

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, May 27, 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:

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:00 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: Wright made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Approval of Minutes: Wright made a motion to approve the April 29, 2026, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to approve the April 29, 2026, executive session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

EV Charging Station Rate Discussion: Czasnowski presented the Board with the 2025 EV Charging Station financial performance results. She discussed the increase in power costs and the need to reevaluate the charging rate. She presented options for setting the rate at different percentages above the current General Services rate. Czasnowski recommended increasing the charging rate to 25% above the current General Services rate stating that this increase will help mitigate loss due to subscription fees and the high cost of power while keeping the rate competitive.

Carlisle made a motion to approve an increase in the EV Charging Station rate. The increase changes the charging rate from \$0.2000/kWh to \$0.2829/kWh. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Monthly Dashboards (Customer Service and Operations): Monthly customer service and operational dashboards were presented to the Board. The Board had questions about the pole replacement program and transformer testing. Annual transformer testing is due to be completed this year. Pole replacement work began later than planned due to cold temperatures and frozen ground conditions this spring. The Working Foreman has completed a survey to identify which poles are ready for transfer and which are pending transfers of the communications lines.

Battery Storage Update: MMWEC's peak dispatch program called two peaks during the month of March. These dispatches resulted in successfully capturing both the Eversource and National Grid transmission peaks resulting in reduced transmission costs for the month of April.

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 budget with the Board, highlighting how higher power costs will continue to impact the budget in 2026 and why the PPCA will need to remain in place.

General Manager Goals: Czasnowski provided the Board with an update on her key priorities. She noted that the goals and objective reporting format continues to be refined to improve clarity, usefulness, and alignment with Board expectations.

Other Updates:

- Tree Trimming Contract Extension: Czasnowski said that she had a meeting with Mayer Tree. They are working to schedule trimming for two high priority roads this June and then will be back in the fall for the remainder of the trimming.
- Lineworker Job Posting: The lineworker position remains open. Czasnowski stated she will not begin scheduling interviews until after negotiations have been completed.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project Update: Czasnowski is working with MMWEC and LightShift on the new BESS Project. She expects to have more details for the June meeting.
- MassDOT Rt. 101 Project: The MassDOT Route 101 Project continues to move forward with an anticipated bid date of February 2027. Czasnowski said that the Force Account submission will be due this fall.
- Ashburnham Police Department: Chief Conrad has asked Czasnowski about the possibility of installing license plate reader cameras on poles. Czasnowski met with Chief Conrad and has drafted an agreement between the AMLP and Ashburnham Police Department.

- Community Outreach: AMLP representatives attended a Touch-A-Truck event for the Ashburnham Police Department in April and will present about the lineworker profession and electrical safety to 5th grade classes at JR Briggs Elementary in June. Czasnowski is also arranging an upcoming event with the Stevens Memorial Library.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for June 17, 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)(3).

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.

Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 10:00 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Carlisle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 10:32 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

 6/17/26
Candace Wright, Secretary