

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, January 22, 2025
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: 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 December 18, 2024, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. Net savings have continued. Czasnowski will begin exploring opportunities for shared-savings battery storage systems and will provide the board with options at a future board meeting.

Budget and Power Bill Review: Czasnowski presented the board with November 2024 Power Bill Analysis. Sales are trending in line and power costs remaining in the expected range. The January 2025 Budget Analysis will be presented in February, when January numbers are available.

EV Charging Rate Discussion: Czasnowski reviewed the usage at the Town Hall charging station with the board. She recommended implementing a rate for charging at the stations. The proposed rate is 20 cents per kWh, with a post-charge parking fee of one dollar per hour. The board reviewed an analysis of proposed charging rate revenue with subscription fees, cost of power, and operating costs.

Ahlin made a motion to approve the EV Charging Rate of .20/kWh, with a parking fee of \$1.00 per hour. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye, Wright aye.

Legislative Update: Czasnowski informed the board about the legislative issues that could impact Municipal Light Plants. Czasnowski will provide the Board with updates as more information becomes available.

MMWEC Membership: Czasnowski updated the board on Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) membership information. Due to recent changes, AMLP's required member service fees will increase by approximately \$3500 per year. Czasnowski will meet with MMWEC to discuss the future of AMLP's membership. The board unanimously agreed to send a letter to the CEO of MMWEC expressing areas of concern that they would like MMWEC to address.

Other Updates:

- Berkshire Wind: Czasnowski will continue to provide the board with updates regarding the Berkshire Wind project.
- Library EV Charging Station Update: Czasnowski has confirmed with the library director that he would like the service disconnected and the meter removed for the charging station at the library. After the disconnection paperwork is finalized, the service will be removed.
- Cost of Service Study: Ruuska is in the process of putting together all the data to submit to MMWEC for the cost of service study. Through the study we will also be evaluating residential solar rates.
- Auditors: Goulet, Salvidio and Associates will attend the March board meeting and present the 2024 Financials to the board.
- ISO Interconnection Update: QP1398 has withdrawn their interconnection application.

New Business:

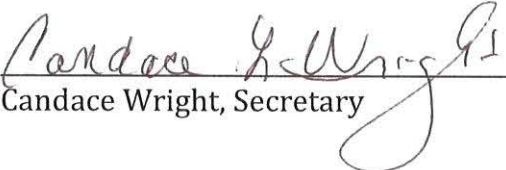
- General Manger Review: Czasnowski reminded the board that the annual General Manager review is due by the end of March.
- Cushing Interconnection: Cushing representatives have reached out to Czasnowski about preliminary ideas for an interconnection project. Czasnowski will review the proposed projects with MMWEC for recommendations and present them to the board at a future meeting.

- Planning Procedure 12 (PP12): ISO-NE has implemented a new requirement to submit interconnection information for all distributed energy resources three times a year. This is for all solar and batteries, including residential installations.
- Career Awareness Fair: AMLP will participate in a career fair at Oakmont Regional High School on 2/5. Czasnowski and two lineworkers will attend the fair and will give a presentation to students on career opportunities as a lineworker.

The next meeting for the board was scheduled for February 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant.

Czasnowski will reach out to Goulet, Salvidio & Associates to see if March 19 or March 26 would be better to present the 2024 financials to the board.

Carlisle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wright seconded. The vote was taken at 10:31 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.


Candace Wright, Secretary