

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, April 16, 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
Other Attendees: Jason Viadero (MMWEC)

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 amended. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

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

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

MMWEC Presentation of Battery Storage Options: Jason Viadero, Director of Engineering & Generation Assets at the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), gave a presentation on shared savings battery storage options. The organizational benefits and drawbacks of three battery developers were discussed. Czasnowski will receive updated information from the developers and will perform a final review with MMWEC and will present the recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

Monthly Dashboard: Czasnowski provided the Board with a monthly snapshot of customer service and operational performance metrics. This will be part of the monthly packet the Board receives.

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. March data will be available at the next Board meeting.

Budget and Power Bill Review: Czasnowski presented the Board with the Power Bill Analysis. Sales and power costs are trending higher than normal due to the cold temperatures that New England has experienced this winter. All other operational budget items are within expected ranges.

Legislative Updates: Czasnowski provided the Board with updates on proposed legislation including Clean Heat Standards, Large Building Energy Reporting, Advanced Clean Trucks, and the Building Decarbonization Clearing House. MassDEP has announced a delay in enforcing the Advanced Clean Trucks regulations. Czasnowski also let the Board know that she was notified that the state has decided not to include MLP's in the Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse.

General Manager Goals: Czasnowski discussed the new format for tracking goals and objectives. She plans to provide the Board with an updated copy of this for every meeting.

AMLB Letter of Support Discussion: Czasnowski provided the Board with a draft letter of support for the local control and the public power model to be sent to the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM). Carlisle made a motion to approve signing the AMLB Letter of Support. Wright seconded. All in favor, Carlisle aye. Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

General Manager Review: The Board did not have any additional comments about the General Manager review. The Chair of the Board has the review summary, and he will provide the General Manager with a copy for her records.

Office Hours Pilot Discussion: Czasnowski discussed the new office hours pilot with the Board. New hours will be implemented as a pilot and will begin the week of May 5th. The Board had no opposition to this pilot. Czasnowski will create a Memorandum of Understanding providing the details of the pilot hours change.

Other Updates:

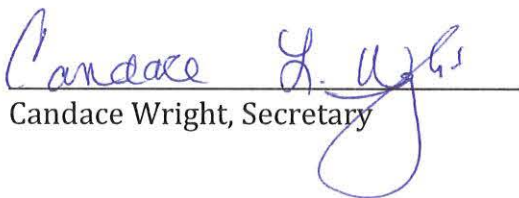
- **Tree Trimming:** Czasnowski has prepared a tree trimming contract. The contract has been reviewed, and she is waiting for a call regarding the prevailing wage before she posts the bid.
- **AMLP Vehicles:** The new Explorer is in stock and will be purchased. The F-150 has a lead time of 10-12 weeks. The previous Explorer and utility vehicle will be sold at auction. The EV vehicle is currently undergoing repairs.
- **National Grid Transmission Service Agreement:** The Transmission Service Agreement with National Grid expires in December 2025. The Substation Sharing Agreement expires in December 2026. Czasnowski is working with MMWEC and National Grid to finalize new agreements.

New Business:

- CDL Classes: In 2026 two linemen will complete their CDL upgrades. One has completed already and the other is currently enrolled.
- MMWEC Energy Savings Finder Tool: MMWEC has launched a new tool which helps customers locate rebates based on their location. This tool is live on the AMLP website.
- APPA Certificate: AMLP received APPA's Certificate of Excellence in Reliability. This has been posted on the website and Facebook.
- Recreation Committee: The Recreation Committee has consulted with AMLP regarding the installation of a playground near Stevens Memorial Library. Czasnowski will continue to collaborate with the Recreation Committee on this project.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for May 21, 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 11:59 am. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.

 5/21/25
Candace Wright, Secretary