



# Peabody Municipal Light Plant

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## PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JUNE 23, 2022

A regular meeting of the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission was called to order on Thursday, June 23, 2022 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, Raymond Melvin and Thomas Paras; Manager Joe Anastasi, Assistant Manager Bryan Howcroft, Attorney Philip Durkin, and Recording Secretary Barbara Previte.

Chairman Aylward asked if there were any additions to the agenda and Manager Anastasi stated that he wanted to add the "preliminary results of survey" from Great Blue survey.

- Agenda Item A: Approval of Agenda:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PARAS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELVIN AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (4-0):

MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED.

- Agenda Item B: Announcement:

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

- Agenda Item C: Approval of Minutes:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PARAS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MELVIN AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (4-0):

**22-39** MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2022.



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

**22-40 MOVE TO APPROVE AND NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2022.**

- Agenda Item D: Appointments:

- **REMARKS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Chairman Aylward asked if there were any remarks of the general public. Ron Smoller introduced himself and mentioned the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed with the Attorney General regarding the January 8, 2022 budget meeting. He stated the Attorney General settled the complaint and the Commission is to attend a Open Meeting Law webinar on specific dates. Ron Smoller continued to talk about the second Energy Form. He specifically asked about the fuel mix on gas vs. oil and he believes there should be a way to get that information. He asked about obtaining more information regarding the 2020A, 2021A and 2022A projects. He stated that he understood proprietary information but feels that the public should know more. He went on to state he felt the attendance was low at the Energy Forum and requested we put it in our bill message with the dates. Lastly he stated that someone that attended the Energy Forum was not aware that PMLP had a net metering program. He suggested that we put it in the newsletter net zero program, net metering, etc.

Susan Smoller introduced herself and asked about the bylaws for the PMLC. Attorney Durkin stated that there are rules and regulations of the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission. She continued by asking about the process to get elected to the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission. Attorney Durkin and Chairman Aylward both stated that it begins with the City of Peabody – specifically to ask the City Clerk the process.

- Agenda Item E: Correspondence:

There being none the meeting

- Agenda Item F Manager's Reports:

**STATUS REPORTS:**

- **GREAT BLUE SURVEY** – Manager Anastasi stated that PMLP hired Great Blue to conduct a survey. Manager Anastasi stated the preliminary results of the survey are ratepayers



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are 94% extremely satisfied with the services PMLP provides; 92% stated that they did not know when there was a rate increase; 42% stated we meet or exceeded expectation. After the survey is complete, Manager Anastasi will present an overview of the findings.

- **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION DIVISION**—Manager Anastasi stated that there are approximately 3 items that need to be declared surplus. Once approved, PMLP can advertise on gov.deals. The Commission stated it looks like the items are nails / bolts. Manager Anastasi stated yes. Manager Anastasi is looking for a motion to move forward.

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

**22-41** MOVE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO DECLARE THE ITEMS PRESENTED AS SURPLUS AND SELL THEM ON GOV.DEALS OR DONATE.

- **COST OF SERVICE** – Manager Anastasi stated that he and Bryan Howcroft have been working with Mayhew Seavey, PLM, on evaluating how PMLP does business and the power supply costs. Rates have not been raised since 2010. Manager Anastasi stated that the national average has increased by 35%. National Grid has increased their rate by 24%. Manager Anastasi stated that after the evaluation, the proposal being set forth is to increase residential rates by 9% and commercial rates by approximately 5% kwh. This will affect the residential customer by \$10 per bill; commercial \$150 per bill.

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

**22-42** PURSUANT TO THE COST OF SERVICE STUDY PERFORMED BY PLM ON BEHALF OF PMLP, TO INCREASE THE COST OF KILOWATT HOUR BASED ELECTRICAL RATES BY 9% FOR RESIDENT AND 5% FOR COMMERCIAL AND ALL OTHER RATES.

## Agenda Item I: General Business

- **REMARKS OF COMMISSION** – Commissioner Melvin stated that the ratepayers have been pretty lucky not to have a rate increase for 12 years. PMLP is very fortunate, very reasonable and he hopes PMLP can go another 10 to 12 years without a rate increase. Commissioner Paras thanked staff and wished everyone a safe, happy, healthy summer.



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MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PARAS, 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 STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND TO DISCUSS TRADE SECRETS OR COMPETITIVELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION AND NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Chairman Aylward declared the Regular portion of the Meeting of June 23, 2022 adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

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