



# Peabody Municipal Light Plant

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## PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2020

A regular meeting of the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the Peabody Municipal Light Plant, 201 Warren Street Ext., Peabody, Massachusetts at 6:30 p.m.

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

Chairman Paras asked if there were any additions to the agenda and Manager Orphanos requested to add correspondence regarding 157 Lynn Street (Karin Anderson and Patricia Wright).

- Agenda Item A: Approval of Agenda:

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

MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED.

- 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: Election of Officers

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO WITH COMMISSIONERS BONFANTI, AYLWARD, D'AMATO, AND PARAS VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVELY AND COMMISSIONER WHEATLEY VOTING PRESENT AND VOTED BY ROLL CALL (4-0):

**20-1** MOVE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER WHEATLEY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2020.

The Commission collectively thanked Commissioner Paras for serving as Chairman in 2019.



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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARAS WITH COMMISSIONERS BONFANTI, AYLWARD, PARAS AND WHEATLEY VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVELY AND COMMISSIONER D'AMATO VOTING PRESENT AND VOTED BY ROLL CALL (4-0):

**20-2** MOVE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER D'AMATO AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2020.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARAS WITH COMMISSIONERS BONFANTI, D'AMATO, PARAS AND WHEATLEY VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVELY AND COMMISSIONER AYLWARD VOTING PRESENT AND VOTED BY ROLL CALL (4-0):

**20-3** MOVE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER AYLWARD AS SECRETARY OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 2020.

- Agenda Item D: Selection of Voting Order:

The Commission drew numbers for their 2020 seated voting order. The voting order is as follows:

Seat 1	William C. Aylward
Seat 2	Thomas M. D'Amato
Seat 3	Charles W. Bonfanti
Seat 4	Thomas J. Paras

- Agenda Item E: Approval of Minutes:

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

**20-4** MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2019.

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

**20-5** MOVE TO APPROVE AND NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2019.

- Agenda Item F: Appointments:

- **REMARKS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

There being none, the meeting continued.



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- Agenda Item G: Correspondence

The Commission received correspondence from residents at 157 Lynn Street (Karin Anderson and Patricia Wright) thanking the Commission for their efforts on avoiding a cell tower in the South Peabody area.

- Agenda Item H: Manager's Reports:

**STATUS REPORTS:**

- **2015A PROJECT** -- Manager Orphanos stated that last week we had a meeting with MMWEC, specifically Ron DeCurzio and Ed Kaczinski, to discuss the project and some modifications that would have a potential financial impact to Peabody. Discussions included what percentage the project would cover. Manager Orphanos said that he would like to continue that discussion in Executive Session. Questions arose about how many members are in this project and Manager Orphanos stated 13 members with a project participants' meeting scheduled for February 5, 2020. Commission Paras asked if the participants meeting is open to everyone. Manager Orphanos stated he will find out from MMWEC and let him know.
- **WATERS RIVER MODIFICATION** – Manager Orphanos deferred to Roy Simoes, Supervising Electrical Engineer, to discuss the Waters River project. Roy stated that we are starting to make the necessary modifications to the control house building, including replacing 10 control panels, adding a new breaker, and a new distribution feeder. These modifications along with one new breaker at Johnson Street (3 years ago) and three new breakers at Ipswich River will enable us to dice-up the system into more manageable pieces. The biggest part of the whole project is to break up the original looped system and transform it into a radial system. In this day and age with micro-processing relays we need to be able to break up a system in pieces. This will make us coordinate things better. This reduces fault energy in more places and makes it acceptable for our linemen to be in close proximity of our lines and managing arc flash. A discussion ensued regarding the Bus 1 outage that is almost finished and we came out of that successfully. Presently, we are in the midst of a Bus 2 outage and about 65% complete with the second phase. Our understanding is that we will be finishing in the first week in February. Finally, we will be going back into a Bus 1 outage and we will have a bunch new equipment and fibers pretty much installed between Ipswich River, Johnson and the building. We will put the puzzle together. Any questions? Commissioner D'Amato asked if Roy Simoes has post-partum.



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- Agenda Item I: Committee Reports:

Chairman Wheatley stated that he wants to add two subcommittees. The first committee will be for a commissioner to work with Administration and Business regarding the building renovation project similar to a "clerk of the works" and attend all the meetings. Chairman Wheatley suggested that Commissioner Paras be appointed. Manager Orphanos and Barbara Previte will alert Commissioner Paras of such meetings.

Chairman Wheatley stated that he would like a Commissioner to work with Attorney Durkin on reviewing the PMLC Rules and Regulations as well as Roberts Rules. Specifically, Chairman Wheatley wants the Committee and Attorney Durkin to review the "Remarks of the Commission" specifically what can be said. Commissioner Aylward and Commissioner Paras would like to work on this Committee as well.

- Agenda Item J: Award of Bids:

- **LINE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES** – Manager Orphanos deferred to Dennis Ahlin, Assistant Superintendent of Electric Distribution / Construction to discuss the line construction and maintenance services request for proposals. Dennis explained that the request for bids was sent to 21-line construction and maintenance contractors as well as being advertised in the Massachusetts Central Register, COMM BUYS, Salem News, Dodge Reports and PMLP Website. Four bids were received from Utility Service Assistance, All Pro Electric, JCR Construction Company and I.B. Able Inc. Dennis Ahlin explained that the two lowest bidders had a base hourly crew rate separated by only \$0.27 per hour. The base hourly rate makes up the majority of the cost of the contract and is the rate used for comparison. Rates for additional labor and equipment were provided as part of the bid. USA and I.B. Able were in complete compliance. JCR did not provide a bid bond but would provide one upon request. All Pro Electric did not provide rates for Overtime and Emergency Response. Additionally, All Pro did not include the additional requested equipment rate sheet. Question arose from Commissioner Aylward on why we don't make it a three-year contract. Phil Rohn, Superintendent of Electric Distribution, explained the reasoning behind the contract of one year and a one-year extension. Phil explained that if a contractor does not meet our standards it is hard to cancel the contract. This way seems to be working for and that we would reconsider in future contracts.

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

- 20-6** TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UTILITY SERVICE ASSISTANCE (USA) FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF LINE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR WITH THE OPTION OF AN EXTENSION FOR A SECOND YEAR WITH THEIR BASE HOURLY RATE OF \$228.53.



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Phil Rohn and Dennis Ahlin voiced that the PMLP has had many years of positive experience with USA. The company has a stable work force, talented employees, and are very familiar with our electrical system, operating procedures and employees.

- Agenda Item K: General Business:

- **2020 MMWEC VOTING REPRESENTATIVES** -- Manager Orphanos stated that he received correspondence from MMWEC regarding Peabody Municipal Light Plant and their designated voting representatives. The voting representatives need to change based on the offices held by the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commissioners in 2020 as well as the Manager.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARAS AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (5-0):

**20-7 VOTED:**(1)that the Peabody Municipal Light Plant (City of Peabody), pursuant to Article III, Section 6 of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) By-Laws, as revised and amended, and Section 3(b) of Chapter 775 of the Acts of 1975 hereby designates Charles J. Orphanos, its manager of Peabody Municipal Light Plant, as its Voting Representative, to vote and execute written instruments on its behalf relative to adoption, amendment, or repeal of MMWEC By-Laws, the election of President and Directors of the Corporation, and other action by the Member cities and towns of MMWEC; and

- (2) that Robert O. Wheatley, (a member of the municipal light board) is hereby designated as an Alternate Voting Representative who shall, in the absence of the Voting Representative, have all the powers conferred upon the Voting Representative, and.
- (3) that, Thomas M. D'Amato, (a member of the municipal light board) is hereby designated as an Alternate Voting Representative who shall, in the absence of the first designee, the second designee, have all the power conferred upon the Voting Representative, and
- (4) that Charles W. Bonfanti, (a member of the municipal light board) is hereby designated as an Alternate Voting Representative who shall, in the absence of the first designee, the second designee, and the third designee, have all the power conferred upon the Voting Representative, and



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- (5) that William C. Aylward, (a member of the municipal light board) is hereby designated as an Alternate Voting Representative who shall, in the absence of the first designee, the second designee, the third designee and fourth designee, have all the power conferred upon the Voting Representative,
  - (6) that Thomas J. Paras, (a member of the municipal light board) is hereby designated as an Alternate Voting Representative who shall, in the absence of the first designee, the second designee, the third designee, the fourth designee, and the fifth designee, have all the power conferred upon the Voting Representative.
- **REAFFIRMATION OF PMLP POLICIES** – Manager Orphanos stated that every year the Commission reaffirms the policies.

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

**20-8** MOVE TO REAFFIRM THE POLICIES FOR THE YEAR 2020.

- **MMWEC (\$53,601.58)** – Manager Orphanos stated that this check is for Hydro Quebec flow rights (\$41,439.25) and Summer Rental Generator Program (\$12,162.33) which will be deposited in the rate stabilization fund.
- **REMARKS OF COMMISSION** – Commission collectively thanked Paras for his work as Chair in 2019. Commissioner D'Amato welcomed back Commissioner Bonfanti and his reelection. Commissioner Paras thanked everyone with a special thanks to Barbara.

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

MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21(a) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND TO DISCUSS TRADE SECRETS OR COMPETITIVELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND NOT TO RETURN.



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Chairman Wheatley declared the Regular portion of the Meeting of January 23, 2020 adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

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