

# MARBLEHEAD MUNICIPAL LIGHT COMMISSION

Tuesday June 7, 2022

80 Commercial Street, Commissioner's Conference Room, Marblehead, MA

GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/482259709>

Access Code: 482-259-709; (872) 240-3412

## Minutes

Present for the meeting were:

MMLD Commissioners – Chairman Hull, Frechette, Homan, Johnson, Wolf, General Manager Kowalik

Chairman Hull opened the meeting at 4:30 PM

### **Minutes:**

#### **Vote #2022-16**

Motion made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Homan to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 and May 17, 2022 meeting. **Unanimous**

#### **Vote #2021-17**

It was moved by Commissioner Homan and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the General Manager's recommendation for distribution of yearend 2021 available cash as follows:

Pilot Payment to the Town of Marblehead: \$330,000.00. **Unanimous**

#### **Village 13 Transformer and Switchgear Replacement:**

The request for bids will be advertised mid-June with a deadline of July 6, 2022 @ 1:30.

#### **Tree Contract:**

General Manager signed a tree contract with Mayer Tree. Contract is for \$250K for pole to pole span trimming and \$50k for dead tree removal not to exceed \$300K. The work will commence the week of June 20, 2022. The crew will begin with the transmission lines coming in from Salem at Lead Mills.

#### **Mass CZM Resiliency Grant:**

A hybrid meeting will be held at Abbot Hall on Thursday, June 9 to discuss the Town's plan for the CZM resiliency grant. The flood door for 80 Commercial Street east facing basement door will be installed the week of June 13<sup>th</sup> to be complete the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **80 Commercial St Gates and Fences:**

General Manager Kowalik updated the Commissioners on the project.

## **Vote # 2022-18**

It was moved by Commissioner Frechette and seconded by Commissioner Homan to authorize General Manager Kowalik to facilitate the bids for engineering and construction. **Unanimous**

## **2021A Offshore Wind:**

MMLD participation will be 3.8% of the project representing 16,000 mwh's annually. The participation is a PPA, with an estimated price per kwh not to exceed \$.0774/kwh. The estimated price includes two environmental attributes, Mass Class Recs and clean Peak Revenue Certificates. The PPA is for a 20-year term with an estimated start date of Q1 2028.

## **Commissioner Wolf distributed the following correspondence:**

### **Recommendations to Board – Objectives for 2022-2023**

- Strategic Plan for adding supply line in to Marblehead
  - Evaluate and compare options
  - Evaluate dedicated high voltage circuit
- Flatten peak
  - Resolve Metering issue/obstacles to TOU rates
  - Develop Time-of-Use rates Pilot program
  - Pilot Residential PV + battery program
  - Promote enrollment in Connected Homes/demand-response program
- Strategic electrification
  - Develop GIS to track new loads from EV's, heat pumps
  - Accelerate adoption of heat pumps → target oil heating systems for conversion
  - Plan for expanding EV charging infrastructure
- Customer education
  - Update and maintain website, fb, social media
  - Customer survey
  - Hire or train staff to be able to promote MMWEC carbon-reduction programs
  - Move forward with newsletter
  - Refine Peak communications targeting ALL customers
- Build updated GIS system
  - Code residences by heating, EVs, DERs
  - Circuit map by transformer

**MMLD Sustainability Fund:** This memo was presented for discussion, but no formal policy has been adopted

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- Background:**
- MMLD currently sells a majority of its Class 1 RECs (\$120,000 in 2021); and thereby does not retain the environmental attributes of this energy;
  - Consequently, MMLD's 'clean energy' portion of its energy supply is <0.1%, as compared with a 16 % mandated requirement of IOU's in 2021;
  - Previously MMLD rejected the Green Communities requirement of adding a \$0.0005/kWh surcharge on customer's bills, thereby forfeiting Marblehead's access to \$250,000 in grant funds designed to give assistance for community efficiency and electrification initiatives
  - MMLD has cited concerns about 'in perpetuity' payments to the Green Communities fund, and the regressive nature of the surcharge
  - The sum of the sale of RECs plus the avoided surcharge = \$170,000

- Proposal:**
- Establish a dedicated MMLD Sustainability Fund;
  - Deposited Funds will be equal to the amount from sold REC's plus the forfeited Green Communities grant monies
  - Amount will be approximately \$370,000
  - Funds will be directed to sustainability initiatives, which will be prioritized and selected by a Sustainability Working Group, composition to be determined.
  - Possible initiatives:
    - Community solar generation facilities;
    - Power storage for peak electric use times;
    - Infrastructure such as public charging stations for electric vehicles, and other similar programs;
    - Residential rebates/Incentives for electrification and efficiency.

- Models:**
- **Ipswich - \$265,000/yr** - "we treat our Sustainability Fund very similarly to the Depreciation Fund. Each year we expense \$265K against a specific line in our operating budget and deposit the cash into a dedicated, restricted account. We then create a standalone budget to forecast and track the spending of that cash account."
  - **Wellesley – 4% of residential monthly bills** – goes to "Wellesley's WECARE program - a utility initiative that funds local renewable energy projects to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and preserve the planet. Residents are automatically enrolled."
  - **Hingham** - from sale of class 1 RECs minus what is spent on purchase of class 2 RECs to cover the entire portfolio.

The Commissioners will continue discussion of the proposed 2022-2023 goals and objectives after hearing the General Manager's recommendations at the next meeting and will vote to adopt a finalized list.

**Vote #2022-19**

Motion to go to executive session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel: Commission will not return to open session.

Roll call vote;

Frechette- yes

Homan- yes

Hull-yes

Johnson-yes

Wolf-yes

Executive Session commenced at 6:15PM