

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Thursday, October 24, 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, Ronald DeCurzio (MMWEC), Tom Barry (MMWEC), Zoe Eckert (MMWEC). MMWEC representatives left at 10:00 am.

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: Ahlin made a motion to accept the agenda as written apart from having the MMWEC presentations first. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye.

Approval of Minutes: Wright made a motion to approve the September 17, 2024, open session meeting minutes and the September 17, 2024, executive session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

NextZero Rebate/Program Presentation: Czasnowski welcomed representatives from the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) including Ronald DeCurzio, Chief Executive Officer, Tom Barry, Director of Energy Markets, and Zoe Eckert, Senior Manager of Sustainable Energy Policy and Program. Eckert presented the Board with a summary of the 2025 NextZero program offerings. The Board unanimously agreed to include rechargeable battery lawn equipment, insulation, and ENERGY STAR certified heating system rebates to the AMLP's 2025 Rebate Program.

MMWEC Power Supply Presentation: Barry presented the Board with an overview of AMLP's power portfolio. He discussed the hedging strategy and changes that MMWEC is making to their hedging program. He reviewed Ashburnham's load forecast and how purchasing is impacted by that forecast. Barry also discussed the renewable energy resources in AMLP's portfolio and a new opportunity to exchange CES-E credits for EFECs. The Board

unanimously agreed to participate in the certificate exchange to increase AMLP's non-carbon percentage.

Budget & Power Bill Analysis Update: Czasnowski presented the Board with the September 2024 Budget & Power Bill Analysis. She updated the graph to include the new revenue forecast because of the September 1, 2024, rate change. The presentation showed all budget items within expected ranges. The power bill remained on target, with power prices in the expected range.

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. Net savings have continued. Summary of savings was presented to the Board.

Other Updates:

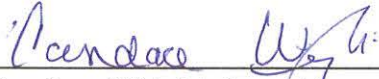
- *EV Charging Station:* Czasnowski informed the Board that the charging station at Town Hall is now operational. AMLP will perform an analysis on usage and begin work on a rate structure for charging.
- *Digital Equity Planning Committee:* Czasnowski attended a committee meeting and will update the Board as more information is available.

New Business:

- *AED & First Aid:* Czasnowski has received pricing from three vendors for new AED's. Currently the AMLP has four AED's that are nearing end of life. She will be ordering six new AED's. Four of the new AED's will be replacing the existing units, and the two additional AED's will be added to trucks that do not currently have AED's. Czasnowski will also be ordering new first aid kits for the trucks and a first aid cabinet for the building.
- *Solar Minimum Charge:* Wright requested a review of the solar minimum charge and for a discussion at an upcoming Board meeting.
- *Office Manager:* Czasnowski informed that Board that Aili Ruuska has been promoted to Office Manager as of 10/14/24. Aili has proven to be an asset to the AMLP team.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for November 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

Carlisle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 12:03 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.



Candace Wright, Secretary