



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

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PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MAY 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission was called to order on Thursday, May 27, 2021 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, and Thomas Paras; Manager Charles Orphanos, Assistant Manager Bryan Howcroft, Attorney Philip Durkin and Recording Secretary Barbara Previte.

Chairman D'Amato asked if there were any additions to the agenda and Manager Orphanos stated that he would like to add correspondence from Gerald Brauning, a Peabody resident as well as to move the "Healing Garden" under General Business to Appointments Remarks of the General Public.

Chairman D'Amato requested that we take a moment of silence for the COVID 19 victims.

- Agenda Item A: Approval of Agenda:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (4-0):

MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED

- Agenda Item B: Announcement:

Chairman D'Amato acknowledged that this is an open meeting and informed the public that the meeting is being recorded via Zoom.

- Agenda Item C: Approval of Minutes:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (4-0):

21-31 MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2021.



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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (4-0):

21-32 MOVE TO APPROVE AND NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2021.

- Agenda Item D: Appointments:

- **REMARKS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

- **HEALING GARDEN AT BROOKSBY FARM PRESENTATION** – Chairman D’Amato acknowledged the members of the audience who are coming before the PMLC to speak about this project. Commissioner Paras asked to speak prior to the presentation. Commissioner Paras wants to know specifically why they are coming before us asking for money. Chairman D’Amato stated he would like to hear about the details of the project. Maria Champigny introduced herself and stated the background of the project. She explained that she is the school counselor at the West School. She explained the importance of the project. This committee is coming before the PMLC to explain the funding. She stated the entire project is approximately \$100,000-\$120,000. She explained about the funds that they have raised, received including the sale of bricks. She deferred to Councilor Gould who explained that we went to Community Development and maybe Peabody Municipal Light Plant will be a partner. Ryan Champigny (3rd grader from the West School) who spoke from his heart about Cara Murtagh and his experience with her and its importance.
- Jarrod Hochman eloquently spoke about driving up here and stating that the PMLP logo stating it is community owned, not for profit and it’s ours. Why are they here? PMLP has been a part of many projects. Jarrod Hochman spoke about the citation for all our work for the science fair. The five commissioners run a tight ship. You also serve our community. The Committee did go to other sources CDC, sold bricks, etc. That is what the signs mean.
- Chairman D’Amato asked to step off the Chair and Commissioner Aylward resumed the chair position. Commissioner D’Amato stated he respects the opinion of his fellow Commissioners. Commissioner D’Amato emphasized that we are our community that helps each other, supports each other.



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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER D'AMATO, SECONDED BY BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY ROLL CALL (4-0):

21-33 MOVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALING GARDEN AT BROOKSBY FARM TO FINISH THE PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 WITH PAYMENT MADE DIRECTLY TO THE VENDORS FOR THEIR SERVICES SUCH AS ZOLOTAS ELECTRIC, CRANNEY LANDSCAPING, LUCIA LIGHTING & DESIGN.

- Agenda Item E: Correspondence
- There is correspondence from Gerry Brauninger regarding the 2015A Project. The resident expressed his displeasure regarding the 2015A Project. The Commission directed the Manager to have John Maihos, Community Relations, draft a response to our ratepayer's concerns.
- Agenda Item F: Manager's Reports:
STATUS REPORTS:
- **2021 SCIENCE FAIR ALTERNATIVE** -- Manager Orphanos reminded the Commission that because we did not have science fair because of COVID, PMLP and PMLC were looking for ways to honor the 4th and 5th graders. Funds were allocated to purchase solar kits for the 4th and 5th graders. A discussion ensued about announcing this project via the newspaper, etc. The Commission will work with the Manager and Community Relations to visit the schools while / when they are assembling the solar project.
- **SEASONAL EMPLOYEE** – Manager Orphanos stated that there is money in the budget for seasonal employees. The seasonal employee program is administered through John Maihos, Community Relations / Human Resources. The Commission is happy to have this program back.
- Agenda Item G: Committee Reports:
- **POLICY COMMITTEE** – Commissioner Aylward deferred to Commission Paras to give a report on the Building Committee.
- **BUILDING COMMITTEE** – Commissioner Paras stated that the front foyer renovation is nearly complete with the air curtain needs to be addressed as well as touch up paint to correct the color. Business is accepting quotes on repairing/replacing the cement outside the building as well as replacing the lighting for the flagpole with new LED light fixtures.



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Commissioner Aylward stated that maybe the PMLC should look into a policy for donations. He suggested that Attorney Durkin work with the Manager and/or John Maihos, Community Relations to do some research and draft a policy. The Commission collectively believes it is a great idea.

- Agenda Item H: Award of Bids:
- **POWER LINE CLEARANCE (TREE TRIMMING) SERVICE** – Manager Orphanos deferred to Superintendent of Electric Distribution Dennis Ahlin to present the information brief for the line clearance service contract. Superintendent Ahlin gave background of our existing line clearance contract with Asplundh which expires on May 31, 2021. The contract was sent out to bid in the middle of April. The request for bids were for a two-year contract, plus an option for a third year. The specifications were sent to a total of 15 line clearance contractors, as well being advertised in the Massachusetts Central Register, Dodge Reports, COMM BUYS, PMLP website and the Salem News. The specifications included new prevailing wage rates as required by the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards. The new rates are an increase from the previous tree trimmer and groundman rates, that were eliminated from the list of prevailing wage position. Per the Department of Labor Standards, individuals doing tree clearing on behalf of utilities must be paid at the prevailing wage rate of Labor or Operating Engineer. The new rate will increase by \$412 compared to this year's expiring contract. The majority of this increase is in direct relation to the change from trimmer and groundman with pay \$22.06 and \$19.87 to laborer at \$44.18. Two bids were received and three no bids. The bids received were from Asplundh and Mayer. The three "no bids" were Lucas Tree, Lewis Tree and Nelson Tree.

Asplundh has worked under contract for PMLP for several years and provided us with good customer service during the term of their contract.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY ROLL CALL (4-0):

- 21-34 MOVE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO HAVE THE MANAGER ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT CO. FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF LINE CLEARANCE SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS WITH THE OPTION OF A THIRD YEAR AS SPECIFIED IN THE INFORMATION BRIEF. YEAR ONE DAILY COST IS \$1,435.60; YEAR TWO DAILY COSTS IS \$1,462.96 AND YEAR THREE DAILY COST IS \$1,564.64 (OPTIONAL).



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- Agenda Item I, General Business:
- **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION -** Manager Orphanos explained that there has been discussion about posting our minutes to our website. With that being said, the Rules and Regulations Policy of the PMLC need to be revised to reflect such posting. The 3.5 section of the rules and regulations reads as follows: "Open session minutes will be posted on PMLP's website following PMLC approval of those minutes."

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY ROLL CALL (4-0):

21-35 MOVE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO REVISE THE PROCEDURAL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION TO REFLECT THE POSTING OF OUR REGULAR MINUTES TO THE PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT WEBSITE.

- **REMARKS OF COMMISSION –**


Commission Bonfanti was proud of what the Commission did tonight with the healing garden. He stated that it goes to show the support of the light plant. He did ask if there is a plaque or something that mentions PMLP. Commission D'Amato thanked his fellow Commissioners for the support of this project.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER AYLWARD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BONFANTI AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (4-0):

MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 30A, SECTION 21(a) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A COMPETITIVELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND NOT TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Chairman D'Amato declared the Regular portion of the Meeting of May 27, 2021 adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Attest: 
Charles W. Bonfanti, Secretary
Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission