

# Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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  
Other Attendees: Heather Isaacs & Adam Schremser (Goulet, Salvidio & Associates, left at 10:00 AM), Jeffrey Schrecke, Aili Ruuska, Kerri St. Cyr (left at 10:00 AM)

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with a roll call. Wright present, Carlisle 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 February 28, 2024, open 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 Presentation of 2023 Financial Statements: Czasnowski thanked Ms. Isaacs and Mr. Schremser from Goulet, Salvidio & Associates for their work on the Financial Statements, DPU Report, and annual audit. Isaacs presented the 2023 Financial Statements and the Internal Control Report. Goulet, Salvidio & Associates provided a clean option. Isaacs stated that OPEB funding was on track last year and advised that funding should continue. Isaacs also presented the Board with the 2023 DPU Report. (Isaacs, Schremser, and St. Cyr left the Board Meeting at 10:00 AM).

Cost of Service Study: Czasnowski stated that the Cost of Service Study will resume now that the Financial Statements and DPU Report have been completed. A review of rates and customer charges will be conducted. The Board agreed to an estimated time frame for approval of late spring/early summer. The study will be added to the agenda for the April Board Meeting.

Budget & Power Bill Analysis Update: Czasnowski presented the Board with a budget summary that reflected the approved 2024 Operating Budget. The presentation showed all items within expected ranges. She also presented the Board with a forecast for the power bills for the year.

Battery Storage Discussion: Czasnowski discussed an interconnection application sent to ISO-NE for a battery storage site located in Ashburnham. She stated the project is going through a feasibility study and she will schedule a meeting with the Town Administrator to discuss. In addition, Czasnowski has been contacted by two Battery Storage vendors that have provided proposals for possible Battery Storage opportunities in Ashburnham. The Board agreed to revisit discussion of these items item at a future meeting.

General Manger Review Discussion: The Board thanked Czasnowski for her service over the last year. Ahlin presented a summary of the General Manager's review. Wright made a motion to approve an additional 1.5% increase to Czasnowski's salary. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

**Other Updates:**

- *Residential Distributed Generation Policy (RDGP):* Czasnowski informed the Board that there will be future discussions about the RDGP as work is done on the cost of service study.
- *Downtown Sidewalk Project:* Czasnowski stated that the contractor has mobilized. AMLP will have all the decorative posts removed for construction by the first week of April. The Board will discuss options to replace or refinish the decorative posts that have paint deterioration at an upcoming Board Meeting.
- *MEAM Conference* – Registrations have been made for commissioners attending the MEAM conference 5/16-5/17.

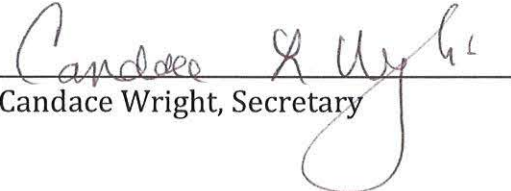
**New Business:**

- *MMWEC Annual Meeting* – MMWEC will be holding their annual meeting 5/1 & 5/2. Czasnowski asked members of the Board to let her know if they would like to attend so she can register them.

Czasnowski provided the Board with the 2023 DPU Report. The report was signed by Ahlin, Carlisle and Wright.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for April 17, 2024, at 9:00 AM at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

Carlisle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 11:45 AM. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

  
Candace Wright, Secretary