed an issue with PMLD's generator. During the outage the generator turned off and after a service call the following day it was confirmed that the load of the building has exceeded the generator's capacity. Additionally, this past year the generator has had an increase in repair costs which is attributed to its age. In 2008, right before the ice storm, the 30 KVA generator was installed. Mr. Allen has requested quotes for a new 48KVA and 60 KVA units to replace the 30 KVA. Commissioner Conway suggested offering the 30 KVA back to Bigelow Electric as a trade-in towards a new one. The existing concrete pad and transfer switch will still work with a new generator.
- ***January 2, 2019 Power Outage*** – Mr. Allen explained that the 5:15 PM power outage on January 2nd was due to the reclosure on Mountain Rd shutting off power after the sensitive earth setting detected an issue; it serves one-third of the town - the southern side. The line crew responded to the outage, checked the line, reset the reclosure device and restored power within 40 minutes. Mr. Allen reminded the Board of PMLD's standard operating procedure for responding to and communicating details of outages. Once the crew determines the cause of an outage they can determine an approximate amount of time to repair it, if the outage will last more than an hour dispatch would be notified and a message would be placed on the PMLD phone system. Outages lasting more than 2 hours would prompt personnel to additionally create a CodeRed message to be sent out to townspeople who are affected and PMLD would post that same detail on social media applications like NextDoor and Facebook.
- ***PMLD Road Work Police Detail Issue*** – Mr. Allen confirmed that a meeting has been scheduled by the Town Administrator for Monday, January 28, 2019. Representatives from PMLD, the Police Department, Police Union and other Town Department Heads will be attending the meeting.
- ***24/7 Wind Turbine Monitoring through MMWEC*** – Mr. Allen explained that MMWEC has been successfully monitoring the Berkshire wind turbines 24/7 for some time now and he met with MMWEC's engineer this morning to discuss providing that same service for the two wind turbines here in Princeton. MMWEC confirmed their ability to work with our scada system. Mr. Allen confirmed with Ayacht Technology Solutions that they can now link the PMLD wind turbines through a fiber connection and supply the scada equipment to MMWEC with real-time data. Mr. Allen is waiting for cost quotes for the service and the installation. MMWEC has 24/7 staff that would keep the machines up and running during times when PMLD staff is not monitoring them (nights, weekends, holidays) and turn them off during over-production times to avoid ISO negative pricing fees.
- ***Municipal Solar Incentive Program*** – Mr. Allen is still waiting on the DOER's roll out of the program.

Other Business:

- ***MMWEC's Inquiry for Purchasing Wind Energy*** – Mr. Allen explained that he went back to MMWEC and informed them that the Board was not interested in selling the Wind RECs along with the wind energy. The deal could not be had without the Wind RECs. Commissioner Rys stated that he would like to figure out how to keep the RECs and wind energy in Princeton.
- ***Selling & Purchasing Wind Energy through MMWEC*** – Commissioner Rys confirmed that we could purchase wind energy from MMWEC, however there would be a fee to purchase the energy, the contract with NextEra may have to be re-negotiated, increasing the price PMLD pays for energy and the locked pricing schedule for future years would be no more. Mr. Allen explained that he had previously asked NextEra about keeping and purchasing the wind energy and their position has remained the same each time. Commissioner Rys acknowledged that the Board had already agreed not to pursue the idea, he stated he was just asking for clarification.
- ***Wind Farm Load/Production/Capacity Data*** – Mr. Allen presented the Board with the 2018 monthly data for wind production, load and capacity data by month.
- ***Solar Customer Generation Received Data*** – The Board received the monthly total of megawatts received from 'grandfathered' solar customers. The Board agreed to include all solar customers going forward, not just the 12 customers that were grandfathered and are paid for their generation. The Board would like to update the Edifice billing system to pull and track the 'received' generation for all solar customers with no changes to the printed bills.
- ***Press Release to Announce No Change in Electric Rates*** – The Board reminded Mr. Allen to put together a press release for the Landmark newspaper and Redemption Rock News newspaper to announce that there will be no change in the electric rate in 2019 for Princeton ratepayers and share specific facts to support that action.

At 6:45 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn the meeting.

***Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Trudeau
Recording Secretary***