

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Thursday March 19, 2026

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant
24 Williams Rd, Ashburnham, MA 01430

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Chairman
Mark Carlisle, Vice Chairman
Candace Wright, Secretary
General Manager: Brooke Czasnowski
AML Staff: Aili Ruuska
Other Attendees: Heather Isaacs and Adam Schremser (Goulet, Salvidio & Associates, P.C.)

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with a roll call. Carlisle present, Wright present, Ahlin present.

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

Approval of Agenda: Carlisle made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Approval of Minutes: Wright made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026, executive session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Goulet, Salvidio & Associates (GSA) Presentation: Isaacs and Schremser from Goulet, Salvidio & Associates (GSA) presented the 2025 Financial Statements and DPU Report to the Board. GSA provided a clean opinion of the audit, with Isaacs reviewing some of the key financial information including a detailed review of the Statements of Net Position and Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. Issacs also congratulated AMLP on having strong internal controls. GSA provided the Board with the final copy of the 2025 Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Report and discussed increases in power costs with the Board. (GSA left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.)

Wright made a motion to accept the 2025 Financial Statements and the 2025 DPU Report, as presented. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

General Manager Contract Renewal: The Board discussed the renewal of the General Manager's contract.

Carlisle made a motion to accept the General Manager's Contract, as presented. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Rate Change Discussion: Czasnowski presented the Board with final versions of the proposed rate schedules.

Carlisle made a motion to accept the *Residential Services – Schedule A* rate, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 103, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 96. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Carlisle made a motion to accept the *General Services – Schedule C* rate, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 104, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 97. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Carlisle made a motion to accept the *Industrial Services - Schedule D* rate, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 105, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 98. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Carlisle made a motion to accept the *Municipal Services – Schedule M-C* rate, effective May 1, 2026, as presented. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 106, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 99. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Monthly Dashboard: Czasnowski provided the Board with a monthly snapshot of customer service and operational performance metrics.

Battery Storage Update: MMWEC did not capture peak usage in January. MMWEC provided an email explaining the circumstances behind the missed peak and Czasnowski provided a copy of the email in the board packet. Czasnowski is working with MMWEC and Lightshift on the 2026 installation of the new battery.

Budget and Power Bill Review: Czasnowski presented the Budget and Power Bill Analysis, noting that all operational budget items remain within expected ranges except for power. Power prices have remained very high, leading to increased costs. Czasnowski reviewed the 2025 Budget Summary with the Board, highlighting how higher power costs will continue to impact the budget moving into 2026. The Board will discuss ways to mitigate the impact at an upcoming Board meeting and will discuss increasing the Purchased Power Adjustment after the February bill is received. The Board also discussed the Seabrook EFEC deal and whether to sell or retire AMLPs EFECs for 2025. The Board unanimously supported the retirement of the EFECs, contributing to AMLPs non-carbon energy portfolio.

General Manger Goals: Czasnowski discussed upcoming goals and objectives. She continues to work on the new battery energy storage system. LightShift has identified additional work to be completed the timeline for the project has been extended to 2027. Czasnowski will continue to work with LightShift and MMWEC and will provide an update at the next meeting. The Capital IT plan continues with the SharePoint conversion scheduled for this year.

Other Updates:

- Lineworker Job Posting: A lineworker position was posted on the AMLP website and the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA) job board. Applicant questionnaire is being sent to all candidates and will begin reviewing candidates after May 1st.
- Tree Contract: An contract extension to the contract with Mayer Tree has been drafted and has been sent for legal review.
- MA DOT Project: Currently the project is at the 75% submission point with a bid advertisement date of February 2027. Czasnowski is waiting for updated plans.

New Business:

- Business Manager: Aili Ruuska was promoted to Business Manager effective 2/1.
- MMWEC Annual Conference: The annual conference has been scheduled for May 6-7, 2026. Czasnowski asked the Board to notify her if they would like to attend the conference.


The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for April 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

Carlisle made a motion that the Ashburnham Municipal Light Board shall enter executive session under M.G.L Chapter 21(a)(2).

2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 11:37 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carlisle seconded. The vote was taken at 11:52 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.



Candace Wright, Secretary