



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

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PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 28, 2019

A regular meeting of the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission was called to order on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at the Peabody Municipal Light Plant, 201 Warren Street Ext., Peabody, Massachusetts at 6:32 p.m.

Present for the meeting were Commissioners William Aylward, Charles Bonfanti, Thomas D'Amato, Thomas Paras and Robert Wheatley; Manager Charles Orphanos, Attorney Philip Durkin and Recording Secretary, Barbara Previte.

Chairman Paras asked if there were any additions to the agenda and Manager Orphanos stated there were none.

- Agenda Item A: Approval of Agenda:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WHEATLEY AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (5-0):

MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Chairman Paras introduced our student government representatives Chairman Erin Corrigan and Manager Nicholas Acosta as well as their moms who were in the audience.

- Agenda Item B: Announcement:

Chairman Paras acknowledged that this is an open meeting and informed the public that the meeting is being recorded by hand and voice recorder.

- Agenda Item C: Approval of Minutes:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (5-0):

19-17 MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO, SECONDED BY AYLWARD AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (5-0):

19-18 MOVE TO APPROVE AND NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019.



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- Agenda Item D: Appointments:

- **REMARKS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

There being none, the meeting continued.

- Agenda Item E: Correspondence

There being none, the meeting continued.

- Agenda Item F: Manager's Reports:

- **STATUS REPORTS:**

- **IPSWICH RIVER SUBSTATION** – Manager Orphanos deferred to Roy Simoes, Supervising Electrical Engineer, to update the Commission. Roy stated we are getting down to the wire. We energized the first transformer on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. and left it energized which is one-half the segment of the station. On April 1 there will be a two-day outage on the 154N line. As of noontime on Tuesday, we should have access to the B154N line. Roy stated the pole foundations along the bike path are done. Roy said that they will be decommissioning the old substation; and running the new fiber soon. Roy then spoke about Waters River, specifically the control panels being delivered. Brian Abcunas and Kerrienne visited Iowa this week to inspect the new panels. Roy also mentioned about the circuits WR822 and WR821. PMLP will have to resurface the bike path due to potholes and frost this past season.

- Agenda Item G: Committee Reports:

- Chairman Paras deferred to Commissioner Wheatley to continue to work with John Maihos, Community Relations / Human Resources, on policies. Commissioner Wheatley stated that John and he will be reviewing the Anti-Fraud Policy and will hold off on this policy until the financials have been approved. The Leave Policy needs to be reviewed and revised.

- Agenda Item H: Award of Bids:

There being none, the meeting continued.

- Agenda Item I: General Business:

- **mPower** – Manager Orphanos deferred to Brian Abcunas, Associate Electrical Engineer, to discuss mPower. Brian reminded the Commission that he discussed mPower at last month's meeting. Brian explained that the goal of PMLP is to further the process of constant reliability improvements and cost reduction for our ratepayers. PMLP began work on a new AMI project in 2017. With this project, it was the beginning of a road map toward PMLP's "Grid Modernization" plan. The Engineering staff recognized a need for a GIS and an OMS system. Engineering identified only two vendors/companies that provide this type of



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service. The companies are Futura and mPower. Brian explained that mPower is a Wisconsin based company that provides products and professional services to enhance and better utilize the data from AMI systems. Brian stated that approximately 12 municipals are already using mPower. The investigative team visited Wakefield and Groton who are presently using mPower. Brian stated that this would be a capital project that would take approximately 1.5 years to implement. Brian stated that PMLP team has seen several demonstrations of their product in action. mPower is well represented by several local municipal utilities. Their software called "integrator" is a tool that works with our data bases and AMI to present the data/information graphically on a computer monitor. Brian stated that it is a grid modernization program working with our current AMI system to transmit data every 15 minutes. It also has the GIS capability to manage our load along with an outage management system. The project would start as professional services by GIS modeling of our system and become a "sole supplier" because of utilizing our existing data to create the model. The PMLP Engineering Staff propose mPower Innovations as the vendor to work with for the conversion and integration of PMLP's circuit maps and distribution assets database that will result in a GIS and an OMS.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO, SECONDED BY AYLWARD AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (5-0):

19-19 MOVE TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO HIRE MPOWER AS STATED IN THEIR PROPOSAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$172,300 WITH A CONTINGENCY BUDGET OF \$17,230.

- **MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL UTILITY SELF-INSURANCE TRUST FUND – DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE** – Manager Orphanos stated that with Glenn Trueira's retirement, PMLP needs to vote on a designation of alternate representative to appoint the Chairman of the PMLC, Thomas J. Paras, as the Alternative Voting Representative to the Massachusetts Municipal Utility Self-Insurance Trust Fund. The Chairman is and will be the alternate representative until such time as an Assistant Manager is appointed.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO AND VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL (5-0):



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19-20 BE IT RESOLVED THAT, CHARLES (CHUCK) ORPHANOS, MANAGER, OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT ("PMLP") HEREBY REPLACES GLENN TRUEIRA AS THE VOTING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PMLP TO THE MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL UTILITY SELF-INSURANCE TRUST FUND ("TRUST"), AND THOMAS J. PARAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION, IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS, THE ALTERNATIVE VOTING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PMLP TO THE TRUST.

- **REMARKS OF COMMISSION** – Chairman Paras thanked the student government students as well as thanked them for their participation in the meeting. The Commission collectively echoed the same sentiments of getting involved in local government and thanked them.


MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WHEATLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (5-0):

19-21 MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21(a) TO DISCUSS COMPETITIVELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND NOT TO RETURN.

Chairman Paras declared the Regular portion of the Meeting of March 28, 2019 adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Attest: _____


Thomas M. D'Amato, Secretary
Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission