

TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

MINUTES OF MEETING

TIME: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 11:30 AM – 12:23 PM

PLACE: Office of the Commission

PRESENT: Chairman Corr, Commissioner Blackwell, Commissioner Martin, Manager Goulart, Ms. Davine, Ms. Holmes

Chairman Corr called the meeting to order.

Chairman Corr called for a roll call.

Present

Commissioner Blackwell
Commissioner Martini
Chairman Corr

Absent

MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2021 MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2021

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to approve. Unanimous.

21-084

AWARD OF SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS

Manager Goulart read the following bid award into the record:

Request for Proposal (RFP) 21-02 for unarmed security guard services was sent to the following vendors:

- *RIBI/USENTRA Security*
- *NESTC Security Agency LLC*
- *Allied Universal*

In response to RFP21-02 for the unarmed security guard services, a proposal was received from the following:

- *RIBI/USENTRA Security*

The attached spreadsheet summarizes the estimated annual expenses based on hourly RIBI/USENTRA pricing received as indicated below.

	2021 (July-Dec 2021)	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-June 2024)
Uniformed Guard				
Regular (\$/hr)	\$20.19	\$20.88	\$22.20	\$22.20
Overtime (\$/hr)	\$28.97	\$29.96	\$31.86	\$31.86
Holiday (\$/hr)	\$28.97	\$29.96	\$31.86	\$31.86
Uniformed Supervisor				
Regular (\$/hr)	\$22.93	\$23.01	\$23.41	\$23.41
Overtime (\$/hr)	\$32.95	\$33.07	\$33.64	\$33.64
Holiday (\$/hr)	\$32.95	\$33.07	\$33.64	\$33.64

MINUTES OF JUNE 29, 2021

It is recommended to award the contract for unarmed security guard services to RIBI/USENTRA Security at the hourly rates above for an annual contract with an optionally renewable contract through June 2024.

<u>Unarmed Security Guard Services</u>						
<u>RFP21-02</u>						
	2021 (Jul-Dec)	2022	2023	2024 (Jan-Jun)	Meet Specs/T&C's	Comments
RIBI/USENTRA Security 14 International Way Warwick, RI 02886	\$91,040	\$186,838	\$196,456	\$98,228	Yes	Low bidder meeting specifications
NESCTC Security Agency LLC 46 Molter Street Cranston, RI 02910	---	---	---	---	N/A	No Bid
Allied Universal 700 Technical Park Billerica, MA 01821	---	---	---	---	N/A	No Bid
NOTE: The estimated annual expenditures are based upon coverage of one supervisor at 40 hrs/week and guards at 128 hrs/week.						

Recommendation:

Award contract to RIBI/USENTRA Security for the unarmed security guard services at the hourly rates submitted for an annual contract with an optionally renewable contract through June 2024.

Manager Goulart stated that the prices are in line with the last contract we had done.

Manager Goulart stated we want to do this on an annual basis because there is a possibility we are going to change the way we do security in the future so we do not want to lock ourselves in for the full 3 years. For your consideration.

Commissioner Martin asked if the bid specs indicated that it is optional.

Manager Goulart responded yes. They were all set as optionally available to the TMLP.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Martin to award the contract for unarmed security guard services to RIBI/USENTRA Security at the hourly rates above for an annual contract with an optionally renewable contract through June 2024. Unanimous.

21-085

INTERVIEW FOR THE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER

Manager Goulart stated as the Commission is aware we have already done the initial vetting at the prior meeting in Executive Session and now we are ready for the formal public interview for the candidate Ms. Kimberly Holmes and with permission from the Commission I would like to invite Ms. Holmes to the table so we can commence the interview.

Commission invited Ms. Kimberly Holmes to the table.

Manager Goulart stated Kim, as you know we have already been through the first part of this and now this is the formal public interview that the Commission, as the appointing authority, will be having with you.

The Commission asked Ms. Holmes the following questions:

I. QUALIFICATIONS

Commissioner Corr asked Ms. Holmes the following question:

- What is your education history?

Ms. Holmes responded that I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Northeastern. I also have a Master of Science degree in Finance also from Northeastern.

Commissioner Martin asked Ms. Holmes the following question:

- What are your management skills and experience (10 years) electric utility related?

Ms. Holmes responded that I have been working at the TMLP since I graduated in 2000. Prior to that I also worked as a coop student since 1997. I have about 24 years of experience in the electric industry.

II. SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE

Commissioner Blackwell asked the following question:

- What are your labor relations experience?

Ms. Holmes responded that I was the secretary of the TPEA Board for about 1 & ½ years. Since then I have participated in collective bargaining with all of the Union's we have here. Renewing contracts or doing memos of understanding with them or just working through various issues that they might have with their contracts.

III. PLANNING

Commissioner Corr asked the following question:

- How would you assess the needs of the TMLP?

Ms. Holmes responded that a lot of it stems from our Strategic Planning that we do annually. That sets the goals for the Company. We have an overall strategic plan that is usually in place for 5 years. We try to meet those goals. There is a group of us that get together to do the strategic planning. We identify what is going to get us to those goals that were set in place 5 years ago as things change over time. As a group we work through that process and determine how we are going to get there the fastest, the quickest and the most cost effectively. Once you have those established you just figure out the objectives and plan on how you are going to get there setting priorities, planning, making sure you have the resources available, making sure you have a reasonable timeline to meet those goals and then letting people know what the priorities are and which ones should be done first.

Commissioner Martin asked the following question:

- What is the purpose of Strategic Planning and your experience with Strategic Planning?

Ms. Holmes responded so the Strategic Planning process is exactly to meet those goals that the Commission helps us to define in that 5 year plan and the process is we pull people from every department so they can help and oversee and review all of the projects that each department is putting forth before the committee and see how they interact with each other because in some cases you need resources from multiple departments in order to achieve any particular project or certain goals. So the purpose is to get everyone together and make a path forward.

IV. TMLP MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Blackwell asked the following question:

- Describe TMLP's mission statement.

Ms. Holmes responded that it is to provide reliable and competitively priced services to our community in an environmentally-sensitive and customer-centric manner.

Commissioner Corr asked the following question:

- Describe three most pressing challenges facing TMLP / how to address?

Ms. Holmes responded so the three challenges for TMLP I see coming up are going to be addressing the requirements of the Global Warming Solution Act (GWSA). Also addressing the needs of ISG and the fiber roll-out. So with the GWSA there are two pieces to that. Making sure we have reliable power to get out to our customers. We are going to need some baseload unit as fossil fuel units get phased out. Wind and sun doesn't always shine, the wind doesn't always blow so we need to find some sort of solution to meet that goal of being 100% green by 2050. The other part of that GWSA is grid infrastructure. There is a big move of electrification of everything including electric vehicles and that is going to put a huge load on our service territory so we need to make sure our infrastructure has been bolstered in order to support that. As far as ISG roll-out specific to TMLP, we have customers' asking for it all over the place, begging for our services because it is reliable and more cost effective than the other competitors. We just need to get over the hurdle of making it a viable business product because right now the numbers look a little outside of our range. We can't rely on our electric side to support the Internet side so we are trying to address getting some funding in order to make that happen as well.

Commissioner Martin asked the following question:

- What is FCM and how does it impact TMLP?

Ms. Holmes responded the Forward Capacity Market (FCM) is a market through ISO New England and it is designed to make sure there is enough generation out there to meet the loads of New England. We get it from two different sides. We get a payment from FCM for what Cleary generating units are able to provide and then on the load side we have to pay into the market to help support the assets that are providing that power.

Commissioner Blackwell asked the following question:

- What is the MGL chapter that covers MLP's, what areas do they cover?

Ms. Holmes responded that Chapter 164 is the law that governs the municipal light plants and it establishes the need for a Board and identifies what powers between the Board and General Manager they can do within the business. It also addresses purchasing of material and supplies and purchasing land and maintaining land. Things of that nature. Commissioner Corr asked the following question

- Describe your experience working with outside entities, public officials, etc.

Ms. Holmes responded that right now I am on the Board of the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC). We meet monthly to discuss the needs of the business community in the area. I have also worked with City Councilors and the Mayor on various projects. We have worked with Sustainable Taunton on the bike path which were all through the City in some way shape or form. We have also gone

to the DOER for various presentations or sharing of information about some of the programs that they wanted to put in place so we supplied feedback on how those programs would affect us either positively or negatively. We have done that through DOER and our lobbyists as well.

V. PROCEDURES

Commissioner Martin asked the following question:

- Describe the MGL rules and regulations related to purchasing?

Ms. Holmes responded that is MGL 164 Chapter 5060 which is the overlying one. Under that law any purchase that we make for materials that is under \$25,000 are not under any set requirements but our internal business process is to get at least 3 quotes so that we know we are using sound business practices when making a purchase. Anything over \$25,000 we go out for a public bid where we put out a tech spec in terms & conditions, we advertise it for at least a week and that is open for the public. Chapter 30 governs how we would handle a bid for public works project like tree trimming or anything to do with the roads. That also is an advertisement. Chapter 7 deals with hiring engineers and architects and you need to have a selection process in place prior to sending those out for bid. Chapter 149 is for buildings and each one of them has an in depth process to them that we just typically do not do those type of projects too often. Some of them we will actually refer to our attorneys to help make sure that we met the legal requirements for the engineering and the building.

Commissioner Blackwell asked the following question:

- Describe your role in administering TMLP policies and procedures.

Ms. Holmes responded as manager of the purchasing department I oversee all of the purchasing procedures and making sure that they meet the requirements that we just talked about. I have also participated in helping to draft some of the policies that are currently in place and educating supervisors and staff on what they need and how to implement them and making sure they are working as best as they can with the Company.

VI. STAFF

Commissioner Corr asked the following question:

- Discuss morale, and how would you motivate your staff / work force?

Ms. Homes responded morale is very important. Without having employees work tends to suffer, the Company suffers and the customer ultimately gets affected. We want our employees to feel valued. We want them to feel that they are important and that their role in the Company is important. Everybody has an important role because without any one particular department things would start to fall apart over time. Especially in a place like this where people tend to stay for longer periods of time sometimes doing the same job for 20 years it can start to get boring so it would be great to encourage them to grow or offer them opportunities kind of just do something different, mix things up to get them re-excited and re-engaged in their position and their job. Make them look forward to coming to work every day.

VII. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Martin asked the following question:

- What are your top three area/priorities to address at the TMLP?

Ms. Holmes responded so I think it is similar to the challenges that are coming towards us. We are definitely going to have to keep an eye on meeting the 2050 guidelines. Right now the law is we have to be 100% green by 2050 but they are looking to roll that back so it happens in 2035. We are going to have to keep our eye on that and make sure that we meet those goals as they come even if they change rather quickly. Right now our power supply has us at 48% by about 2023, 2024 and the problem with that is that some of those contracts drop off so we just need to keep going through the process to make sure we are meeting those various timelines. Another thing that we are going to have to deal with is how that all affects Cleary. Just because Unit 9 is the age that it is, at some point in time that is going to go away. What do you do there, either re-powering it in some way shape or form, putting in solar or battery storage to help keep that active or just find either through attrition or find new places within TMLP where we can use some of the employees with their current skillset how they could help other departments as that starts to come closer to use to avoid layoffs.

Commissioner Blackwell asked the following question:

- What makes you the right choice for this position?

Ms. Holmes responded I think I am the right choice because I have such a broad background and I have been able to work at least a little bit in every single department in the Company. Through ESP in setting the rates I got to know how the finances worked for each department because it all rolls into making those different rate components. Also, as the NERC compliance manager I had to work specifically with Cleary and the T&D Department to meet those standards that are set in place. I was able to get more of the technical side going through that process with them. So I think having all of that together I at least know how all the different departments tie together. How it all affects the running and the moving along of TMLP and it is not just a focus in one area it takes all of us to do it and I think I have that background to be able to push us forward.

Manager Goulart stated that this ends the formal interview.

Manager Goulart asked Ms. Holmes if she had any questions for the Commission.

Ms. Holmes asked what the Commission sees as the priorities that TMLP should dig into over the next few years.

Commissioner Corr stated that the biggest thing is the Green initiative and next is getting the fiber up and running.

Commissioner Martin stated what comes to my mind is what is going on in the West coast with the heat wave and at the same time the East coast. Is there enough renewable out there to cover all of these problems existing? Are we going to be seeing shut downs for a period of time in certain areas. That goes along with the Green initiative. Also, the public has been clamoring for internet access.

Commissioner Blackwell stated I say the same thing. Advance our Green portfolio, which I know we have been doing to meet the law, and also the internet service. That is the one bill that aggravates me paying than any other bill I have because it is not based on consumption. If you do not use electricity we do not charge you but if you do not turn on your TV for a month you still get charged the same amount. So I would like to see the internet out there.

Manager Goulart stated that this ends the interview. We will get back to you.

Ms. Holmes thanked the Commission and left the table at 11:50 AM,

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE:

Commissioner Blackwell stated that I notice on the ISO site that there were 1333 megawatts wind. When I took a look at the yesterday I noticed that it was up to 1406 wind. So 73 megawatts was added. I was wondering if the TMLP was ever given the opportunity to buy into any of those projects. I did not hear of any new projects and I was wondering how the 73 megawatts got added.

Manager Goulart responded that from time to time the TMLP is approached about participation in different solar/wind projects, and we are actually in the middle of negotiations on participation in a wind project right now, but not that one. I think the one you are referring to was one I discussed with the Energy Supply & Planning group about where we are in the stack of wind projects. That particular 73 megawatts that you noticed is part of a merchant solution that is out there that was not available to TMLP. There is a total of 134 megawatts that you are going to see come online fully. Some of that missing megawatts was outage related work and they just brought that back. Some of it is new wind turbines that they just put in. The short answer to your question Mr. Blackwell is we were not considered to be part of that project and so we are looking at other projects to participate in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Corr announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 3:00 PM.

Chairman Corr stated that the next order of business is Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of Individual Character and Quality pursuant to MGL c. 30A section 21(a)(1), Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations.

Manager Goulart stated that no votes are anticipated in Executive Session, therefore, we will be adjourning in Executive Session.

Motion by Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Blackwell to go into Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of Individual Character and Quality pursuant to MGL c. 30A section 21(a) (1), Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations.. (11:55 AM) 21-086

The Commission was recorded in a roll call vote to go into executive session as follows:

In Favor

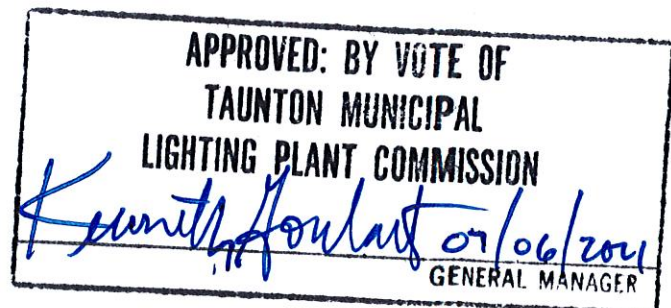
Commissioner Blackwell
Commissioner Martin
Chairman Corr

Absent

Executive Session discussion.



SECRETARY



dmt

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discuss Matters Pertaining to Individual Character and Quality Pursuant to MGL c. 30A Section 21(a) (1)

Manager Goulart and the Commission had a discussion concerning this issue.

Competitive Advantage

Manager Goulart and the Commission discussed numerous topics on this issue.

Contract Negotiations

Manager Goulart and the Commission discussed this issue.

Motion in Executive Session by Commission Corr, seconded by Commission Martin to adjourn. (12:23 PM)

21-087