



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

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PEABODY MUNICIPAL LIGHTING COMMISSION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

A regular meeting of the Peabody Municipal Lighting Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 22, 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, Thomas D'Amato and Thomas Paras; Manager Joe Anastasi, Assistant Manager Tim Hennessy, Business Manager Karen Rapucci, Associate Electrical Engineer Brian Abcunas, Attorneys Philip Durkin and Adam Buckley, and Recording Secretaries Barbara Previte and Nicole Patti.

Chairman Aylward asked if there were any additions to the agenda and Manager Anastasi stated that he wanted to add a GT#1 de-list announcement.

- Agenda Item A: Approval of Agenda:

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

MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED.

Manager Anastasi introduced new employee Nicole Patti, who will be the Executive Assistant to the Manager and the Assistant Manager. Unfortunately, new employee Brian Gomes, Meter Technician I, was unable to attend the meeting.

- 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 (5-0):

22-43 MOVE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2022.



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

Community Owned. Not for profit. It's Ours.

Minutes of PMLC
September 22, 2022
Page 2

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

22-44 MOVE TO APPROVE AND NOT RELEASE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 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 thanked Manager Anastasi for the informative Energy Awareness Forum on September 21, 2022. He wanted to have on the record several discussion topics from the forum. First, he stated that it was asked at the meeting whether there will be a different electric rate for residents who install an EV charger in their home. There was also a question as to how rates will work at the EV stations being installed in downtown Peabody. It was also requested the Energy Awareness Forum be available via live Zoom for people who cannot attend in person. He requested updates on ongoing projects, including the 2021A Offshore Wind Project, and mentioned that upcoming projects are not on the website. Manager Anastasi said we have several upcoming projects on the website. Mr. Smoller also asked for an update on the MAPC Net Zero project. Manager Anastasi said there are no updates, as of now.

Susan Smoller introduced herself and reiterated that there were good discussions at the Energy Awareness Forum on the day prior. She then recommended that the remarks of the general public occur at the end of each commissioner's meeting. She asked for a progress update on the closing of GT#1 and any costs that would be accrued if oil is not burned. She requested for it to be turned off this winter, if possible.

- Agenda Item E: Correspondence:

PMLP received a letter from the Board of Health thanking PMLP for the co-sponsorship of Hazardous Waste Day.



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

Community Owned. Not for profit. It's Ours.

Minutes of PMLC
September 22, 2022
Page 3

- Agenda Item F: Manager's Reports:

STATUS REPORTS:

- **GT#1 DE-LIST BID UPDATE**—There are two de-list bids. The annual de-list bid was submitted by the deadline of July 20, 2022 and has been accepted by ISO-New England and is under review. The monthly de-list bid was submitted on September 22, 2022.

- **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION DIVISION**—Manager Anastasi stated that there is 1 item, an old battery powered palate jack, that needs to be declared surplus. Once approved, PMLP can advertise on gov.deals.

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

- 22-45** MOVE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO DECLARE THE ITEM PRESENTED AS SURPLUS AND SELL IT ON GOV.DEALS OR DONATE.

- **PURCHASE OF 2 EV FORD F-150 LIGHTNING'S**—Manager Anastasi stated that PMLP has purchased 2 Ford Lightning's and we should tentatively receive them in October. These will be the first fully-electric vehicles at PMLP.
- **EV CHARGING STATION (LOCATION UPDATE)**—Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has approved the request to move two of EV charging stations from the Railroad Ave location and move them between Dunkin' Donuts and the Post Office.
- **CONCRETE POUR – 2015A**— The main concrete pour occurred on August 27, 2022 and went well. It was a major pour with about 120 concrete trucks and it is currently curing; it takes about 28 days to fully cure.
- **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**— Manager Anastasi said the festival was a big success. At Mayor Bettencourt's September staff meeting, he mentioned how pleased he was with PMLP's assistance and involvement.
- **MMWEC PROJECT OPPORTUNITY – BTM BATTERY** — PMLP, and over a dozen other local municipalities, are working with MMWEC to locate local large-scale battery vendors to provide cost-effective battery solutions. Three vendors have reviewed three locations. MMWEC has outlined the two best scenarios; one vendor is a lease option and the other is a purchase. Additional details will be shared once Manager



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

Community Owned. Not for profit. It's Ours.

Minutes of PMLC
September 22, 2022
Page 4

Anastasi has more information.

- **2021A OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT UPDATE**—In the original letter of agreement with the Offshore Wind developer, the agreed upon price for power to MMWEC was \$76 per MWh. There was a clause that the municipal rate is subject to change. As a result, Massachusetts Municipals, including PMLP, are facing an increase of \$100 per MWh. Manager Anastasi has a team evaluating long-term finances with this new rate.

- Agenda Item G: Committee Reports:

There were none.

- Agenda Item H: Award of Bids:

The Peabody Municipal Light Plant has identified a need to purchase twenty-seven (27) 23kv Padmount Transformers of various sizes and secondary voltages to ensure there is an adequate inventory to support ongoing projects as well as any unscheduled emergency needs. PMLP Business Manager Karen Repucci presented to the commission the results of three phase 23kv padmount transformers bid.

Six bids were received and there was only one bidder that had no exceptions to the Technical Specifications; that bidder is Howard Industries. They also had a significantly lower lead time of 40 weeks as opposed to the 5 other bidders who had a lead time of 90 weeks. All bidders will not give firm pricing due to the unpredictable material cost increases. The PMLP Engineering Division performed a Cost Analysis exercise to quantify the Lowest Evaluated Cost for each item. PMLP intends to purchase the twenty-seven (27) transformers during the initial purchase phase

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

- 22-46** MOVE TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH POWER SALES GROUP (HOWARD INDUSTRIES) FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY-SEVEN (27) THREE PHASE 23KV PADMOUNT TRANSFORMERS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,084,041 WITH A 10% CONTINGENCY.

Agenda Item I: General Business

- **GREAT BLUE SURVEY**— Great Blue performed a residential customer satisfaction survey



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

Community Owned. Not for profit. It's Ours.

Minutes of PMLC
September 22, 2022
Page 5

in the first quarter of 2022. The survey was completed at the end of the second quarter. There were 405 respondents and results were as follows:

97% of respondents said the service is great.

93% of respondents said PMLP is close to an ideal utility.

87% of respondents said PMLP's carbon-free portfolio meets or exceeds expectations.

84% of respondents are okay with Project 2015A.

50% of respondents plan to buy an electric vehicle within the next four years.

22% of respondents plan to buy a heat pump within the next two years.

15% of respondents use the added services, such as rebates.

- **MMWEC CHECKS** – Four checks were received from the Hydro Quebec refund. The checks totaled \$128,000, and all of the money was placed into the rate stabilization fund.
- **REMARKS OF COMMISSION** – Commissioner D'Amato welcomed new PMLP Executive Assistant and wished her continued success.

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

22-47 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.



Peabody Municipal Light Plant

Community Owned. Not for profit. It's Ours.

Minutes of PMLC
September 22, 2022
Page 6

Chairman Aylward declared the Regular portion of the Meeting of September 22, 2022 adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

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