

## TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**TIME:** Tuesday, December 21, 2021

4:00 PM – 4:48 PM

**PLACE:** Office of the Commission

**PRESENT:** Chairman Corr, Commissioner Blackwell, Manager Goulart, Ms. Holmes, Attorney Pollart (KP Law), Mr. Foley, Ms. Davine, Mr. October, Mr. Botelho, Mr. Strojny, Ms. Silveira, Ms. Britland, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Strojny

Commissioner Blackwell called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Blackwell asked for a Moment of Silence for Peter H. Corr, Joseph M. Martin and Alice Pacheco.

Chairman Corr called for a roll call.

#### Present

Commissioner Blackwell  
Chairman Corr

#### Absent

#### MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2021

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

#### REGULAR WARRANT OF NOVEMBER 25, 2021

#### REGULAR WARRANT OF DECEMBER 2, 2021

#### REGULAR WARRANT OF DECEMBER 9, 2021

#### REGULAR WARRANT OF DECEMBER 16, 2021

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

#### AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS:

#### Request for Sealed Bids for 25,200 Circuit Feet of Spacer Cable Assembly

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*Item #1      Request for Sealed Bids 25,200 Circuit Feet of Spacer Cable Assembly*

*Request permission to send out invitation for sealed bids for 25,200 circuit feet of space cable assembly which consists of:*

- 25,200 feet of .052 Messenger
- 175 Pole Brackets
- 850 Spacers
- 75,600 feet of 477.0 kcmil Aerial Spacer Type Cable

21-179

21-180

## MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2021

21,000 feet will be for MASSDOT Highway RT 138 Force Account (Reimbursable) and balance for stock. Estimated cost is \$250,000.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to authorize the request for sealed bids for 25,200 circuit feet of spacer cable assembly consisting of 25,200 feet of .052 Messenger, 175 pole brackets, 850 spacers and 75,600 feet of 477.0 kcmil aerial spacer type cable for an estimated cost of \$250,000. Unanimous. 21-181

### AWARD OF SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS:

#### Award of Bid for Unit #9 Fuel Oil Storage Tank Cleaning

Manager Goulart stated that this is the one where we had to reject the original bids because they were out of scope and this is the rebid.

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*TMLP issued RFP 21-04R in order to receive proposals for environmental services associated with the cleaning and degassing of the Unit 9 fuel oil storage tank. Two proposals were received which included labor and equipment rates (per day) and disposal fees (per ton):*

Company	Meets Spec.	Description	Unit Price	Qty. (Estimated)	Total Price
Tradebe Environmental Services Merrillville, IN	Yes	Storage Tank Blending and Stripping	\$5,950/day	5 days	\$29,750
		Storage Tank Washing	\$5,327/day	5 days	\$26,635
		Pigging of Piping	\$8,027/day	5 days	\$40,135
		Chemist Service	\$1,200/day	1 day	\$1,200
		Waste Disposal Fee	\$390/ton	140 tons	\$54,600
		<b>Total Price:</b>			<b>\$152,320</b>
Global Remediation Services, East Taunton, MA	Yes	Storage Tank Blending and Stripping	\$12,445/day	5 days	\$62,225
		Storage Tank Washing	\$9,690/day	5 days	\$48,450
		Pigging of Piping	\$6,715/day	5 days	\$33,575
		Chemist Service	\$1,500/day	1 day	\$1,500
		Waste Disposal Fee	\$702/ton	140 tons	\$98,280
		<b>Total Price:</b>			<b>\$244,030</b>

*The project team recommends that the TMLP Commission award RFP 21-04R to Tradebe Environmental Services as the lowest qualified bidder, contingent upon TMLP's legal review of Tradebe's terms and conditions. The estimated total cost is \$152,320 to be billed on a time and materials basis. The project team requests the TMLP Commission award an additional \$15,000 for unforeseen events and weather related to the work, for a total award amount of \$167,320.*

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to award the request for proposals for the Unit 9 Fuel Oil Storage Tank Cleaning to Tradebe Environmental Services for a total price of \$152,320 and an additional \$15,000 for unforeseen events for a total award amount of \$167,320. Unanimous. 21-182

### COMMUNICATIONS:

**Interoffice Communication from Craig Foley to Kenneth Goulart dated December 14, 2021:**  
**Subject: Change Order #2 – McDonald Electric Corporation**

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

Item #1

*TMLP changed the location of the duct bank going from the new control house to Cleary's main building after it was determined the new route would be much easier to get to the control room with the new location. TMLP also added concrete encasement to the duct bank. The quote for this work is \$21,353.20.*

Item #2

*Riggs Distler, the drilling company for the drilled foundations would only start drilling after test pits were performed and the locations near the gas line. These pits were performed by a VAC truck in 5 locations to ensure we would not hit the gas line and TMLP's electrical duct bank. The quote for this is \$16,782.70.*

Original Purchase Order	\$3,944,925.00
Change Order #1	\$ 27,946.08
Item #1	\$ 21,353.20
Item #2	\$ 16,782.70
<b>Total through Change Order #2</b>	<b>\$4,011,006.98</b>

*We are requesting that this be approved by the Commission so that we can issue change order #2 to McDonald Electric.*

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve Change Order #2 to PO #4500051959 for McDonald Electric Corporation in the amount of \$38,135.90. Unanimous.

21-183

**Letter from Office of the Mayor to Kenneth Goulart dated December 7, 2021: Subject: Employee Benefits and Overheads for Fiscal Year 2022**

Manager Goulart stated at the last meeting we dealt with the Voluntary Contribution to the City and this memo will then discuss the overhead payments to the City.

Manager Goulart read the following letter into the record:

*The City of Taunton's Fiscal Year 2022 runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. We would be grateful if you would have your Commissioners vote on the Employee Benefits and Overhead costs to the City associated with the TMLP.*

Debt Service

Principal on Debt	\$1,005,000.00	
Interest on Debt	\$ 301,644.00	\$ 1,306,644.00

Employee Benefits

Group Insurance	\$3,947,281.21	
Medicare Tax	\$ 379,400.00	
Retirement	\$4,952,335.00	\$ 9,279,016.21

Overhead



## MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2021

Auditor	\$ 69,116.72	
Treasurer	\$ 77,334.20	
Law	\$ 31,411.35	
Human Resources	\$ 80,481.12	\$ 258,343.39
		<b>\$10,844,003.60</b>

Warm Regards,  
Shaunna O'Connell  
Mayor

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to refer the Mayor's request for Employee Benefits and Overhead costs for Fiscal Year 2022 to Management for a recommendation for the next Commission meeting. Unanimous. 21-184

### **2022 Performance Review Budget – Exempt Management**

Manager Goulart read the following memo into the record:

*The proposed performance review budget is as follows:*

Exempt Salaries (pre-review)	\$940,032.67
Allowance for Merit Reviews	<u>\$ 22,610.35*</u>
<b>TOTAL 2022 BUDGET</b>	<b>\$962,643.02</b>

*This budget covers all currently authorized (& occupied) positions and will be in effect as long as there are no additions to personnel.*

*\*Please Note: Actual costs for the calendar year will be less than the budgeted amount due to pro-rating of annual salaries as of the respective employment anniversary date.*

Manager Goulart stated please note that these numbers were calculated on 3%, consistent with what the rest of the bargaining units are getting.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the 2022 Performance Review Budget for Exempt Management for a total budget of \$962,643.02 as presented by Manager Goulart. Unanimous. 21-185

### **General Manager's Annual Increase**

Manager Goulart stated that the next item is my annual increase. As you know, it has to be brought before the Commission in Public Session and it is that time of the year to consider it so I would like your consideration for my annual increase.

Manager Goulart added that I did submit to the Commission my Annual Report draft document for your consideration as far as the goings on for this year.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to give the General Manager the same general increase we gave the bargaining units and Exempt Management which is 3%. Unanimous. 21-186

### **Letter from the Northeast Public Power Association to Kenneth Goulart: Subject: Request for Donation to the Benevolent Fund**

Manager Goulart read the following into the record:

*As we approach the end of 2021, Public Power utilities across the US will be celebrating the Holidays with family and friends. While we prepare to start a new year, we would like to honor the achievements and work done by the men and women who keep the lights on every day. We want to thank you for your extraordinary work. This has been enormously challenging year, given the on-going Pandemic and all that it means to our industry. The Public Power family has responded to every crisis as we always do; prepared, action-oriented and community-focused. In that spirit, and in a further effort to be prepared for 2022, we want to ask you to consider supporting the NEPPA Benevolent Fund.*

***What is the Benevolent Fund?***

*Every day, public power workers are engaged in the demanding and often dangerous task of providing safe, reliable electric power to their communities at the lowest possible cost. As with any large family, the New England public power community is sometimes faced with unexpected tragedies; disabling accidents, sudden and prolonged illnesses, and even the tragic loss of life.*

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*NEPPA's Benevolent Fund was established to continue the tradition of providing support to public power workers in times of need. All funds raised and received are designated to be disbursed to public power employees, or their families, undergoing financial difficulties due to personal injury, illness or death. All public power employees in New England are eligible to receive assistance from the Fund. Requests for disbursements are approved by NEPPA's Executive Committee.*

***Supporting the Benevolent Fund***

*If you are interested in supporting this important program, please consider making a donation to the Fund. All donations will directly go into the Fund.*

*Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to donate \$500 to NEPPA's Benevolent Fund. Unanimous.*

**MEAM Communicator of the Year – Sonja Britland**

*Manager Goulart stated we received this communication as a Press Release from the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM), of which we are a member, and Sonja Britland, one of our employees, has been named a winner of the "Communicator of the Year" by MEAM.*

*Manager Goulart read the following Press Release into the record:*

*Sonja Britland names as winner of "Communicator of the Year" by the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts.*

*The Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts has announced that Sonja Britland has been named a 2021 Communicator of the Year as awarded by the Communications and Energy Services committee.*

*Ms. Britland, Administrator Customer Care & Public Communications for the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant, was nominated by General Manager Kenneth Goulart who credited Sonja with mastering the development of a variety of methods of community outreach during these times of transition and challenge. These include; converting in-person event to well-attended virtual events, overseeing the*



internal CrisisDriver digital messaging system for managers, launching digital newsletters e-communications and managing the production of the department's new website and social media presence.

She's also developed critical partnerships with community groups that keep TMLP connected in more way than one. For instance, she helped to promote the work of the Earth Day riverway clean up team by displaying new department electric vehicles to draw the attention of those interested in clean energy. She serves on the Edward F. Leddy pre-school improvement planning committee. Most recently, she's helping to promote awareness off the Greater Attleboro & Taunton Regional Transit (GATRA) efforts to electrify public transportation. When the authority put six electric buses in service thanks to grant funding, Sonja developed the large-scale ads for the TMLP Drives Electric program that now "take a ride on the Green side" on these rolling billboards and help financially support the GATRA program.

In short, Mr. Goulart say, "She uses her experience and personality to create a potent communication tool to connect and engage with the various end contacts, whether they be customers, public officials, or the media." She is and continues to be an integral part of the MEAM Communications and Energy Services team.

#### *Communicator of the Year Recipients*

The MEAM Communicator of the Year award recognizes individuals who consistently demonstrate effective public communications and are recognized public power advocates with a reputation for being highly credible with a variety of diverse audiences. Award winners use communication strategies that demonstrate creativity and innovation in a public utility environment. Recipients demonstrate exceptional leadership in addition to exemplary ethics and professionalism.

MEAM was formed in 1953 and includes all 40 municipally owned electric utilities in the state, advocating and supporting their management and mutual interests for the benefit of their citizen-owners. The MEAM Communications and Energy Services committee bring together utility professionals to share and monitor information in these fields for the advancement pf public electric utility service.

The Commission invited Ms. Sonja Britland to the table.

Manager Goulart stated that this is a recognition that is well deserved and for me and the rest of the team, congratulations.

Manager Goulart presented the award.

The Commission congratulated Sonja on receipt of this award.

#### **Letter from Taunton Public Schools to the Commissioners dated November 18, 2021: Subject: Letter of Appreciation**

Manager Goulart read the following letter into the record:

*During the Finance and Law portion of the Taunton School Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operation Brenda Moynihan recognized the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant for its efforts in restoring power to each of our schools during the recent Nor'easter. While many communities in the surrounding area were forced to keep schools closed for several days, students throughout the Taunton Public Schools were able to return the very next day.*

*As stated before, the Taunton Public Schools treasures the partnership we have cultivated with the TMLP. We also appreciate and recognize the TMLP's commitment to our students, schools and community.*

*On behalf of the students, families and staff throughout the Taunton Public Schools, I want to personally thank Kenneth Goulart, Craig Foley and the entire TMLP team for their continual support of the Taunton Public Schools.*

*John J. Cabral, Superintendent of Schools*

Manager Goulart stated we have a really great relationship with the Taunton Public Schools and it goes both ways. They work with us consistently all the time to make sure we are providing the best value and the best benefits to the Community which obviously includes the children and John Cabral knows this and he says it all the time that it is everyone at the TMLP that is working together. He mentioned Craig and myself but it is Dana running the show and MIS getting the laptops out to people and Customer Service answering the calls. You can't recognize these people enough for all the work that they do.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to accept the letter of appreciation from the Taunton Public Schools and place on file. Unanimous.

**Letter from the Taunton Retirement Board to Kenneth Goulart dated December 16, 2021: Subject: Retirement of William Strojny effective April 9, 2022**

Manager Goulart read the following letter into the record:

*Please be advised of the retirement for Superannuation of William Strojny an employee of the Taunton Municipal Light Plant on April 9, 2022 under the provisions set forth in Section #5 of Chapter 32 of the General laws of Massachusetts.*

*Please pay regular compensation and accumulated benefits up to the day before retirement.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Karen Medeiros, Assistant Executive Director*

Manager Goulart stated that Mr. Strojny is a 39 year employee of the TMLP.

The Commission wished Mr. Strojny a long and healthy retirement and that he will be missed.

**ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE:**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Corr announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 13, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Commissioner Corr stated "The next items on the agenda are executive session topics, one of which involves collective bargaining contract negotiations involving the TMLP unions. I note that Commissioner Blackwell and I have immediate family members employed by the TMLP who are members of two of



those unions and that have a financial interest in the contract negotiations. Commission Blackwell, for the record, could you please state the facts that has created your conflict?"

Commissioner Blackwell stated "My son, Mark E. Blackwell, Jr., was hired by the TMLP on July 3, 1989, and continues to be employed by the TMLP. My son is an Electrical Plant Supervisor in the Power Production Department and is a member of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant Professional Employees Association. My son is an immediate family member who has a financial interest in the collective bargaining contract negotiations."

Commissioner Corr stated "Thank you Mr. Blackwell. My wife, Kristine Sullivan-Corr, is employed by the TMLP as a Senior Clerk in the Accounting Group and is a member of the Local 462C union. My son, Mitchell Corr, is employed by the TMLP as a Resource Analyst in the Energy Supply & Planning Department and is a member of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant Professional Employees Association. My wife and my son are immediate family members who have a financial interest in the collective bargaining contract negotiations."

Commissioner Corr stated "For the record, (1) the Board of Commissioners does not have a sufficient number of members necessary to take a valid vote as a result of disqualification of members due to conflicts of interest concerning collective bargaining contract negotiations, (2) the Board of Commissioners has a legal obligation to negotiate and vote on collective bargaining contracts and no other board or authority may negotiate and vote on collective bargaining contracts for the Board of Commissioners; and (3) as a last resort, and based on advice from TMLP counsel, the rule of necessity is being invoked so that Commissioner Blackwell and I, who were disqualified, can participate in collective bargaining contract negotiations with the TMLP unions."

Chairman Corr stated that the next order of business is Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations.

Manager Goulart stated that we will not be returning to Public Session and will be adjourning in Executive Session.

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to go into Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. (4:25 PM)

21-189

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

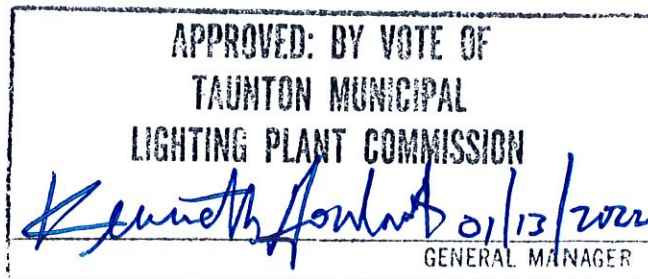
In Favor

Absent

Commissioner Blackwell  
Chairman Corr

*Executive Session discussion.*

*Order of Corr*  
*Mark E. Blackwell Jr.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY





**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Competitive Advantage**

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

**Contract Negotiations**

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

Motion by Commissioner Blackwell, seconded by Commissioner Corr to adjourn. Unanimous. (4:48 PM)

21-190