

**MINUTES OF THE  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING  
December 11, 2018**

**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 4:00 PM.

**PRESENT**

Those present included Chairman Larry Fisher, Vice Chair Norman Denault, MLD’s General Manager Francisco Frias, and Office Manager Tara Aniello. Line Superintendent came into the meeting towards the end for the scheduled Executive Session.

**MEETING START**

A motion was made and accepted to bring the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioners voted 2-0 to accept the November 13, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes as written.

**GENERAL MANAGER’S ITEMS**

**October 2018 Financial Information:**

The General Manager (“Manager”) asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the financial information for the month of October 2018. The Department saw a total Net Income of \$2,531.00, compared to a forecasted net income of \$83,965.00. A contributing factor to lower than expected net income was the downed market which affected the income of the investment funds. Also enclosed was the spreadsheet for October’s ending balances.

**Firstlight Hydro Project Opportunity:**

The Manager notified the Board that the Firstlight Hydro Project has become available through Energy New England (“ENE”). The difference between this hydro project and others is that it offers a pond which allows the hydro plant to run during selected peak hours. The average cost per megawatt hour is expected to be around \$52.38. The forecasted average price for the purchase of blocks of energy, from 2019 to 2023, is around \$44.22 a megawatt-hour versus \$50.63 once all the recs are cashed in for the hydro project. There is a lot of pressure being put on legislators to pass laws and regulations that will force municipal light departments to have a greener power portfolio in the future. Currently, the MLD has closed to 30% of its power portfolio in green energy and non-emitting resources. That number will be closer to 40% by 2021. If we took advantage of this project which in comparison is \$3 less than what the Department is paying for the solar installation, it would be easier to meet future requirements and help the environment. In the long-term scope of things, it does not look as if that many opportunities will be available. The Manager will update the Board as he gets more information.

**NGrid – Merrimac Supply Lines Work Update:**

National Grid did some tree trimming around the work area and they are looking at scheduling the install of the pole and equipment in the next few weeks. The Manager also informed the Board about a recent

issue we had with one of our supply lines. National Grid needed us to transfer the load from one supply line to the other and one of our reclosers would not operate because the control cable and the receptacle were corroded. The Light Department was able to bypass the recloser and National Grid was able to do their work. The damaged parts were replaced and the unit is able to open and close, however, we are monitoring it to make sure it works consistently.

**MLP Solar Rebate Program:**

The Manager informed the Board that the Light Department committed \$25,000 for this program, which will be matched with another \$25,000 from the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”). The Manager discussed the kW limit per installation and determined that if the Department caps the size at 5-7 kW instead of larger installations, more people will be able to take advantage of the program. The Manager will put something on the next newsletter to start promoting the program once the DOER opens the program.

**Fujitsu Network Communication Presentation:**

The Manager got an estimate of \$50k to \$100k from Fujitsu which is what it would cost to do a detailed broadband feasibility report. After reviewing the anticipated cost of the Fujitsu project the Light Department is not interested in moving forward with it at this point. The Manager will keep monitoring that market to determine if the Department would benefit from pursuing.

**Other items not available at the time of posting:**

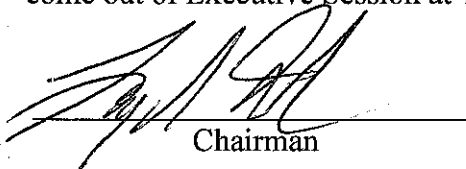
**Streetlight Rates:**

The Manager recently contacted the Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) to determine what the Department would need to do if it needed to update the streetlight rates. If the calculation method provided by the Massachusetts General Law is used then the Department wouldn’t have to do much, but if the Department uses a different method to calculate the rate then it would have to advertise and file the new rate with the DPU. In the last meeting, it was decided to set the rate based on what the Department paid for energy in the prior year, but this method will trigger the advertising and the filing with the DPU. The Board will discuss further at a later meeting.

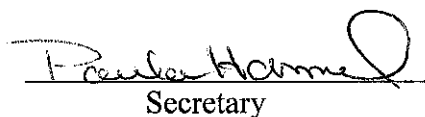
**Architect Opinion:**

The Manager contacted JD LaGrasse & Associates, Inc. to come in and look at the layout of the building to see if they had any ideas on how the Department could use the space more efficiently. They have some ideas on how to improve the space and deal with some of the challenges the existing layout presents. The Manager will update the Board as we move further into the process.

**Executive Session:** The Board voted to go into Executive Session at 5:06 PM to discuss Line Superintendent’s compensation, Manager’s Contract and other sensitive information. Board voted to come out of Executive Session at 7:04 PM and the public meeting was closed at 7:05 PM.

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chair

  
Secretary