

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, March 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
AML Staff: Aili Ruuska, Kerri St. Cyr
Other Attendees: Heather Isaacs & Adam Schremser (Goulet, Savlidio & Associates)

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: Wright made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Approval of Minutes: Carlisle made a motion to approve the February 26, 2025, open session meeting minutes. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Presentation of 2024 Financial Statements: Czasnowski thanked Isaacs and Schremser for their work on the Financial Statements, DPU Report and annual audit. Goulet, Salvadio & Associates (GSA) provided a clean option. Isaacs presented the draft 2024 Financial Statements and the draft Internal Control Report. She congratulated AMLP for having a strong system of internal controls. She informed the board there were no significant industry or regulatory changes in the last year. Isaacs also presented the board with the draft 2024 DPU Report. GSA is waiting for the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities to finalize their decision on the AMLP's petition for an increase in the depreciation rate for 2024 before the DPU Report and Financials will be final (GSA representatives and St. Cyr left the meeting at 10:05 am).

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. Net savings have continued. Czasnowski has meetings arranged to review shared savings battery options with different vendors. MMWEC will present the different battery options at a future Board meeting.

Budget and Power Bill Review: Czasnowski presented the Board with the February 2025 Power Bill Analysis. Sales and power costs are trending higher than normal due to the cold temperatures that New England has experienced this winter.

Legislative Updates: Czasnowski attended MLP State House Day hosted by MMWEC to raise awareness about the benefits of public power. She also met with Representatives Zlotnik and Ferguson. Czasnowski provided the Board with updates on proposed legislation including Clean Heat Standard, Large Energy Building Energy Reporting, Advanced Clean Trucks, and the Building Decarbonization Clearing House.

AMLB Letter of Support Discussion: Czasnowski provided the Board with a draft of the proposed letter of support for the public power model. The Board will review the letter and make suggestions at the next Board meeting.

Other Updates:

- *Commercial Distributed Generation:* Czasnowski sent a letter to a customer that is interested in solar stating that due to the proposed system size a system impact study will be required. She will meet with the applicant for further discussion of the project.
- *Tree Trimming:* Czasnowski is preparing a tree trimming contract and will be going out to bid soon. The Town of Ashburnham tree warden is in agreement with the proposed handling of scenic roads.
- *AMLV Vehicles:* Options for the Explorer and F150 are being finalized. Czasnowski has received quotes and will move forward based upon the best pricing available.
- *Town Administrator Search Committee:* The Town of Ashburnham has formed a search committee to begin looking for candidates for the Town Administrator position.

New Business:

- *National Grid Transmission Service Agreement:* The Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) with National Grid expires in December 2025. The Substation Sharing Agreement expires in 2026. Czasnowski is working with MMWEC on the new agreements.
- *PLX Metering System:* The PLX meter system has been discontinued by Landis+Gyr and they have announced that the end of support and software patches will be in 2029. Czasnowski will begin reviewing different options.

- Grant Options: Town personnel reached out to Czasnowski regarding grant options for the solar array located at the Public Safety Building. AMLP will confirm that the system upgrades are limited to repairs only.

Wright made a motion that the Ashburnham Municipal Light Board shall enter executive session under M.G.L Chapter 21(a)(2).


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

Carlisle seconded. The vote was taken at 11:12 a.m. to leave executive session and return to open session. All in favor. Ahlin, aye, Carlisle aye, Wright aye.

- General Manager Review: The board briefly discussed Czasnowski's performance. This item will be continued at the next meeting and Czasnowski will be provided with a summary review then.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for April 16, 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 12:48 p.m. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.

 4/16/25
Candace Wright, Secretary