

# Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, October 18, 2017  
24 Williams Road, Conference Room  
Ashburnham, MA 01430

## Meeting Minutes

Commissioners: Rick Ahlin, Chairman  
Mark Carlisle, Vice Chairman  
Sarah Davis, Clerk

AMLP General Manager: Kevin Sullivan

Other Attendees: Brooke Czasnowski, Anne Olivari, and Jeffrey Schrecke

Carlisle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a roll call vote. Davis present, Carlisle present. Rick Ahlin arrived at 7:26pm.

Carlisle announced all Board meetings are subject to audio and video recording.

Carlisle made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Davis seconded.

Carlisle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 13, 2017. Davis seconded.

Citizen speak: There were no remarks.

General Manager Items:

*Public Power Week 10/2/17-10/6/17:* The AMLP gave away over 100 LED Desk lamps for Public Power Week. Sullivan noted that the customers appreciated the lamps and we may do the same giveaway next year.

*PLC Metering Collector:* Sullivan was successful in getting Landis+Gyr (L+G) to waive the \$750.00 monthly fee while the collector was down. They will begin billing again on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The collector has been installed and we are currently receiving the reads for 64% of our meters through the collector. Additional reads are being read by two meter readers. Sullivan is working to determine which meter reading system we should proceed with. We are currently using the L+G SPU 3000 with a TS1 blade, but it can also be used with a PLX blade for a PLX system.

*Tree Trimming Bid:* Bid packets were created and have been picked up by two tree contractors to date. Sullivan mentioned that when he created the packets he contacted five companies and he is anticipating four bids will be submitted. Sullivan thinks that it will be a three-year process to complete the tree trimming bid. Sullivan enlisted the services of an Arborist to look at the trees in the area and to provide us

with a growth sample. This is useful to determine an appropriate trimming schedule for the town. The average growth determined by the sample is 6 inches per year.

*Bucket Truck Replacement:* The final invoice was received today for the truck. The total price was \$220,221.00. This includes \$4,000.00 in upgrades.

*Website Upgrade:* Sullivan stated that he received quotes from three different vendors. The decision will be made on which vendor to use based on ability and price.

*Transmission Owners ROE:* Sullivan discussed how New England transmission owners attempted to reinstate a higher Return on Equity rate of 11.14%. This would cost MMWEC customers substantially. MMWEC continues to petition the current rate of 10.57% to be reduced.

*MMWEC Designated Voting Representatives:* Vote to designate Kevin Sullivan, General Manager, as the primary representative and Richard Ahlin, Board Member, as the alternate. Ahlin made a motion, Davis seconded. All in favor - Davis, Ahlin, Carlisle.

*NYPA Designated Voting Representative:* Vote to designate Kevin Sullivan, General Manager, as the primary representative and Richard Ahlin, Board Member, as the alternate. Carlisle made a motion, Davis seconded. All in favor - Carlisle, Davis, Ahlin.

*CPO Delegation of Procurement Powers and Duties:* Vote to make designate Kevin Sullivan, General Manager, as Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). Carlisle made a motion, Davis seconded. All in favor - Carlisle, Ahlin, Davis.

*GM Goals and Objectives:* The goals for the General Manager were discussed. Sullivan mentioned that if the battery storage becomes a reality that this would off-set the goals as outlined. The goals can remain fluid. There was discussion about adding the metering system to Sullivan's goals.

*Mutual Aid Discussion:* Sullivan explained the many factors that went into the decision to send lineman to the US Virgin Islands for mutual aid. The request for mutual aid came in on September 28<sup>th</sup> and the commitment was signed on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Key factors considered in the decision included reliability to the AMLP customers, commitment of the linemen, humanitarian interests and goodwill to repay others in the same way Ashburnham benefited from mutual aid during the 2008 ice storm. The first two linemen left on October 8<sup>th</sup> and the crews are scheduled to switch out on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November.

*MA-Clean Energy Standard (CES) Discussion:* Sullivan stated the MA-Clean Energy Standard (CES) will be in effect for the AMLP in 2021. There will be a special MEAM meeting November 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss.

The next meeting for the board was scheduled for November 29, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Carlisle made a motion to enter into executive session under **M.G.L. Chapter 30A : Section 21(a)** and the following clauses:

3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

10. To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of activities conducted by a governmental body as an energy supplier.

To return to open session only to adjourn. Davis made a motion, Carlisle seconded. Roll call vote was taken at 8:01 pm. Carlisle aye, Davis aye, Ahlin aye.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Davis', is written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Davis, Clerk