TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

MINUTES OF MEETING

TIME:

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

4:00 PM - 4:49 PM

PLACE:

Office of the Commission

PRESENT:

Chairman Blackwell, Commissioner Corr, Commissioner Hebert, Manager Holmes, Mr. Melanson, Mr. Frank, Mr. Irving, Ms. Davine, Mr. October, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Silveira, Mr. Worthington, Mr. Strojny, Ms. Britland, Mr. Bell, Mr. Him, Mayor Shaunna O'Connell

Chairman Blackwell called the meeting to order.

Chairman Blackwell called for a roll call.

Present

<u>Absent</u>

Commissioner Hebert Commissioner Corr Chairman Blackwell

22-152

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commission Hebert to suspend the regular order of business to invite Mayor Shaunna O'Connell to the table. Unanimous.

Mayor O'Connell thanked the Commission for accommodating me and allowing me to be here to join you in celebrating and recognizing the 125th anniversary of the TMLP. It's been an amazing year and it was such a wonderful event that you had a few weeks ago out in our community. Taunton is so fortunate to have a public power utility and we know it and we want you to know that we know it. TMLP is committed to our community, is accountable to our community and is a true partner with our Community and those are things that you just don't get from private utility companies. TMLP has been devoted for 125 years, of course, but we see it every day in the things that TMLP does from the amazing customer service you offer to how quickly you get the power back on when we have an outage. We always get compliments about TMLP. Something that we really want people to know is what a great community partner you are and helping us to do things on the City side like hang the banners to recognize our veterans throughout our City. That was something that was really amazing. We asked TMLP to help us do that and you guys were right there for us and you are every time that we ask for assistance with something. So truly committed to improving the quality of life for everyone in our community and being a partner with the City. TMLP has been part of the history and fabric of our community for this 125 years and we look forward to the next 125.

I wanted to take a moment and be here to let you know how much we appreciate TMLP, the entire team from TMLP, the Commission and the work that you do every day in the City of Taunton and in all of the communities that you serve. To recognize your 125th anniversary I have a Resolution from the City of Taunton and I will take a moment to read it.

Mayor O'Connell read the following Resolution into the record:

Resolution Recognizing Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant's 125th Anniversary

Whereas, the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant was founded in 1897 and had previously provided 15 years of electricity to customers of Taunton, Massachusetts; and

Whereas, service started on a very small scale with only 22 customers with one, two, or three arc lights; and

Whereas, the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant's predecessor Taunton Electric Lighting Company provided its residents with the first electric car service from the Green to Whittenton on April 30th, 1883; and

Whereas, the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant plays an important role in providing electric services in homes for 34,000 customers today in Taunton, Berkley, Raynham, sections of Dighton, Lakeville, and Bridgewater; and

Whereas, Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant is committed to providing a broad range of superior services and is a community partner; therefore be it

Resolved, that the City of Taunton extends to the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant on the memorable occasion of its 125th Anniversary its heartiest congratulations and gratitude; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be forward by the Mayor of the City of Taunton to the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant.

Dated this 18th day of October 2022.

Mayor Shaunna O'Connell

Commission thanked Mayor O'Connell for taking the time to give us this great recognition.

Mayor O'Connell left at 4:05 PM.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

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

22-153

REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

REGULAR WARRANT OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

REGULAR WARRANT OF OCTOBER 13, 2022

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

22-154

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS

Interoffice Communication from Dana Sullivan to Kimberly Holmes dated October 3, 2022: Subject: Request for Sealed Bids

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

Item #1 Pole Mounted Transformers

Request to send out sealed bids for (50) 25 KVA pole mounted transformers and (50) 50 KVA pole mounted transformers are needed to replace existing transformers and new installations. These transformers are also needed to keep up with supply chain issues and lengthy delivery times. They will hopefully be delivered over a period of 6 months. Current order is 92 week lead time. This amount of transformers should last for a period of about 1 year.

Motion by Commissioner Hebert, seconded by Commissioner Corr to authorize the request for sealed bids for (50) 25 KVA pole mounted transformers and (50) 50 KVA pole mounted transformers.

AWARD OF SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS

Award of Sealed Bid for (2) 500 KVA, 13.8 KV Primary, 216/125V Secondary Stainless Steel Network Transformers with Protector and Case

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

					gineering Bid Eva rs with Protector	
		(2)	500 KVA, 13.8	KV Primary,	216/125V Second	dary
IFB 22-02R2	Ţ					September 15, 2022
Company	Meets Specs	Unit Price	Evaluated Unit Price	Delivery Weeks	Total Purchase Price	<u>Comments</u>
Richards Mfg. Irvington, NJ	Yes	\$283,784.00	\$304,579.00	45-50		Quoting Hitachi (formally ABB) Transformer, Richards Protector - Final price set 3 months prior to shipment + or - escalation due to cost of steel

Manager Holmes stated that this is a re-bid.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to award the bid for (2) 500 KVA, 13.8 KV Primary, 216/125V Secondary Stainless Steel Network Transformers with Protector and Case to Richards Manufacturing for a total cost of \$567,568.00 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous.

Award of Sealed Bid for G9 Relaying Replacement Parts

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

		G9 Rel	aying Replaceme	ent Parts
IFB 22-14				October 13, 2022
Company	Meets Specs	<u>Delivery</u> <u>Weeks</u>	Total Purchase Price	Comments
VESCO lookset, NH	Yes	16-20	\$70,350.00	None
rby Utilities Liverpool, NY	No	10	\$66,224.00	Quoted incorrect test switches

The TMLP Engineering Department recommends Wesco Distribution for a total price of \$70,350.00 being the lowest price and meeting specs.

Motion by Commissioner Hebert, seconded by Commissioner Corr to award the bid for G9 Relaying Replacement Parts to WESCO for a total price of \$70,350.00 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous.

22-157

COMMUNICATIONS:

Major Project Request - S8 and V5 NPCC High Speed Protection Upgrade

Manager Holmes read the following major project request into the record:

Project Title: S8 and V5 NPCC High Speed Protection Upgrade

<u>Project Description</u>: Install wave trap and supporting structure on S8 line at Station #20. Install wave traps and high speed carrier communication equipment with associated wiring on the V5 and S8 at the new Cleary Bus Yard.

<u>Project Justification</u>: This protection upgrade is required by the NPCC (Northeast Power Coordinating Council). This project is 100% PTF (Pool Transmission Facilities) and will be reimbursed by ISO New England. This has been vetted by Strategic Planning Committee.

Alternates Considered: None, this is a requirement mandated by NPCC.

Budget Estimate:

Project Start Year:

2023

Total Amount Requested:

\$250,000

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to approve the Major Project Request for the S8 and V5 NPCC High Speed Protection Upgrade for a budget estimated of \$250,000.

Unanimous.

<u>Major Project #1155 – New Loop Feed Primary and New Transformers 1 Washington Street – Revision #1</u>

Manager Holmes read the following major project request into the record:

<u>Project Title</u>: New Loop Feed Primary and New Transformers 1 Washington Street (Old Taunton Mall) – Revision #1

<u>Project Description</u>: (Reference MPR Form 1155) REV #1 – Request authorization for more funds to complete 1 Washington Street. The original budget of \$425,000 was to replace all transformers and underground cables throughout as a system benefit for TMLP and the customer. An additional \$100,000 is requested due to a 5 year hold on the project, escalation and labor increases.

<u>Project Justification</u>: Currently the transformers at 1 Washington Street are radial feeds. The existing transformers and cables were originally installed in the early 1970's. We recently have had multiple cable faults on this circuit along with the failure of the Network Transformer that is used at this location. The cable and transformers are in need of replacement. This is a system upgrade to TMLP electrical system and operational needs and greatly improves reliability to the customers of 1 Washington Street.

Alternates Considered: None

Budget Estimate:

Project Start Year:

2017

Amount of this Request:

\$100,000

Total Approved to Date:

\$425,000

Total Amount Requested:

\$525,000

Amount Spent to Date:

\$525,000

Motion by Commissioner Hebert, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the Major Project Request for the New Loop Feed Primary and New Transformers 1 Washington Street Revision #1 for an additional \$100,000 and a new budget estimate of \$525,000. Unanimous.

Interoffice Communication from Robert Frank to Kimberly Holmes dated September 28, 2022: Subject: Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

The IRS has issued new mileage rates to be effective July 1, 2022. The new rate for 2022 is \$0.625/mile, an increase from the current rate of \$0.585/mile.

I am requested Commission approval to adjust TMLP's mileage reimbursement rate to keep in line with the IRS standards. The TMLP Employee Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy will also be updated to reflect the new mileage rate.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to approve the new mileage rate of \$0.65/mile effective July 1, 2022 per IRS standards and to update the Travel Expense Reimbursement 27 Polcy. Unanimous.

<u>Letter from Mayor Shaunna O'Connell to Kimberly Holmes dated September 30, 2022: Subject:</u> <u>Employee Benefits and Overhead Costs for FY 23</u>

Manager Holmes read the following letter into the record:

The City of Taunton's Fiscal Year 2023 runs from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. We would be grateful if you would have your Commissioners vote on the Employee Benefits and Overhead Costs associated with the TMLP for the FY 23 City Budget.

1,258,818.75
9,619,103.40
252,189.39

Warm Regards,

Total

Debt Service

\$ 11,130,111.54

Shaunna O'Connell, Mayor

Manager Holmes stated that we have reviewed the numbers and they are accurate.

Motion by Commissioner Hebert, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the request from the City of Taunton for Employee Benefits and Overhead Costs for FY 23 in the amount of \$11,130,111.54.

Unanimous.

Business Goals 2023

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

The Strategic Planning committee has reviewed the 2022 Business Goals approved by the Commission one year ago and is recommending some changes and additions for 2023.

The team is recommending the business goals be amended as follows:

- Under the Customer Service Goal, the adjustment of the following
 - Change Item #2 Exceed a ASAI (which refers to Average System Availability Index) of 99.96% and an Internet availability of 99% annually
- Under the Employee Goal, the adjustment of the following
 - Delete Item #5 Continue to monitor the state and CDC guidelines related to the pandemic and address as necessary
- Under the Technology Goal, the adjustment of the following
 - Change Item #2 Commit to the improvement of technological tools which support all business goals
 - Change #3 Continue pursuit of expansion of Broadband services

We request the TMLP Commission authorize and approve the 2023 Business Goals in accordance with the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee (Business Goals document is attached).

2023 TMLP BUSINESS GOALS

Business Goals

Business goals describe what TMLP intends to accomplish and should be realistic, specific, measurable and controllable. Goals are subsets of, and should role up to one or more, operating strategies. Goals should focus on meeting customer or organizational needs while striving for continuous improvement. The following are the goals established by the team for the respective operating strategies:

Customer Service:

- 1) Exceed a 95% overall customer satisfaction rating bi-annually for all major customer classes (residential, commercial and industrial and telecom)
- 2) Exceed a ASAI (which refers to Average System Availability Index) of 99.96% and an Internet availability of 99% annually

3) To maintain TMLP status as a Diamond level RP3 APPA utility

Employee:

- 1) Attain a safety rating that is equal to or better than the APPA standard
- 2) Promote a results driven employee evaluation process
- 3) Measure and execute an efficient succession planning process
- 4) Maintain and enhance staff training programs

Financial:

- 1) Fund cash reserves at a minimum annual rate of 3% of revenues
- 2) Earn a minimum three-year rolling average annual margin of 5% of net plant

Environment:

- 1) Operate all areas of the TMLP as a conscientious steward of the environment while maintaining a balance between business operations, cost and environmental impact
- 2) Improve energy efficiencies for corporate facilities & system infrastructure by 3% annually
- 3) Maintain APPA Smart Energy Provider designation
- 4) Uphold the TMLP non-carbon emitting energy policy
- 5) Continue to invest in new renewable initiatives within the TMLP territory

Technology:

- 1) Annually seek and pursue at least one revenue and/or savings opportunity for each business unit
- 2) Commit to the improvement of technological tools which support all business goals
- 3) Continue pursuit of expansion of Broadband services
- 4) Evaluate and mitigate potential cybersecurity risks

Power Supply:

- 1) Keep generation costs to customers 5% below the annual average of neighboring IOUs
- 2) Strive for direct ownership and control over a minimum of 40% of our capacity obligation

Motion by Commissioner Hebert, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the 2023 Business Goals as presented by the Strategic Planning Committee. Unanimous.

ISG Presentation on Current Status of Broadband Roll-Out

The Commission invited Mr. Thomas Worthington to the table to do the following presentation:

SLIDE #1: ISG Department Update

SLIDE #2: Presentation Overview

- ISG Update
- Grant Opportunities and Results

- Project Status ConnectTaunton
- Recommendations

SLIDE #3: ISG Update

- 404 FTTB Customers
- 632 FTTH Customers
- 189 VOIP Customers
- \$700,000 2022 Projected Net Income

SLIDE #4: Grants / Funding Opportunities

JSI

> Completed a competitive analysis of territory grants

Delaney & Associates

> Continually working proactively with Federal and State legislation on search of future funding

Magellan - Grant Sweep / Funding Sources

- > April June
 - Bristol County ARPA
 - Taunton ARPA
 - Broadband Equity and Access Deployment (BEAD)
 - Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant
 - USDA RUS Reconnect Grant
 - USDFA RUS Smart Grid Grant
 - Distant Learning * Telemedicine Grant
 - Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant

SLIDE #5: Grants / Funding Opportunities

Emergency Connectivity Fund at Mulcahey

- ➤ May 31
 - o Sen. Markey, Cong. Auchincloss, Rep. Doherty, Sen. Pacheco

2022 Municipal Fiber Grants - \$890,000

> June 2

- o Grants awarded at Taunton City Hall
- Successfully secured for Dighton, Lakeville, Taunton and Raynham
- o Mayor O'Connell, Lt. Gov. Polito, Sec. Wood, Sen. Pacheco, Rep. Doherty

Legislative Briefing Session

- ➤ June 7
 - o TMLP Commissioners, Sen. Pacheco, Ben Thomas, Rep. Orrall

SLIDE #6: Grants / Funding Opportunities

Massachusetts Broadband Institute Meeting

- ➤ July 12
 - o Peter Larkin, MA Broadband Institute Chair
 - o Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Community Development
 - o Michael Baldino, MBI Director and General Counsel

Federal Communications Commission

- > July 20
 - o Affordable Connectivity Program
- September 1
 - Form 477 Fixed Broadband Deployment Data

Massachusetts Broadband Data

- > July 21
 - Questionnaire Completion

SLIDE #7: Grants / Funding Results

ConnectTaunton Broadband Expansion

- > No qualifying grants / funding options are available at this time.
- > ISG will continue to evaluate new grants as they become available.

SLIDE #8: Upcoming Grants / Funding Opportunities

2023 Municipal Fiber Grants

- Ongoing
 - o Berkley, Taunton, Raynham, Dighton, Lakeville and other surrounding communities

ARPA & BEAD Funding

- Ongoing
 - o In discussion with all surrounding communities on broadband infrastructure earmark

Local, State and Federal

- > Ongoing
 - Continued dialogue with the office of Senator Markey
 - Continue search and research of all funding opportunities and possible approaches for future expansion

SLIDE #9: Project Status

- > Working with Magellan we determined the phased approached was most cost effective.
 - \$543,840 Phase 1 (complete in June 2022)
 - o \$876,160 Phase 2
 - o \$1,420,000 Total
- Magellan delivered Phase 1 to the project
 - o Phase 1
 - FTTP High Level Design
 - Bill of Materials
 - Documentation
 - Quote Package for Contractors
 - o Phase 2
 - Final FTTP Design, Engineering, Prints and Terminations Plans
 - Final Inventory
 - Final Bill of Materials
 - Stamped Construction Sheets by Mass Licensed Engineer
 - PDF Construction Package

SLIDE #10: Recommendations

- ➤ We do not recommend moving forward at this time with the full rollout at \$67 million because we are unable to secure the initial startup funding of \$10 \$11 million
- > Phase 2 is not recommended at this time.

- > ISG will continue working with T&D to build fiber-hoods in a controlled and cost-effective manner
- > T&D will utilize the high-level FTTP Design plan Magellan has developed in Phase 1
- > The \$876,160 funds needed for the Magellan Phase 2 will be better utilized for future fiber-hood builds, utilizing our internal resources
- > We will continue to evaluate other financial methods to improve fiber-hood build outs and stay competitive in the broadband market space

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Commissioner Blackwell stated, Tom I thought that was a very nice presentation. Over this past weekend I happened to see on Social Media that there was a person talking about their dissatisfaction with their internet and cable TV provider, their signal was buffering a lot, not a good signal. A TMLP customer who lived about ¾ of a mile from this other person was bragging about the TMLP quite a bit saying that they had 5 or 6 different things running and they never have a buffering issue. Have we ever taken a look at where our fiber goes through and reach out to those residents by informing them that TMLP has fiber that goes down your street, to directly market residential people based upon where our system goes now? Have we ever done this?

Mr. Worthington responded that the role I am in now is newly created in February 2022 and that is part of my responsibility to peel back that onion, take a look at the group as a whole and actually see how we can be more successful. I am in the process to actually look at other possible financial endeavors moving forward to build out fiberhoods. Right now I am evaluating that. Unfortunately I have spent most of the year looking at grants and chasing down high dollar values. I am going to be looking at it at a much more granular level to take a look at how the group is operating now, how they can capture some of the neighborhoods that they are in and go ahead and get higher take rates in these areas. That is one of the items that is highlighted on my list to explore, the marketing side of things. I don't have a hard answer for you right now but that is definitely on my radar and I am definitely going to be diving in deeper into that, probably within the next month.

Commissioner Blackwell stated that it was certainly not meant as a criticism, I was just wondering if we had explored that opportunity. You get the same people commenting that TMLP does not know how to build internet. There is one guy out there from a big telecommunication company and he is saying if you build it they will come. We need \$10 to \$11 million for the start-up and if you are one of these big telecommunication companies you have that \$10 to \$11 million spread over millions of customers and it might be 6¢ per share.

Mr. Worthington stated that the first 5 years we would be in a deficit and it would not be until year 6 that we would actually see a profit and it would not be until year 10 that we would actually break even. Those are the numbers that you are talking about, it is not just go build it and they will come and you will make your money back right away. It is definitely a phase approach. It is going to take 3 years to build it completely if we went all in today. There is risk management and we have to be responsible with the funding because of the ratepayers.

Commissioner Blackwell stated we do not have the same benefit that these big companies have because we have to tally our books at the end of the year and that \$10 to \$11 million would have to be make up by our 36,000 ratepayers.

The Commission thanked Mr. Worthington for the presentation.

Mutual Aid - Jacksonville & Bartow, FL - Recap

Manager Holmes stated that we did send 3 people on mutual aid to Florida to help out with the restoration efforts.

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

Please be advised that the TMLP has provided Mutual Aid for hurricane Ian to Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) and Bartow Florida in conjunction with NEPPA and APPA. The TMLP has provided one line crew and a mechanic. The TMLP was working under the APPA Mutual Aid agreement and will be billing JEA and Bartow directly for all associated costs. TMLP's mechanic maintained NEPPA's convoy of 24 bucket trucks and 7 pickup trucks while on mutual aid.

The personnel who participated in this mutual aid deployment had to pay for their lodging, food and fuel on the trip down and trip back. Personnel also had to pay for meals when working at JEA and Bartow when meals were not available by either host utility. The TMLP will reimburse the employees for the expenses and in turn per the APPA agreement and bill JEA and Bartow separately.

The personnel that participated are as follows:

- James Higgins
- Nick Hartung
- Anthony Oliveira

The trucks involved:

- Truck #24 International Bucket Truck, diesel fuel
- Truck #45 Mechanic's Service Truck, gasoline

The crews departed on Tuesday September 27th and returned to TMLP Thursday October 5th.

Manager Holmes stated that we wanted to share this with the Commission and to thanked the crew that volunteered to go down there and put in that extra work.

Commissioner Blackwell stated on behalf of the TMLP Commission I would like to thank James Higgins, Nick Hartung and Tony Oliveira for their expertise and work for restoring power back in Florida.

Open House Recap

The Commission invited Ms. Sonja Britland to the table.

Ms. Britland thanked the Commission for approving our 125th Open House Celebration this year. It was a great event. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it possible because as you know hurricane lan came through that weekend and we had to pivot and use our rain date from Saturday to Sunday. Luckily we did that because it was dry but a little windy and we had to move some things around and forego a few things but all in all it was a great time. We have over 300 folks show. That is not bad considering we had to postpone it. We had the kids from the calendar contest. Out of the 13 students, 11 of them came with their families. They were excited being on the radio. We had our 125th acknowledgement and celebration there. Mayor Shaunna O'Connell and Carol Doherty came by. I personally received phone calls from some of the people that had stopped in and they enjoyed the

goodies and actually requested a few more of the goodies that we had out there - 'The TMLP Swag'. We had pole demonstrations, the boat from Cleary, the bicycle to pedal to light the light bulb, face painting and electricity city. We could not have done this without all the employees helping out and I appreciate the Commissioners who were able to make it and sorry Commissioner Hebert could not make it because we had to do it on the rain date. It was a great time and thank you for allowing us to do it.

Commissioner Corr added don't forget about the people who dressed up.

Ms. Britland stated that's right. Thank you to the folks that dressed up to show the difference the attire was in 1897 vs. now and how the people had to work and the linemen without their protective gear working on those dangerous lines and what they had to go through to get power to everyone.

Commissioner Blackwell stated on behalf of the Commission I would like to thank you Sonja and your committee and all the employees that participated. It was a great time and I heard a lot of great feedback.

Ms. Britland stated thank you. I will pass that on to the committee, they get all the praise. Thank you.

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Blackwell announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

Chairman Blackwell stated that the next order of business is Executive Session for Competitive

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to go into Executive Session for $\frac{1}{2}$ Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. (4:42 PM)

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

In Favor

Absent

Commissioner Hebert Commissioner Corr Chairman Blackwell

Manager Holmes stated that no votes are anticipated and we will be adjourning in Executive Session.

Executive Session discussion.

dmt

APPROVED: BY VOTE OF TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Competitive Advantage

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

Contract Negotiations

Manager Holmes and the Commission discussed other topics on this subject.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Hebert to adjourn. Unanimous. (4:49)