

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

24 Williams Rd, Ashburnham, MA 01430

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners: Richard Ahlin, Chairman (arrived at 9:10 a.m.)
Mark Carlisle, Vice Chairman
Candace Wright, Secretary
General Manager: Brooke Czasnowski
Other Attendees: Aili Ruuska

Carlisle called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a roll call. Carlisle present, Wright present (Ahlin arrived at 9:10 a.m.).

Carlisle 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.

Approval of Minutes: Wright made a motion to approve the August 14, 2024, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Budget & Power Bill Analysis Update: Czasnowski presented the Board with the August 2024 Budget & Power Bill Analysis. The presentation showed all budget items within expected ranges. The power bill remained on target, with power prices remaining in the expected range.

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. Net savings have continued. The Board will be provided with this report going forward monthly.

NextZero Rebate Discussion: Czasnowski reviewed the 2025 NextZero rebate options with the Board. Selections are due by the end of October 2024. The Board will review the options and discuss selections at the next Board meeting.

EV Charging Station: Czasnowski spoke with the Town Administrator about the EV Charging Station located at Town Hall. AMLP will set up a ChargePoint account with a one-year contract. The Board will determine charging rates at a future Board meeting. The Board then discussed the charging station at Stevens Memorial Library. The Board decided

in the August 14, 2024, meeting to contribute a one-time \$500 payment to cover 50% of the invoice cost to configure the payment module and purchase the GCFI module and data router which are necessary to have the station fully operational. The Board reviewed this decision and then discussed donating the additional funds needed to repair the terminal.

Ahlin made a motion for AMLP to contribute the additional funds needed to repair the terminal, not to exceed \$600. Wright seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Other Updates:

- *MassDOT Project:* The project design is at 25%. The next step is 75% submission. There is not currently a schedule for submission.
- *Downtown Renovation Project:* The DPW will complete the sidewalk repairs needed. AMLP has one remaining pole to install. This pole will be installed once sidewalk repairs are complete. The Board approved sending the final invoice to the Town.
- *Large Customer Interconnection:* Czasnowski spoke with the project owner and is waiting for a follow-up to schedule a meeting with their engineer.
- *Customer Large Service Upgrade:* Work has been completed on this project.
- *Grants:* The Grid Resiliency Grant application will be pushed to 2025. AMLP is applying for this grant through a partnership with MMWEC.
- *Celebrate Ashburnham:* AMLP representatives will attend Celebrate Ashburnham on September 21, 2024. AMLP will have a booth and a truck at the event.
- *New Rates:* Carlisle asked about the rollout of the rate change effective September 1, 2024. Czasnowski reported that the feedback has been positive.

New Business:

- *Power Supply:* Czasnowski will reach out to MMWEC to come to a Board meeting this fall to discuss power supply.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for October 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

Wright stated that the Ashburnham Municipal Light Board shall go into Executive Session to discuss issues affecting the Light Plant pursuant to the points listed below and upon completion will return to open session to adjourn the meeting.

Wright made a motion that the Ashburnham Municipal Light Board shall enter Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)

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

3. To discuss strategy with respect to 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.

Carlisle seconded. The vote was taken at 10:37 a.m. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Carlisle made a motion to exit executive session and return to open session only to adjourn the meeting. Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 11:16 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye, Wright aye.


Candace Wright, Secretary