

# Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, February 26, 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, Ron DeCurzio (MMWEC), Tom Barry (MMWEC), Jason Viadero (MMWEC). MMWEC representatives left at 11:15 am.

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:33 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. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

**Approval of Minutes:** Wright made a motion to approve the January 22, 2025, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

**Citizen Speak:** No citizen comments.

**MMWEC Presentation:** The board meeting was attended by MMWEC CEO Ron DeCurzio, Director of Energy Markets Tom Barry and Director of Engineering & Generation Assets Jason Viadero to discuss battery storage and distributed generation.

Battery Storage: Viadero presented the board with some history and recommendations for battery options for Ashburnham. AMLP was one of the first MLPs in MA to install a battery. Viadero told the board transmission costs are expected to increase a minimum of 7% year over year. MMWEC's recommendation to bring down transmissions costs is further lower the peak load through the installation of an additional battery.

Option for Shared Battery: Viadero told the board that costs of batteries have come down significantly due to improvements in technology. A shared savings battery would be installed by a vendor who would then cover all installation and maintenance costs. AMLP would share the savings with the vendor.

Distributed Generation: MMWEC recommended that AMLP conduct a study with to determine the impact of additional distributed generation on AMLP's system. The board will look at AMLP's Distributed Generation policies upon receiving this data from MMWEC.

MMWEC representatives left the meeting at 11:15.

### **General Manager Items:**

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. Net savings have continued. Czasnowski will explore different options for a shared savings plan battery.

Budget and Power Bill Review: Czasnowski presented the board with the December 2025 Power Bill Analysis. The Budget Summary has been updated to reflect the approved 2025 budget. All items are within the expected range. Czasnowski is in the process of drafting a bid for tree trimming.

Legislative Update: Czasnowski discussed the proposed legislation with the board including Large Building Energy Reporting, Clean Heat Standard, Advanced Clean Trucks, and the Building Decarbonization Clearing House and the Clean Energy Bill. She will continue to provide updates to the board as more information is available.

### **Other Updates:**

- Library EV Charging Station Update: Czasnowski discussed the deactivation of the charging stations located at Stevens Memorial Library with the board. Per the Library's request, AMLP has removed the meter and disconnected service to the charging stations. The EV charging stations at Town Hall are operational, and a charging rate has been implemented.
- Auditors: Goulet, Salvidio and Associates will attend the March board meeting and present the 2024 Financials to the board.
- Career Awareness Fair: Czasnowski, the Working Foreman, J. Schrecke, and Lineman First Class, J. Gendron attended Oakmont's first Career Awareness Fair. They gave a presentation on the lineman profession. It was a good experience and provided increased public awareness of AMLP's role in town.
- Grant: AMLP is working with MMWEC and a few local MLP's to go in on a grant for small communities that would help bring increased resiliency to our infrastructure.
- Fiber Request: The board received a contact form asking to install fiber in the town. The request was not from an AMLP customer.
- NextZero Webinar: NextZero will host a webinar on February 27, 2025 at noon. The presentation will inform customers about heat pump options, as well as providing educational materials and rebate offerings.

***New Business:***

- *General Manger Review:* Czasnowski will schedule an Executive Session at the next board meeting to discuss the yearly review.

The next meeting for the board was scheduled for March 26, 2025 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 11:47 a.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.

  
Candace Wright, Secretary