

**TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**TIME:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 4:00 PM – 4:44 PM

**PLACE:** Office of the Commission

**PRESENT:** Chairman Strojny, Commissioner Corr, Commissioner DeMelo, Manager Holmes, Ms. Karla Doukas (KP Law), Mr. Melanson, Mr. Worthington, Mr. Frank, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Ready, Ms. Grant, Ms. Britland, Mr. October, Mr. Parrotta, Mr. Botelho, Mr. Russell Allen

Commissioner Corr called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Corr called for a Moment of Silence for Paul W. Cote, a retiree of the TMLP who passed away.

Commissioner Corr called for a roll call.

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**Present**

**Absent**

Commissioner DeMelo  
Commissioner Corr  
Commissioner Strojny

**REORGANIZATION – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to nominate Mr. William Strojny as Chairman of the Commission. Unanimous.

*24-001*

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Strojny to nominate Mr. Gregory DeMelo as Secretary of the Commission. Unanimous.

*24-002*

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2023**

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

*24-003*

**REGULAR WARRANT OF DECEMBER 21, 2023**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF DECEMBER 28, 2023**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF JANUARY 4, 2024**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF JANUARY 11, 2024**

**REGULAR WARRANT OF JANUARY 18, 2024**

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

*24-004*

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

**Interoffice Communication from Dana Sullivan and Christopher Boucher dated December 29, 2023: Subject: Request for Sealed Bids for Switchgears**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

**Item #1 – 15 KV Pad-mounted Switchgear**

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The Transmission and Distribution Department is requesting to send out sealed bids for (1) 15KV pad-mounted switchgear. This switchgear is a part of the 1814.IP1 and 1814.IP2 upgrades which will increase reliability on John Quincy Adams Road and allow for future load growth. Approximate cost is \$200,000.

**Item #2 – 15 KV Pad-mounted Switchgear with Primary Metering**

The Transmission and Distribution Department is requesting to send out sealed bids for (1) 15 KV pad-mounted switchgear with primary metering. Approximate cost is \$75,000. This item is reimbursable.

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the request from the Transmission and Distribution Department to go out for sealed bids for switchgears. Unanimous.

24-005

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

**Award of Bid for (2) Bucket Trucks**

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

**GBPC Procurement Program/MAPC Contract #IFB#GBPC 2023-24 International**  
**BUCKET TRUCK AERIAL LIFTS - BODIES #35 & #37 BID EVALUATION**

Bid Opening: 12/21/2023

**Allegiance Trucks**  
Walpole, MA  
(Terex)  
Models: MV607/SC-42

Meets Specifications

YES

Chassis Base Price (per unit): \$86,750.00  
Chassis Options (per unit): \$55,970.00  
Body/Aerial Lift Base Price (per unit) \$200,850.00  
Body/Aerial Lift Optional Equipment (per unit): \$71,000.50

TOTAL Net Price per unit: \$414,570.50

TITAL Price for two (2) Units: \$829,141.00

Trade in Allowances: Truck #35 or 12 TBD  
Truck #37 or 18 TBD

**Total Net Price for (4) units with options less Trade: \$829,141.00**

**RECOMMENDATION:** T&D Engineering Department recommends this bid to be awarded to the Commonwealth of MA GBPC Procurement Program/MAPC Contract # IFB#GBPC2023-'24 International qualifying bidder which is Allegiance Trucks dba Minuteman Trucks Inc., Walpole, MA for the amount of \$829,141.00 for a total of two complete chassis, aerial device and body units subject to optional trade-in allowances to be determined at a later date.

Expected price of these units if Sealed Bid is \$450,000.00 each for a total of \$900,000.00 for two units; savings is estimated to be \$70,859.00 before trade-in allowance.

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Commissioner DeMelo asked on the MA GBPC Procurement Program is there a minimum or maximum threshold that we have to abide by or as long as they are on the list it does not matter what we are buying.

Manager Holmes responded it has to be open for us to buy from because some of the State sealed bids are limited to who can actually use them. So as long as it is open to our entity to purchase from there is no minimum necessarily, it is defined on how that bid went out so each one is individual. In this case we are not limited on the maximum.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to award the bid for bucket trucks to the Commonwealth of MA GBPC Procurement Program qualifying bidder Allegiance Trucks dba Minuteman Trucks for a total price of \$829,141.00 per the recommendation of the T&D Engineering Department. Unanimous.

*24-006*

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Interoffice Communication from Kimberly Holmes dated January 23, 2024: Subject: Energy New England Board of Directors**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Energy New England Operating Agreement, TMLP Commission authorization is required and requested to appoint me to serve on the Board of Directors for Energy New England. This Appointment covers a three (3) year term ending on March 31, 2026.

The attached vote must be certified by the Secretary of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant Commission.

**VOTE**

At a duly convened meeting of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant Commission held on January 23, 2024, it was upon motion duly made and seconded,

**VOTED:** In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Energy New England Operating Agreement, Kimberly Holmes be and is hereby elected as a Class C Member of the Energy New England Board of Directors through March 31, 2026

A true copy.

Manager Holmes stated that this should have been done in March of 2023. It was missed during all the filings that ENE had so they are asking us to update it. This is a 3 year cycle and my term will end in 2026. I wanted to explain the date discrepancy.

Commissioner DeMelo asked for clarity, you have been serving since March of 2023.

Manager Holmes responded I started in 2022 when I became General Manager to finish out the previous General Manager's term. My term should have started in 2023. I have been sitting on the Board the entire time.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Energy New England Operating Agreement, Kimberly Holmes be and is hereby elected

as a Class C Member of the Energy New England Board of Directors through March 31, 2026.  
Unanimous.

24-007

**Storm Report – December 17, 2023 Storm**

Manager Holmes stated that the Transmission & Distribution Department provided a memo with an update on the storm from December 17th through December 18th as follows:

Preparatory Work: Friday 12/15/2023

- Review and implement TMLP's Corporate Emergency Response Plan
- All crews to report December 17<sup>th</sup> at midnight. Winds started at 6:00 AM
- Stock all trucks, including gas
- Contact Mutual Aid teams for alertness
- Secure additional (2) tree crews

Storm response and restoration: December 17<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> 2023

- Damage Assessment:
  - Hurricane strength damage, 65+ MPH gusts 20-30MPH sustained to trees and poles resulting in substantial outages from the start of the storm on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - No Scada monitoring available. Back to basics.
- Damage:
  - Damages occurred from downed poles, wires (primary & secondary) and transformers throughout the TMLP service territory that consists of 100 square miles including the City of Taunton, Towns of Raynham, Berkley and North Dighton and a small section of Lakeville.
- Description of Damage:
  - Downed wires, poles and transformers at multiple locations in TMLP's service territory. Hardest hit areas were Raynham Locust Street, throughout Berkley and Taunton: Whittenton area, Fremont Street, Norton Avenue, South Crane Avenue, Bay Street and Scadding Street.
  - 115KV line S8 on National Grid operated and locked due to tree on White Street, Raynham.
- Emergency Protective Measures:
  - Implementation of EOP, preparation prior to the storm, staff & contractors brought in ahead of the storm.
  - Bring in all Transmission and Distribution Department ahead of storm starting Sunday morning at 12:00 midnight. Customer Service in at 4:00 AM. Extra Electric Station Operator also brought in.
  - Two additional Northeastern Tree Crews brought in.
  - Protecting public from down wires (energized).
  - Restoration Plan
    - ✓ Feeder Level
    - ✓ Main Line 3 Phase Level
    - ✓ Lateral Level
    - ✓ Single Transformer level Individual house service level
- Damage repairs mainly to do with downed trees.
  - (5) 13.8 KV Major Feeders: 1614.ET1, 1614.41, 1814.31, 1814.32, 1814.51, 2014.7
  - Some 13.8 circuits had to be repaired multiple times due to damage occurring at different times.
  - Major Switches: 38-VR (Berkley), 464-VR (Taunton), 174-VR (Berkley), 38-VR (Berkley).
  - (2) Secondary 4KV Feeders: 904.1 (Fremont), 304.2 (Kilton Street).
  - Multiple main lines down and repaired.

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- Multiple laterals repaired, all damaged and broken cutouts replaced.
- Numerous large trees cleared and removed off lines, Locust Street, Norton Avenue, South Crane Avenue, Lakeville Pump Station ROW between Precinct Street and Bedford Street.
- Over 50 house services repaired or replaced – throughout service territory.
- 18 poles broken or needed to be replaced in Raynham, Taunton and Berkley: (5) by TMLP, (13) by Verizon including 3 on South Crane Avenue and Glebe Street and 2 on North Avenue.
- Communication wires and tree limbs had to be changed out over the next 2-3 days.
- All crews worked extremely efficient and safely and no accidents were reported.
- All customers scheduled to be re-energized by 20:30 on 12/18/2023.

Manager Holmes thanked everyone for their hard work during this storm and the windstorm the following weekend. It has been a crazy couple of weeks.

Commissioner Corr asked the National Grid line that went down, do we fix that or do they come in and fix it.

Manager Holmes responded that they come in and fix that because it is their transmission line.

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Commission thanked everyone for their great work.

Commissioner DeMelo asked about no Scada monitoring available, back to basics. What does that mean?

Manager Holmes responded that we had a network issue prior to this and because of that we had to shut down some of our internal networks so communication to the folks in the field was not what we would normally have.

Commissioner DeMelo asked if SCADA is an acronym.

Mr. Sullivan responded Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition.

Commissioner DeMelo stated as Commissioner Corr said thank you to all the men and women. When you have to report at midnight to 65+ MPH winds and 20-30 MPH gusts it takes a special person to do that so thank you and the best report is everyone was safe.

### **Award from Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce to the TMLP for being a 65 Year Member**

Manager Holmes stated I just wanted to share that the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) has recognized us for being a member for 65 years.

Manager Holmes presented the plaque to the Commission and the public.

Manager Holmes stated that they came in and presented us with this award. Sonja Britland is currently serving on the Board at the Chamber.

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

None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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Chairman Strojny announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to go into Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. Unanimous. (4:14 PM)

24-008

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

**In Favor**


**Absent**

Commissioner DeMelo  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Strojny

*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 contract negotiations with Local 1729.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner Strojny to adjourn. Unanimous. (4:44 PM)

*24-009*