

**TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**TIME:** Monday, August 14, 2023 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM

**PLACE:** Office of the Commission

**PRESENT:** Chairman Hebert, Commissioner Corr, Commissioner Thomas, Manager Holmes, Mr. Pollart (KP Law), Mr. Melanson, Mr. Worthington, Ms. Britland, Mr. Frank, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Ready, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Henriques, Mr. Bell

Chairman Hebert called the meeting to order.

Chairman Hebert asked for a Moment of Silence for Deborah McMurray, a retiree of the TMLP who passed away.

Chairman Hebert called for a roll call.

**Present**

**Absent**

Commissioner Thomas  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Hebert

**MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2023**

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

*23-102*

**REGULAR WARRANT OF JULY 20, 2023**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF JULY 27, 2023**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 3, 2023**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 10, 2023**

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

*23-103*

**AWARD OF SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS**

**Award of Sealed Bid for (2) 36/48/60MVA 115-13.8kV Transformers County Street Substation #22**

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

Bid Evaluation for (2) 36/48/60MVA 115-13.8kV Transformers County Street Substation #22										
IFB 23-09										August 14, 2023
Company	Meets Specs	Unit Price	Spare Parts	Adder 5 Yr. Warranty	Load Loss in KW	No Load Loss in KW	Evaluated Unit Price	Delivery Weeks	Total Purchase Price	Comments
PTTI Canonsburg, PA	YES	\$2,736,307	\$47,840	\$136,815	140	19.5	\$3,136,535.50	96-100	\$5,794,084	Firm Pricing with 50% deposit at time of order
Northern Transformer Maple, Ontario	YES	\$2,574,883	\$80,164	\$158,980	116	20.5	\$2,951,766.50	121	\$5,547,890	Quoting Escalation
Virginia Transformer Roanoke, VA	YES	\$3,109,869	\$11,850	\$0	165	17.5	\$3,524,426.50	105	\$6,231,588	Quoting Escalation
Hitachi/Power Tech Raleigh, NC	YES	\$3,121,550	\$99,036	\$0	147	28.9	\$3,629,603.70	124	\$6,342,136	Quoting Escalation

The TMLP Engineering Department and PLM recommends PTTI based on lowest lead time, firm pricing with deposit, lowest risk and evaluated cost meeting specifications.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to award the sealed bid for (2) 36/48/60MVA 115-13.8kV transformers for the County Street Substation #22 to PTTI for a total price of \$5,794,084 per the recommendation of the T&D Department. Unanimous.

*23-104*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Major Project Request – ISG Broadband Equipment**

Manager Holmes read the following Major Project Request Form into the record:

Project Title: ISG Broadband Equipment

Project Description: Replace and upgrade Broadband network equipment that is End of Service (EOS). The Strategic Planning Committee has approved this project for 2023 expenditure.

Project Justification: Replacing the EOS broadband equipment with a new solution will:

1. Replace EOS hardware and software
2. Improve backbone bandwidth from 10Gbps to 100Gbps
3. Backbone bandwidth is almost depleted and does not support future requirements.
4. Replace Gigabit Passive Optical Networks will provide multi-gigabit services to residential and business customers.

Alternates Considered: Continue to maintain the outdated network switches. The Internet Services Group will be limited in expanding its customer base. If we continue to operate the EOS equipment, we cannot utilize newer protocols and technologies. The current broadband equipment manufacturer does not provide updates to EOS hardware or software.

Budget Estimate: Project Start Year: 2023

Total Amount Requested: \$400,000

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the Major Project Request for ISG Broadband Equipment for a budget estimated of \$400,000. Unanimous.

*23-105*

**Major Project Request – MIS Firewall Refresh**

Manager Holmes read the following Major Project Request Form into the record:

Project Title: MIS Firewall Refresh

Project Description: Replace and upgrade TMLP's internal Firewall solution nearing the End of Service (EOS). The Strategic Planning Committee has approved this project for 2023 expenditure.

Project Justification: Replacing the nearly expired firewall solution with a more modern solution will:

- Replace EOS hardware and software
- Improve security and simplify maintenance of the firewall solution
- Allow us to remove some services that overlap a modern firewall solution

- Maintain an acceptable level of Network and Computer security

Alternates Considered: Continue to maintain the outdated firewall solution. Any potential failure could remove TMLP's ability to communicate to the outside Internet. If we continue to operate on EOS equipment, TMLP's network(s) will be vulnerable to any new Cyber Security Threats. The current firewall manufacturer does not provide updates to EOS hardware or software.

Budget Estimate: Project Start Year: 2023

Total Amount Requested: \$400,000

Commissioner Hebert asked where both of these are Capital projects when do we start to depreciate this.

Manager Holmes responded depending on the equipment it could be from 5 to 25 years. They, I believe, will fall into the 7 to 10 year category.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the Major Project for the MIS Firewall Refresh for a Budget Estimate of \$400,000. Unanimous.

23-106

**Interoffice Communication from Kimberly Holmes to the Commission dated August 14, 2023:**

**Subject: 2023 Bonding Request**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

*TMLP Commission authorization is requested to submit a petition to the City Treasurer for bonding of the following major project:*

- Project TD00669 – New 115KV to 13.8 Substation #22 \$12,000,000

*The new substation project, totaling \$12 million was previously approved by the TMLP Commission on April 24, 2023. We will work with the City Treasurer to determine the most favorable terms for repayment for options with durations of ten to twenty years.*

Commissioner Hebert asked what the process is from here.

Manager Holmes responded that we have already had a couple of conversations with the Treasurer. They go out to bid at the end of this year or the beginning of next. We just supply this information along with the project information and they go out and seek bonding and get back the rates that are out there in the market and then we figure out, based on the cash flow, other particulars of the project. Because this is a longer term project we need to determine when we would need the funds and we would do smaller bonds. We would not be taking out the full \$12 million right away, we would take out \$2 - \$3 million depending on how the payments are needed or the cash flow.

Commissioner Hebert asked if they would be rolled up once the project is completed.

Manager Holmes responded it depends on the bonding.

Commissioner Hebert asked if this would come before the Commission again.

Manager Holmes responded this is likely it.

Commissioner Thomas stated that when we did the change order earlier in the year to go from \$6 million to \$12 million I thought that would encapsulate all of that.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2023

Manager Holmes stated that encapsulated the project. We need this document because at that time we had discussed going out for bonding. This is just your formal approval that yes, we are going to go out for bonding.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the 2023 Bonding Request for Project TD00669 – New 115KV to 13.8 Substation #22 in the amount of \$12,000,000. Unanimous.

23-107

**Letter from Mayor Shaunna O’Connell to Kimberly Holmes dated July 27, 2023: Subject: Voluntary Contribution Fiscal Year 2024**

Manager Holmes read the following letter into the record:

*The City of Taunton’s Fiscal Year 2024 runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. I respectfully request the Payment in Lieu of Taxes in the amount of \$2,995,000 for FY24. Please schedule this item on the next TMLP Commissions’ meeting agenda.*

*I would like to thank yourself, the TMLP Commissioners and your incredible employees for all the assistance that is provided to the City of Taunton and our residents.*

*Warm Regards,*

*Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor*

Manager Holmes stated that the amount requested is consistent with what we have been paying for the past few years. We did work with the Financial Manager to ensure that our cash flow can support it and it will for this year.

Commissioner Hebert asked if this was a lump sum payment.

Manager Holmes responded that it is paid in two installments, December and June.

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the request from the City of Taunton for the Voluntary Contribution for Fiscal Year 2024 in the amount of \$2,995,000. Unanimous.

23-108

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

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Hebert announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 4:00 PM.

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Corr to go into Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. (4:15 PM)

23-109

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

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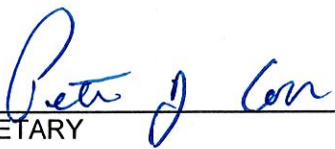
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**In Favor**

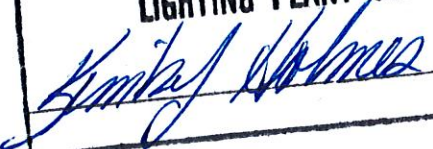
Commissioner Thomas  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Hebert

**Absent**

*Executive Session discussion.*

  
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SECRETARY

dmt

APPROVED: BY VOTE OF  
TAUNTON MUNICIPAL  
LIGHTING PLANT COMMISSION  
 9/7/23  
GENERAL MANAGER

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Competitive Advantage**

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

**Contract Negotiations**

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

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn. Unanimous. (5:45 PM)

*23-110*