

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2020**

PURSUANT TO notice given, the Merrimac Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met in the Municipal Light Department’s (“MLD” or “Department”) Administration Building, 10 W Main Street, at 3:30 PM.

PRESENT

Those present included Chairman Norman Denault, Vice-Chair Paula Hamel, Secretary Larry Fisher, MLD’s General Manager Francisco Frias, and Office Manager Tara Aniello. Line Superintendent Ken Buzzell was also present for a portion of the meeting.

MEETING START

A motion was made and accepted to bring the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners voted 3-0 to accept the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes as written.
Commissioners voted 3-0 to accept the November 12, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes as written.
Commissioners voted 3-0 to accept the December 10, 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes as written.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting went into executive session at 3:39 PM to discuss Line Superintendent’s performance evaluation and wages. The meeting exited executive session and returned to the regular meeting at 4:28 PM

GENERAL MANAGER’S ITEMS

November 2019 Financial Information:

The General Manager (“Manager”) asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the financial information for November 2019. The Department saw a total net income of \$21,668 compared to a forecasted loss of \$33,346. At this point, the Department has a total year to date income of \$629,147, which is mainly due to interest in different accounts.

Hazardous Waste Recycling Update:

The Manager reached out to the Board of Health (BOH) regarding the hazardous waste event and the BOH referred him to the Board of Selectmen. Jennifer Penney, the executive assistant to the Board of Selectman, notified The Manager that the Board of Selectman would like to meet with him and also a Board member at their January 21, 2020 meeting. Norman Denault volunteered to be present at the meeting. At the meeting, they will discuss what the Department is looking to do and see if the Town is interested in being involved.

Battery Storage Project Update:

The Manager received a proposal from New England Battery Storage for the installation of a battery storage system. The Board mentioned that it would be good to have the company come in and do a formal presentation. The Manager will reach out to this company and arrange for them to come to a Board meeting.

Town Fiber Installation Analysis Update:

The Manager got an updated proposal from Power System Engineers, Inc. ("PSE") and is still working on getting proposals from other companies. Pricing is high but contains what seems like an on-target scope of work. The proposal would include installation, expansion, and researching. The Board thinks it would be important to use a company that is experienced in doing feasibility studies for potential broadband business. Commissioner Hamel questioned if we would need to hire employees when the time came to do the work. The Manager mentioned that we could hire employees or partner with another company. The Manager will arrange for PSE to come to the next Board meeting to do a formal presentation.

4th Quarter Reliability Report:

The Manager reviewed the results of the 2019 4th Quarter Reliability Report with the Board (Report attached). There were a total of 10 outages for the fourth quarter, 8 were from tree-related and weather-related issues. There were a total of 177 customers affected with 36% restored in less than one hour, 63% being restored in 1 to 2 hours, and only 1% of the total number of customers restored in more than 2 hours. For 2019 there were a total of 25 outages compared to 26 from 2018.

Other Items not available at the time of Agenda posting:

Pole Billing:

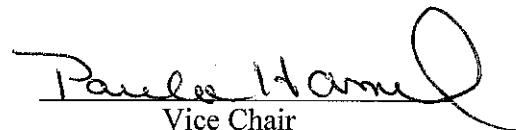
The total reimbursement for pole billing in 2019 was \$50,499.50, which the Department received from Verizon in December.

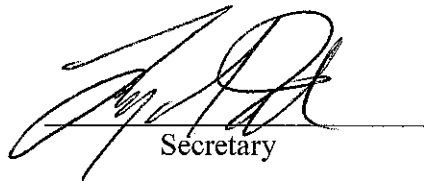
Calendars:

Commissioner Denault brought to the meeting a copy of the calendar the Light Department produced back in 2009. The calendar was illustrated by David Shaw, a very talented artist, and Merrimac resident. Since Mr. Shaw recently passed away, Commissioner Denault thought it would be a good idea to reproduce the calendar in memory of him. The Manager will get in contact with his wife and update the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM


Chairman


Vice Chair


Secretary