

PRINCETON MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
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**BOARD OF LIGHT COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 15, 2017  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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**The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.**

**Present were: Commissioner/Chairman, Jim Whitman, Commissioner, Chris Conway, Commissioner Rick Rys and PMLD General Manager, Brian Allen.**

**Agenda:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the November 15, 2017 agenda as presented.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to approve the October 18, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.

**PMLD Financials:**

- **Bank Balances** – Mr. Allen presented the Board with an explanation of the bank balances report dated November 15, 2017 (a copy will be placed on file). The Citizen's Bank Operating account has a balance of \$146K, the Depreciation account has a total balance of \$899K, the MMDT Rate Stabilization account has a balance of \$816K, the Unibank Operating account has a balance of \$6K, the Meter Deposit account has a balance of \$34K. As of November 15, 2017, PMLD has \$23K listed for vendor accounts payable and is waiting for \$228K in electric customer account receivables. All bills are paid in a timely manner.
- **2017 Year-to-Date Operating Budget Review** – Mr. Allen presented the Board members with a copy of the working budget analysis spreadsheet dated 11/15/2017 (a copy will be placed on file). The target measure for revenue and expenses through September is 75.06%. Revenues are currently at 78.18% and expenses are at 74.02%. Mr. Allen stated that there are no significant financial concerns at this time. The Wind Farm expenses are at 85.85% because of unanticipated costs relating to equipment failures and replacements which were discussed last month. The converter has arrived and is in inventory. The training and safety expenses are slightly high at 86.42% because the 2-year recertification training performed by a Wisconsin company in tower rescue was performed this year as required by Insurance and

OSHA. The building and office expenses are slightly high at 84.17% because the of \$9K spent on community events which were booked in this category, but are offset by the \$15K reallocated from the vehicle sales this past summer. Mr. Allen also shared that PMLD has donated an additional \$14,000 in time, supplies and equipment to the town for other work. Truck & Transportation expenses are at 91.14% due to paying for the new pick-up (\$28K) instead of offsetting it with the \$15K money received for the vehicle sales. Everyone acknowledged that some of the supplies purchased for community events will be reused year after year for future events.

- **2018 Proposed Budget** - Mr. Allen stated that the new budget plan will be presented at the December meeting along with the 5-year plan. Copies of the information will be provided via email prior to the meeting.
- ***Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) Meeting Review*** – Mr. Allen shared the highlights of the November MEAM meeting that he and Commissioner Rys attended in Littleton. The Clean Energy Standard (CES) was discussed and the managers reviewed the confidential draft legislation that is being written to assist the Commonwealth in achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Concerns were discussed regarding the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) desire to enforce regulations onto Municipal Light Plants (MLPs) to meet the CES and insure their energy purchasing is at 7% by 2029 and 80% by 2050. Mr. Allen presented the Board with a copy of PMLD's energy purchased through NextEra and explained that PMLD is currently at 14.58% with hydroelectric, biomass, wood, solar and wind, which may meet today's CES. MEAM representatives are still looking into qualifying Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) under CES. At this time Mr. Allen is satisfied that NextEra is providing PMLD with an energy portfolio that meets our needs and complies with CES now and in to the future. An optional buy-in green energy program was discussed as a possible solution in the future for those that want to pay more for more clean energy on an individual basis. Similar programs have been implemented by National Grid and have not been very successful, so PMLD would have the study the idea before implementing it. Mr. Allen explained that MLPs were created to maintain a town's local control of energy needs. The DEP wants to include the MLPs because they make-up 13% of the state's overall energy load. Mr. Allen explained that local control of MLPs has created significant diversities on how the MLPs are managed and state legislation would impact each MLP differently. Chairman Whitman explained that there are 5 or 6 larger municipalities that make up 80% of that 13% and that small municipalities, like Princeton and Rowley, need to be considered before undo burden is placed upon them. Chairman Whitman would like to see a threshold set to trigger action from municipalities only if they can make a difference in the 13% the state needs. He would like the whole 13% divided out showing

each individual MLP and what they represent in size so that each community is fairly considered; and would like to see MEAM fight for fair treatment on how the CES will impact each individual MLP. Mr. Allen will share the Board's concerns and comments with MEAM. Commissioner Rys and Mr. Allen discussed the possibility that other MLPs may be interested in purchasing PMLD's wind energy if the DEP enforces the additional CES requirements onto MLPs. Wind RECs may also be desired, along with wind energy. Currently NextEra has a contract to purchase the wind RECs through 2018. Commissioner Rys suggested we send a letter to all municipalities offering them to purchase PMLD's available wind energy. The Board agreed that they would watch what develops first and then consider making that move in the future. Chairman Whitman reminded everyone that he is working with a non-profit entity that seeks to enter into a wind energy purchase power agreement with PMLD for a large amount of wind energy in the near future.

- ***Princeton's Environmental Action Committee (EAC)*** – The Board members discussed the EAC's survey and acknowledged that the EAC will cross-over PMLD business/issues. Mr. Allen confirmed his plan to make a presentation at the EAC's December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting about how PMLD operates and answer questions they had on the variety of topics presented to him via email.

#### **Other Business:**

- ***Social Media Policy*** – Mr. Allen presented the Board with a draft written copy of a social media policy for the Board to consider. Chairman Whitman made a motion to have the Board members take some time to review the policy, provide their input for changes/revisions and vote on it at a future meeting. Commissioner Rys seconded the motion. All were in favor (3-0). The topic will be added to the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda.
- ***2018 Meeting Schedule*** – The Board agreed to continue with one meeting per month on the second Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the PMLD office, 168 Worcester Rd, Princeton MA.
- ***Charter*** – Mr. Allen confirmed that all agreements have been signed by all parties and have been placed on file. Mr. Allen has not yet received the list of poles from Charter that need additional make-ready work.
- ***Grid-Scale Energy Storage*** – Commissioner Rys will send via email to everyone the June 2016 - George Mason University "*Deployment of Grid-Scale Batteries in the United States*" Case study.
- ***St. Thomas Mutual Aid Request*** – Mr. Allen shared that the northeast is still deploying mutual aid crews to St. Thomas to assist with the rebuild. 27 crews will be deployed on

December 2<sup>nd</sup> for two weeks. The Board and Mr. Allen agreed that PMLD could not provide mutual aid this time around.

**At 8:26 PM the Board voted unanimously in favor (3-0) to adjourn.**

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Trudeau  
Recording Secretary*