

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, April 17, 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: Aili Ruuska

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:01 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. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Approval of Minutes: Carlisle made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, open session meeting minutes. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye. Carlisle made a motion to approve the March 8, 2024, executive session meeting minutes. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Cost of Service Study: Czasnowski presented the Board with a scenario comparing the current residential rate with a proposed rate. The Board discussed this scenario and the impact of the customer discount. The Board will continue the cost of service discussion at the next 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 the power bill expenses and sales for the year, as well as a forecast for the remainder of the year.

Power Portfolio Review: Czasnowski reviewed the five-year power supply forecast provided by MMWEC. She also presented her power supply summaries highlighting the AMLP's carbon vs non-carbon percentages, portfolio resource mix, and open position power. Czasnowski informed the Board that MMWEC has hired a new Director of Energy Markets,

Thomas Barry, and she will work with the Board to schedule a presentation by him at a future Board meeting. Czasnowski asked the Board if they would like to pursue purchasing SRECs to add to the portfolio. The Board unanimously decided not to pursue this option at this time.

Battery Storage Update: Czasnowski presented the Board with a Battery Storage Summary showing how the battery has performed and the cost avoidance to date.

APPA 2023 Excellence in Reliability Award: Czasnowski shared that the AMLP had been recognized with the Excellence in Reliability Award for 2023.

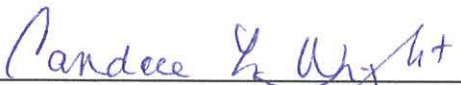
Other Updates:

- *Residential Distributed Generation Policy (RDGP):* Czasnowski brought a question to the Board regarding the current RDGP. A customer that is interested in installing solar has asked to use irradiance loss to calculate system size. The Board agreed unanimously that using irradiance loss to calculate system size is not conforming to the current policy. The Board will revisit the RDGP policy as the cost of service study continues.
- *Downtown Sidewalk Project:* The AMLP has removed fifteen decorative lights for the downtown sidewalk project. Czasnowski and Schrecke met with the Holophane representative to discuss the paint deterioration on ten of the posts. Holophane offered a 30% discount on new posts. A request has been sent to the distributor to get pricing. The Board agreed to replace the poles that have deteriorating finish. The Board also discussed adding three additional lights to the project. Czasnowski will meet with the Town Administrator to discuss the options.
- *Battery Storage Opportunities:* The Board decided to table the battery storage opportunities and will revisit in the future.
- *Upcoming Meetings:* Ahlin and Czasnowski will attend both the MWEC Annual Conference and the MEAM Conference, both in May.

New Business: Oakmont High School is creating an Employer Advisory Board. Czasnowski was given approval by the Board to join the Advisory Board as a representative of the AMLP.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carlisle seconded. The vote was taken at 10:27 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.



Candace Wright, Secretary