

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Tuesday, June 18, 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 8:59 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 May 15, 2024, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye. Wright made a motion to approve the May 24, 2024, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Cost of Service Study: Czasnowski presented the Board with finalized versions of all rate schedules. She reviewed the updated PPCA and NYPA Clause with the Board. The Board then agreed to entertain motions to accept the proposed rate change.

Wright made a motion to accept the *Residential Service – Schedule A* rate, as presented on June 18, 2024. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 96, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 86. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to accept the *General Services – Schedule C* rate, as presented on June 18, 2024. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 97, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 87. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to accept the *Industrial Services – Schedule D* rate, as presented on June 18, 2024. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 98, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 88. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to accept the *Municipal Services – Schedule M-C* rate, as presented on June 18, 2024. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No.99, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 90. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to accept the *Area Lighting – Schedule E* rate, as presented on June 18, 2024. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 100, which supersedes and cancels MDPU no. 89. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to accept the *Municipal Area Lighting – Schedule M-E* rate, as presented on June 18, 2024. This rate is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 101. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Wright made a motion to accept the *Purchased Power Cost Adjustment - NYPA Adjustment Clause*, as presented on June 18, 2024. This clause is to be filed with the Department of Public Utilities as MDPU No. 102, which supersedes and cancels MDPU No. 95. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Czasnowski discussed the customer outreach plan and costs with the Board. The outreach campaign is scheduled to begin on August 1, 2024. The AMLP website will be updated to include a rate calculator and updated pages on bill explanations and rates. All customers will receive an insert with the August bill explaining the rate change with a QR code for the rate calculator. In addition, the bills will have a QR code for the rate calculator. The AMLP will provide customers with access to the rate calculator in the office and will also hand out cards with the QR code for the rate calculator. Weekly Facebook posts will be made regarding the rate change in August. All new rate schedules will be posted in the Gardner News. Czasnowski will reach out to the Town Administrator to review the impact of the rate change. The Board agreed with all forms of outreach proposed by Czasnowski.

Czasnowski stated that the new rate would be filed with the DPU by July 31, 2024, and would be effective September 1, 2024.

Budget & Power Bill Analysis Update: Czasnowski presented the Board with the May 2024 Budget & Power Bill Analysis. The presentation showed all budget items within expected ranges. April Power Bill showed a slight negative cash impact, with lower sales and a higher than forecasted cost for power.

Other Updates:

- *Osmose Update:* Czasnowski informed the Board that Osmose is finalizing pole inspections. Osmose determined 346 poles need replacement, which is approximately 8% percent of the total 4,437 poles inspected. AMLP has

replaced 56 Osmose poles this year and is developing a replacement plan for all remaining poles.

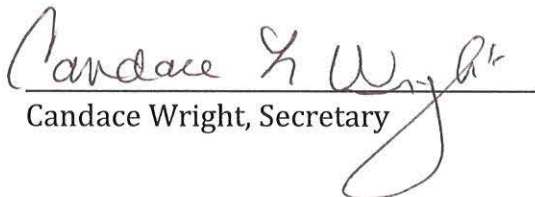
- *Downtown Sidewalk Project:* The project is scheduled to be completed by June 30th. AMLP has ordered new decorative posts for installation downtown.
- *Large Interconnection Study:* Czasnowski has received all pricing for the project under the current specifications. She has contacted the customer to schedule a meeting for next steps.

New Business:

- *Heat Wave:* The region will experience a heat wave this week. ISO NE anticipates normal activity. The AMLP Facebook page will be updated with actions customers can take to reduce energy usage.
- *Digital Equity Planning:* The Town Planner has asked an AMLP representative to be on the Digital Equity Planning Commission. Czasnowski will represent the AMLP.
- *Workplace Safety Grant:* Ruuska is putting together an application for the Workplace Safety Grant, offered by the MA Office of Industrial Accidents, Safety Office. The grant provides a maximum of \$25,000 for workplace safety training.
- *Rural and Municipality Advanced Cybersecurity Grant:* MMWEC partnered with Springfield Technical Community College to apply for this grant. As a Utility Partner, AMLP will receive a free asset assessment and will participate in the Advisory Board if the grant is awarded to MMWEC.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for July 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant. The Board also scheduled a meeting for August 14, 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 9:58 a.m. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.


Candace Wright, Secretary