

**TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**TIME:** Monday, October 16, 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, Mr. Frank, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Ready, Mr. Medeiros, Ms. Grant

Chairman Hebert called the meeting to order.

Chairman Hebert called for a roll call.

**Present**

Commissioner Thomas  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Hebert

**Absent**

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

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

23-118

- REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF OCTOBER 5, 2023**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF OCTOBER 12, 2023**

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

23-119

**AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR SEALED BIDS AND/OR PROPOSALS**

**Interoffice Communication from Robert Frank to Kimberly Holmes dated October 10, 2023:**  
**Subject: Request for Invitation of Bid for Annual Financial Audit Services**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

*Request permission to send out Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional audit services. The audit services include but are not limited to:*

1. *Review of the operating financial statements of the TMLP.*
2. *Review of internal financial controls, procedures and policies.*
3. *Evaluation of the appropriateness of TMLP's accounting policies.*
4. *Review accuracy of TMLP's billing and financial systems.*
5. *Confirm TMLP's funds currently being held by City Treasurer.*

6. *Identify potential audit risk areas and make recommendations to address such issues as identified.*
7. *Provide a written opinion attesting to compliance with established industry standards.*

*The last time TMLP contracted out for audit services was in 2015. Estimated cost is \$85,000.*

Commissioner Hebert asked that the last time we did this was in 2015. Is that the normal interval that we would do this?

Manager Holmes responded that every once in a while it is good to refresh. We had a lot going on the Finance side with the conversion of computer systems and from that perspective we wanted to stay consistent for the past few years with the current auditors because they were familiar with our old system. Now it seems to be time to refresh and see what is out there.

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commission Corr to approve the request for Invitation of Bid for Annual Financial Audit Services. Unanimous.

23-120

**Interoffice Communication from Dana Sullivan to Kimberly Holmes dated September 29, 2023:**

**Subject: Request for Sealed Bids**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

**Item #1 4/0 Cu. 15kV EPR Underground Cable**

*Request to send out sealed bids for 9,000' of 4/0 15kV EPR cable to replenish stock. T&D Engineering will allow approved equals based on best price and lead time. Approximate cost will be \$20 per foot for a total estimated cost of \$180,000.*

*Last time purchased was 2022 at \$5.56 per foot.*

**Item #2 350MCM Cu. 15kV EPR Underground Cable**

*Request to send out sealed bids for 9,000' 350MCM Cu. 15kV EPR cable to replenish stock. T&D Engineering will allow approved equals based on best price and lead time. Approximate cost will be \$22 per foot for a total estimated cost of \$198,000.*

*Last time purchased was 2022 at \$10.47 per foot.*

**Item #3 500MCM Cu. 15kV EPR Underground Cable**

*Request to send out sealed bids for 9,000' 500MCM Cu. 15kV EPR cable to replenish stock. T&D Engineering will allow approved equals based on best price and lead time. Approximate cost will be \$27 per foot for a total estimated cost of \$243,000.*

*Last time purchased was 2021 at \$13.05 per foot.*

Commissioner Bruce questioned the price today from 2022 is four times the amount.

Manager Holmes stated that is what the price is ball parked today. Due to supply chain issues everything has ramped up. When you make quick calls to the vendors that is the price we were unofficially quoted. So the price has jumped up that much in a year.

Commissioner Hebert stated but that was post pandemic.

Commissioner Thomas stated I would have thought that the price would have shot up in 2020 or 2021.

Manager Holmes responded that we did not get hit with a lot of market price increases in 2020 and 2021, they started hitting in 2022. I think once the supply chain started getting bogged down, especially with metals, that is when the prices increased. But those first 2 years we expected more of a hit that we did not see. It's been quite delayed.

Commissioner Hebert stated so the last time we purchased was in 2022, how long will 9000 feet last.

Mr. Sullivan responded one and a half years.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the request to go out for sealed bids for Underground Cable. Unanimous.

23-121

**Interoffice Communication from Dana Sullivan to Kimberly Holmes dated September 7, 2023:**  
**Subject: Request for Sealed Bids**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

**Pad Mounted Transformers**

*The Transmission and Distribution Department is requesting to send out a request of sealed bids for:*

- (15) 150 kVA pad mounted transformer with an expected cost of \$30,000 each
- (4) 300 kVA pad mounted transformers with an expected cost of \$50,000 each
- (2) 500 kVA pad mounted dead front transformers with expected cost of \$60,000
- (2) 1500 kVA pad mounted dead front transformers with expected cost of \$100,000

*These transformers are needed for upcoming building projects and replacements to stay ahead of lead times and supply chain issues. The total expected cost of these transformers is approximately \$970,000.*

Commissioner Thomas stated that the first and second items were \$30,000 each and \$50,000 each and the last two items just have a total. Is that the total for both of them?

Mr. Sullivan responded that the price is that much for each.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the request to go out for sealed bids for pad mounted transformers. Unanimous.

23-122

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

**Award of Sealed Bids for 50,000 feet 144 Count ADSS 0.693 Single Mode Fiber Optic Cable**

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2023**

<b>Transmission and Distribution Engineering Bid Evaluation</b>					
<b>50,000 Feet 144 Count ADSS 0.693 Single Mode Fiber Optic Cable</b>					
IFB 23-11					September 6, 2023
Company	Meets Specs	Unit Price Per Foot	Total Price	Delivery Weeks	Comments
Arthur J. Hurley Boston, MA	YES	\$1.590	\$79,500.00	6-8 Weeks	Quoting Prysmian 0.693" ADSS Fiber Optic Cable
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$1.820	\$91,000.00	4-6 Weeks	Quoting AFL 0.693" ADSS Fiber Optic Cable
Irby Utilities Liverpool, NY	YES	\$1.830	\$91,500.00	6-8 Weeks	Quoting AFL 0.693" ADSS Fiber Optic Cable
Irby Utilities Liverpool, NY	NO	\$1.710	\$85,500.00	6-8 Weeks	Quoting AFL 0.693 ADSS Fiber Optic Flex Cable quoting escalation
The TMLP Engineering Department recommends Hurley quoting Prysmian for a total purchase price of \$79,500, lowest total cost that meets specifications.					

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Corr to award the bid for 50,000 feet 144 count ADSS 0.693 single mode fiber optic cable to Arthur J. Hurley for a total price of \$79,500.00 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous.

23-123

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Major Project Request – Fuel Unloading Secondary Containment and Apron Repairs**

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

*Project Title: Fuel Unloading Secondary Containment and Apron Repairs*

*Project Description: Remove broken secondary containment asphalt berm and concrete apron at fuel unloading station and replace with anew concrete berm and apron. The new concrete berm will not be easily damaged during snow and ice removal operations.*

*This project has been vetted by the Strategic Planning Committee.*

*Project Justification: The current secondary containment constructed of an asphalt berm and concrete apron is broken and cracked making an impervious surface pervious; therefore, the secondary containment has failed. This project will ensure Cleary-Flood Station remains complaint with SPCC (Spill Prevention and Control and Countermeasure) and FRP (Facility Response Plan) requirements.*

*Alternates Considered: NONE*

*Budget Estimate: Project Start Year: 2023*

*Total Amount Requested: \$150,000*

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to approve the Major Project Request for the Fuel Unloading Secondary Containment and Apron Repairs for a budget estimate of \$150,000. Unanimous.

23-124

**Semi-Annual Financial Presentation**

Mr. Robert Frank was invited to the table to do the following presentation:

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**SLIDE 1: 2022 Corporate Financial Performance and 2023 Projections**

**SLIDE 2: REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023 Projected</u>
Revenues	113,039,785	129,846,172
Expenses	114,749,952	105,177,658

**SLIDE 3: REVENUES FROM SALES**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023 Projected</u>
Residential	51,729,676	57,998,881
Commercial & Industrial	54,056,860	63,443,355
Municipal	5,043,563	5,855,865
Sales for Resales	2,209,685	2,548,071

**SLIDE 4: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023 Projected</u>
Fuel	2,996,650	1,960,244
Transmission	14,321,821	12,819,886
Distribution	10,442,721	10,319,875
Customer / Sales	6,579,060	4,622,650
Admin & General	5,107,620	9,116,623
Power Generation	11,880,156	10,095,885

**SLIDE 5: POWER SUPPLY**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023 Projected</u>
Power Supply	49,795,952	43,675,481

**SLIDE 6: OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES**

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
2015	99,532,435	90,345,088
2016	97,865,767	82,238,623
2017	96,773,157	83,286,176
2018	98,769,566	95,377,596
2019	97,696,336	84,541,088
2020	96,032,722	79,275,629
2021	97,497,273	90,268,799
2022	113,039,785	114,749,952
2023 Projected	129,846,172	105,177,658

**SLIDE 7: TRANSMISSION BY OTHERS**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2023**

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	<u>Transmission by Others</u>	-	-
2015	9,892,033	-	
2016	10,625,445		
2017	11,109,573		
2018	11,290,333		
2019	9,712,950		
2020	11,026,854		
2021	11,672,921		
2022	13,625,973		
2023 Projected	12,567,014		

**SLIDE 8: NET INCOME**

	<u>Net Income before Voluntary Contribution</u>	<u>Voluntary Contribution</u>	<u>Net Income after Voluntary Contribution</u>
2016	16,392,850	2,900,000	13,492,850
2017	15,100,695	2,900,000	12,200,695
2018	3,158,246	2,947,500	210,746
2019	15,414,589	2,995,000	12,419,589
2020	12,946,688	2,995,000	9,951,688
2021	9,253,750	2,995,000	6,258,750
2022	4,005,982	2,995,000	1,010,982
2023 Projected	20,267,498	2,995,000	17,272,498

**SLIDE 9: 2008 TO PRESENT RATE HISTORY**  
**Based on 750kWh Average Residential Usage**

8/1/2008	125.54
1/1/2009	118.42
5/1/2009	113.61
11/1/2009	105.77
2/1/2011	99.09
6/1/2014	98.29
10/1/2014	101.85
7/1/2015	108.98
2/1/2016	106.86
7/1/2022 to Present	123.00

**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:**

**Slide #2: Revenues and Expenses:**

Commissioner Hebert stated for the 2023 projected where we are already in October, how much of that is actual vs. projected.

Mr. Frank responded it is actual through August.

**Slide #4: Operations and Maintenance:**

Commissioner Hebert asked what is driving the Admin & General (A&G) bump.

Mr. Frank responded that A&G is a combination of insurance increases, benefits and we also had some that were in Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) that we wrote off this year, almost \$1 million worth. It was not a cash expense but we moved it out of CWIP and charged it off. A lot of it was old studies that were done 8 or 9 years ago.

**Slide #5: Power Supply:**

Commissioner Hebert stated so for the rest of the year we have more power already locked in the books than we had last year.

Mr. Frank responded yes.

**Slide #7: Transmission by Others:**

Commissioner Hebert stated that transmission costs rarely go down, is that partly the transmission rate that we are paying or effectiveness of the peak shaving.

Manager Holmes stated that the rate has not changed, they go up so it is peak shaving. 2023 is projected, we do not have the final numbers, it would have hit in August or September, and it takes a couple of months.

Commissioner Hebert stated in addition to the peak shaving, which is fantastic, you mentioned Kwh sales are down about 6%, these costs are driven by the coincident peak hour each month but with the reduction in sales are we seeing some natural reduction from our peak before peak shaving.

Manager Holmes responded yes. I have not done the math that is an end of year thing we do to see how well our measures worked out but without a doubt if you're using less overall chances are you're going to be using less in the peak.

The Commission thanked Mr. Frank for the Financial Presentation.

**Letter from DR Hoopsters dated September 25, 2023: Subject: Thank You for Donation**

Manager Holmes read the following letter into the record:

*Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$250.00 to Dighton-Rehoboth Hoopsters, Inc. Your donation will go a long way toward ensuring that the boys and girls basketball teams of Dighton Rehoboth have a wonderful basketball season. As a thank you, your business' name will be included on our sponsorship banner which is displayed inside the gymnasium at DR High School.*

*The Dighton-Rehoboth Hoopsters is a 501(c) 3 organization.*

*Thank you again for your support.*

*Kate Latour, Ellen Corvi, Melissa Mello and Kristie Dietz – Executive Board, DR Hoopsters, Inc.*

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept letter of appreciation from the Dighton-Rehoboth Hoopsters and place on file. Unanimous.

23-125

**Thank You from RAVE and Raynham Community Day Committee**

Manager Holmes read the following into the record:

*Dear Friend,*

*On behalf of the Raynham Community Day Committee, the Raynham Association of Volunteers for Education, Inc., and the Town of Raynham, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in Raynham Community Day. Your dedication to this event, whether as a sponsor, vendor, committee member participant or volunteer does not go unnoticed.*

*It was a beautiful day to celebrate Raynham thanks to all of you. We thank you for your flexibility with vendor placement due to the weather-related field conditions. Raynham Park and Recreation and the Raynham Highway Department ensured we had a safe and beautiful area to hold our event. We estimate there were again well over 1,000 visitors in attendance at this event! It was so nice to gather with our friends, neighbors and local businesses and organizations.*

*This day would not have been possible without our generous sponsors.*

*Sincerely,*

*Raynham Community Day Committee*

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Corr to accept the letter of appreciation from the Raynham Community Day Committee and place on file. Unanimous.

23-126

**Letter from Mayor Shaunna O'Connell dated August 31, 2023: Subject: Thank You for Donation to Summer Celebration**

Manager Holmes read the following letter into the record:

*Thank you for your help in hosting this year's successful Summer Celebration!*

*Several years ago, we added Community Partners to our Summer Celebration to make it a fun experience for our kids and their families. Your participation in this event helped our residents create happy memories and we are thankful for your willingness to dedicate your time and resources to this annual celebration. The success of this event would not have been possible without you and the help of your fellow volunteers.*

*There are many reasons why Taunton is a special place and organizations like yours are one of the most enduring reasons why our City continues to thrive.*

*Thank you for having a positive impact in our community.*

*Warmly,*

*Mayor Shaunna O'Connell*



Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to accept the letter of appreciation from Mayor Shaunna O'Connell and place on file. Unanimous.

23-127

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

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Hebert announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 21, 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 be adjourning in Executive Session.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Thomas to go into Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. (4:29 PM)

23-128

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

**In Favor**

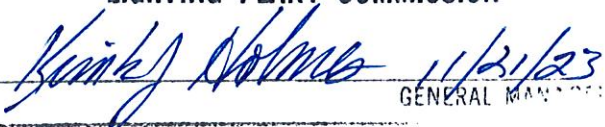
**Absent**

Commissioner Thomas  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Hebert

*Executive Session discussion.*

  
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SECRETARY

dmt

APPROVED: BY VOTE OF  
TAUNTON MUNICIPAL  
LIGHTING PLANT COMMISSION  
  
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 the status of contract negotiations with Local 1729 and Local 462C.

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

*23-129*