

Ashburnham Municipal Light Board

Wednesday, May 21, 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 and Joshua Ryan (MMWEC, left at 10:05 a.m.)

Ahlin called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 April 16, 2025, open session meeting minutes. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Wright aye, Carlisle aye, Ahlin aye.

Reorganization of the Board: There was a brief discussion about reorganizing the Board. The Board unanimously decided to keep the current positions. Carlisle made a motion to keep the organization of the Board the same. Wright seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

Citizen Speak: No citizen comments.

General Manager Items:

Approval of 2024 Financial Statements and DPU Report: The 2024 Financial Statements and DPU Report were presented in draft at the March 26th meeting awaiting the decision from the Department of Public Utilities to increase the depreciation rate from 3% to 5% for 2024. The authorization from the DPU was received in April and there were no changes to the Financial Statement or DPU Report. Wright made a motion to accept the 2024 Financial Statements and DPU Report. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye, Ahlin aye.

MMWEC Presentation of Battery Storage Options: Jason Viadero, Director of Engineering & Generation Assets at the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), accompanied by Joshua Ryan, Engineering Supervisor, reviewed the shared savings battery proposals. He discussed the benefits of partnering with Lightshift due to the higher shared savings split as well as the size of the proposed system.

VOTE: AUTHORIZATION OF PARTICIPATION IN
MMWEC'S BEHIND THE METER BESS PROGRAM
AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant ("MLP") intends to participate in the program (the "BESS Program") being administered by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company ("MMWEC") for behind the meter battery energy storage systems ("BESS"), pursuant to which MMWEC will negotiate with Lightshift Energy, LLC ("Developer") who, among other things, will be responsible for the design, engineering, construction, permitting, operation and maintenance of a BESS facility located on the agreed-upon site for the MLP;

WHEREAS, the General Manager of the MLP has determined that it is prudent and in the best interests of the MLP to enter into an Administrative Services Agreement with MMWEC for the administration of the BESS Program by MMWEC on behalf of the MLP;

WHEREAS, the General Manager of the MLP has determined that it is prudent and in the best interests of the MLP to permit MMWEC, on behalf of the MLP, to negotiate, facilitate and cause the execution of certain definitive agreements, including an Energy Storage Services Agreement ("ESSA"), a Site License & Use Agreement ("License") and Interconnection Agreement (collectively, the "Definitive Agreements") between the MLP and the Developer for a term of not less than twenty (20) years;

WHEREAS, the Administrative Services Agreement is a contract between MMWEC and the city or town having a municipal light department and pursuant to St. 1975, c 775, § 1, and such city or town is authorized to exercise any of its powers or authority contained in St. 1975, c. 775 through its municipal light board or commission; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Services Agreement contains provisions bestowing on such city or town powers and authority contained in St. 1975, c. 775, §6:

WHEREFORE, it is voted:

VOTE: That the MLP Board of Commissioners ("Board") hereby votes to:

1. accept the recommendations of the General Manager and hereby finds that it is prudent and in the best interests of the city or town acting by and through the MLP to participate in the BESS Program and to permit MMWEC to negotiate, facilitate and cause the execution of the Definitive Agreements on behalf of and/or by the MLP; and
2. authorize and approve the MLP's participation in the BESS Program; and
3. approve the Administrative Services Agreement between MMWEC and the MLP presented to the Board at this meeting and made a part of the record of this meeting; and
4. approve the ESSA between the MLP and the Developer substantially in the form of the ESSA presented to the Board at this meeting and made a part of the record of this meeting; and
5. approve the License between the MLP and the Developer substantially in the form of the License presented to the Board at this meeting and made a part of the record of this meeting; and
6. approve the Interconnection Agreement between the MLP and the Developer substantially in the form of the Interconnection Agreement presented to the Board at this meeting and made a part of the record of this meeting; and
7. authorize the General Manager to execute and deliver the Administrative Services Agreement; and
8. authorize the General Manager to execute and deliver the ESSA, substantially in the form of the ESSA presented to the Board at this meeting, with such changes and amendments thereto as the General Manager, may deem necessary or appropriate, without need of further approval or action from this Board; and
9. authorize the General Manager to execute and deliver the License, substantially in the form of the License presented to the Board at this meeting, with such changes and amendments thereto as the General Manager, may deem necessary or appropriate, without need of further approval or action from this Board; and

10. authorize the General Manager to execute and deliver the Interconnection Agreement, substantially in the form of the Interconnection Agreement presented to the Board at this meeting, with such changes and amendments thereto as the General Manager, may deem necessary or appropriate, without need of further approval or action from this Board; and
11. direct the General Manager to cause the MLP to perform all of its obligations under the Administrative Services Agreement and the Definitive Agreements at such time as the General Manager determines is appropriate to carry out the intent of this vote; and
12. authorize the General Manager to enter into such amendments to the Administrative Services Agreement and/or any of the Definitive Agreements as the General Manager may deem necessary or appropriate, without the need for further approval or action by the Board; and
13. authorize the General Manager to execute, accept, deliver or perform obligations for such further documents, or agreements and take any and all further actions, as the General Manager deems may reasonably be required to carry out, give effect to and consummate the Administrative Services Agreement and the Definitive Agreements and the purposes and intent of this vote; and
14. confirms and ratifies any and all actions previously taken by the General Manager or the MLP consistent with the purposes and intent of this vote.

Ahlin made a motion to approve the vote as presented. Carlisle seconded. All in favor. Ahlin aye, Carlisle aye, Wright aye.

Monthly Dashboard: Czasnowski provided the Board with a monthly snapshot of customer service and operational performance metrics.

Battery Storage Update: The battery continues to be used to reduce peak loads. March data was presented to the Board.

Budget and Power Bill Review: Czasnowski presented the Board with the Power Bill Analysis. March sales and power costs were slightly higher than forecast. 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. She stated DOER has issued a temporary

waiver for MLPs that is exempting them from Large Building Energy Reporting. In addition, MMWEC has drafted a letter in support of exempting MLPs from the ACT requirements.

General Manger Goals: Czasnowski discussed upcoming goals and objectives. She will pursue the digger bid in the near future. AMLP is in the process of working with MMWEC to perform a Cost of Service Study.

Other Updates:

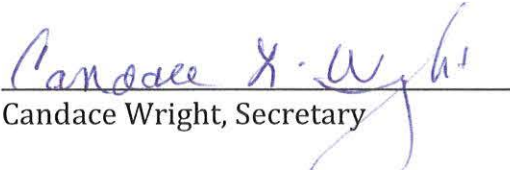
- *Tree Trimming:* The tree trimming bid went out on April 28, 2025. The bid opening is scheduled for May 30, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. Several contractors have reached out to AMLP.
- *AMLP Vehicles:* The new Explorer has been purchased. The F-150 has a lead time of 10-12 weeks.
- *National Grid Transmission 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.
- *Recreation Committee:* The Recreation Committee has consulted with AMLP regarding the installation of a playground near Stevens Memorial Library. Czasnowski and the Working Foreman have met with the Recreation Committee chair, Town Administrator, and an electrician to discuss the project and relocation of AMLP infrastructure. Czasnowski will continue to collaborate with the Recreation Committee on this project.

New Business:

- *MMWEC Conference:* Ahlin and Czasnowski attended the annual MMWEC conference at Endicott College.
- *JR Briggs Presentation:* AMLP will be going to JR Briggs Elementary to give a presentation about safety and the importance of math and science in public power careers on June 5th.

The next meeting for the Board was scheduled for June 18, 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 10:32 am. All in favor. Carlisle aye, Wright aye Ahlin aye.


Candace Wright, Secretary