

**TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**TIME:** Monday, September 16, 2024 4:00 PM – 4:47 PM

**PLACE:** Office of the Commission

**PRESENT:** Chairman Strojny, Commissioner Corr, Commissioner DeMelo, Manager Holmes, Mr. Christopher Pollart (KP Law), Ms. Ready, Mr. Frank, Mr. Melanson, Ms. Britland, Mr. Parrotta, Ms. Graca, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Medeiros, Mr. Worthington, Ms. Grant, Mr. Thivierge, Mr. Mizejeski

Chairman Strojny called the meeting to order.

Chairman Strojny asked for a Moment of Silence for Richard Parker, a retiree to the TMLP who passed away.

Chairman Strojny called for a roll call.

**Present**

**Absent**

Commissioner DeMelo  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Strojny

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2024**

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

24-118

- REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 15, 2024**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 22, 2024**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF AUGUST 29, 2024**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**
- REGULAR WARRANT OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

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

24-119

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to go out of order to Communications (a). Unanimous

24-120

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Major Project Request – Unit 9 and 9A Battery Replacement – Revision #1**

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

**Project Title:** Unit 9 and 9A Battery Replacement

**Project Description:** Replacement of battery banks supplying power to the Unit 9 and Unit 9A protection system components.

**Project Justification:** NERC standard PRC 005-6 requires TMLP to maintain and test protection system components (such as relays and associated batteries) at periodic intervals. As a result of the most recent load test of the Unit 9A batteries, it was determined that the batteries do not meet the performance

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

requirements as specified by the OEM and, therefore, need to be replaced. In addition, while the Unit 9 batteries met performance requirements, it is recommended to replace these batteries as well due to their age. (Manufactured in 2001)

Replacement of the Unit 9 and 9A batteries is necessary to ensure TMLP stays in compliance with NERC standard PRC 005-6. **(Rev 1 Update: The increase for Rev 1 is based on actual bid prices received.)**

Alternates Considered: Keep existing batteries. This is not recommended as TMLP could be subject to high monetary penalties if the batteries are not replaced.

<u>Budget Estimate:</u>	<b>Amount of this Request:</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>
	Total Approved to Date:	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>
	Total Amount Requested:	<b>\$135,000.00</b>

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the request for the Major Project Request – Revision 1 for the Unit 9 and 9A Battery Replacement in the amount of \$45,000 and a new Budget Estimate of \$135,000. Unanimous. 24-121

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to resume the Regular Order of Business. Unanimous. 24-122

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

**Award of Sealed Bid for (50) Three Phase Sectionalizing Boxes with (3) 4 Position Modules and Parking Stands**

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

<b>Transmission and Distribution Engineering Bid Evaluation</b>	
<b>(50) Three Phase Sectionalizing Box w/ (3) 4 Position Modules &amp; Parking Stands</b>	
IFB 24-20	August 15, 2024

<u>Company</u>	<u>Meets Specs</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total Purchase Price</u>	<u>Delivery Weeks</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Wesco Hookset, NH	YES	\$2,680.00	\$134,000.00	5-7 Weeks	Oldcastle No Escalation

The TMLP Engineering Department recommends Wesco quoting Oldcastle for \$134,000 meeting specification, unit price and delivery time. Eight vendors were notified of bid and only Wesco responded.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to award the bid for (50) Three Phase Sectionalizing Box with (3) 4 position modules & Parking Stands to Wesco for a total purchase price of \$134,000.00 per the recommendation of the T&D Department. Unanimous. 24-123

**Award of Bid for a 2024 Bandit Intimidator 15XP Wood Chipper with Trailer**

Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:

**MA COMMBUYS OSD FAC116 CONTRACT 2021-2027**

**2024 BANDIT INTIMIDATOR 15XP WOOD CHIPPER W/TRAILER EVALUATION**

Bid Opening: 9/4/2024	<b>Bobcat of RI</b> (CommBuys ID 00003504) Warwick, RI (Bobcat/Bandit) Model: Intimidator 15XP Diesel
Meets Specifications	YES
MA State Contract:	COMMBUYS OSD FAC116
Base Price:	\$91,585.00
Options:	\$0.00
<b>Chassis Discount Incentive (per Unit)</b>	<b>(\$10,990.20)</b>
<b>Total Net Price per Unit:</b>	<b>\$80,594.80</b>
Trade-in Allowances:	
Truck #44	TBD
<b>Total Net Price for (1) unit with options less Trade:</b>	<b>TBD</b>

*RECOMMENDATION: T&D Engineering Department recommends this bid to be awarded via the MA COMMBUYS OSD FAC116 Contract for a 2024 Bandit Intimidator 15XP Chipper to qualifying bidder which is Bobcat of RI, Warwick, RI for the amount of \$80,594.80 for a total of one complete chipper/trailer unit subject to optional trade-in allowance to be determined at a later date.*

*Expected price of the unit if Sealed Bid is \$105,000.00; savings is estimated to be \$24,406.00 before trade-in allowance.*

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to award the bid for a 2024 Bandit Intimidator 15XP Wood Chipper with Trailer to Bobcat of RI via the MA COMMBUYS OSD FAC116 Contract 2021-2027 for a total net price of \$80,594.80 per the recommendation of the T&D Department. Unanimous.

*24-124*

**Award of Bid for IFB24-19 Unit 9 and 9A Battery Replacements**

*Manager Holmes read the following bid evaluation into the record:*

*As part of Major Project No. 1231, TMLP issued an invitation-for-bid (IFB24-19) to replace the aging and failing batteries for Units 9 and 9A at the Cleary-Flood Generation Station. TMLP received two bid responses from the following companies:*

*Northeast Battery and Alternator, LLC  
489 Washington Street  
Auburn, MA*

Power Solutions, LLC  
 PO Box 100  
 Barrington, RI

These companies' bids were reviewed by the TMLP Power Production Department. A summary of the bid results are attached for your review.

**Action Requested:**

TMLP Power Production Department recommends the TMLP Commission award IFB24-19 to the lowest qualified bidder, Northeast Battery and Alternator, LLC for a total price of \$133,658.22.

**Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant  
 IFB24-19 Unit 9 and 9A Battery Replacements**

Bidders	Meets IFB Requirements	Bid Price	Comments
Northeast Battery & Alternator, LLC Auburn, MA	Yes	\$133,658.22	Recommend Award
Power Solutions, LLC Barrington, RI	Yes	\$141,455.81	\$153,160.66

**Recommendation:** Power Production Department recommends the TMLP Commission award IFB24-19 to Northeast Battery and Alternator, LLC for a total price of \$133,658.22 based on being the lowest qualified bidder.

Commissioner DeMelo stated just to be clear. So the previous increase in the budget of \$45,000 to \$135,000 is exactly for this.

Manager Holmes responded yes.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to award the bid for IFB24-19 Unit 9 and 9A Battery Replacements to Northeast Battery and Alternator, LLC for a bid price of \$133,658.22 per the recommendation of the Power Production Department. Unanimous.

24-125

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Interoffice Communication from Sonja Britland dated September 9, 2024: Subject: TMLP Saves™ Program Update**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

*The Sustainability & Commercial Development Department has analyzed the data from our first iteration and would like to seek approval for the below self-sustainable version of this program, TMLP Saves – Heat Pump, Loan and Weatherization Program. In an effort to help our customers take advantage of the below incentives, we would like to allow pre-approved weatherization and pre-approved electrical panel upgrades to be included in the loan amount if required as part of the heat pump installation. All applications received after 4:30 pm on November 27, 2024 will need to be submitted under the below program on or after January 1, 2025.*

## TMLP SAVES – Heat Pump, Loan and Weatherization Program Details, effective January 1, 2025

Rebate Information	
<b>Loan</b>	Low-to-No Interest TMLP Saves™ Heat Pump Loan for energy-saving improvements, up to \$25,000 with terms up to 7 years. TMLP pays a 7% lock at time of closing.
<b>Weatherization</b>	50% of weatherization and air sealing, up to \$3,000 total
<b>Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump:</b>	
<b>Whole &amp; Partial Home</b>	\$1,250/ton up to \$5,000
<b>Ground Source Heat Pump</b>	
<b>Whole Home</b>	\$5,000 Whole Home
<b>Barrier Mitigation</b>	50% up to \$2,000 with a \$10,000 funding cap per year
<b>Low- &amp; Moderate-Income Eligible Adders*</b>	
<b>Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump:</b>	
<b>Whole &amp; Partial Home</b>	\$1,250/ton base rebate + \$1,000/ton up to \$4,000 LMI qualified adder
<b>Ground Source Heat Pump</b>	
<b>Whole Home</b>	\$9,000 Whole Home

Based on our data from the ARPA fund version of our program:

1. Average system size is 4 tons
2. An average of 70% of applicants converting from oil fuel
3. An average of 63% of applicants took advantage of the Zero-Interest Loan incentive.
4. The average kWh increase per conversion is approximately 9,000 kWh per month.

The benefits of creating a self-sustaining program are:

1. Partnering with our community to offer incentives to assist with converting fossil fuel and inefficient electric resistive heating systems.
2. Reducing our service territory's carbon footprint.
3. TMLP would breakeven in approximately 5 years at this funding level.
4. TMLP's load would increase by approximately 108,000 kWh per year per customer for at least the lifetime of the system which is approximately 20 years.

For your consideration.

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to approve the TMLP Saves – Heat Pump, Loan and Weatherization Program effective January 1, 2025 as presented by Sonja Britland. Unanimous.

24-126

**Interoffice Communication from Sonja Britland dated September 9, 2024: Subject: TMLP Drives Electric Program Update**

Manager Holmes read the following memo into the record:

*In 2019 TMLP launched our Electric Vehicle (EV) incentive program, TMLP Drives Electric. This program offers incentives for the purchase of an EV, Level 2 charger and Off-Peak charging. Since inception we have under 200 customers enrolled in our off-peak charging program where they receive a \$10 per month bill credit for charging their EV Monday – Friday 9:00 PM - 9:00 AM and anytime during the weekends.*

*As our electric usage peaks shift from electrification we would like to request to change our off-peak charging program to include weekends in order to keep costs down. Therefore, the change we are requesting is to make our off-peak charging program 9:00 PM – 9:00 AM daily Monday through Sunday, effective October 1, 2024.*

*For your consideration.*

Manager Holmes stated that this is to extend that period of time where we want folks to charge at night and eliminate charging during the day. This is a voluntary program that they sign up for.

Commissioner DeMelo stated so just to clarify, from Monday through Friday 9:00 PM to 9:00 AM and anytime during the weekend.

Manager Holmes stated that is what the current program is now.

Commissioner DeMelo stated so it is the entire time from 9:00 PM to 9:00 AM Monday through Sunday.

Manager Holmes responded yes.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to approve the request to change the off-peak charging program for the TMLP Drives Electric Program to 9:00 PM – 9:00 AM daily Monday through Sunday effective October 1, 2024. Unanimous. 24-127

**Request from the Lights on Committee: RE: Donation for the 2024 Lights on Festival**

Manager Holmes read the following into the record:

*Greetings to our faithful Lights on Sponsors!*

*Another year of planning for Taunton's most anticipated event of the year is upon us! This year marks the 111<sup>th</sup> Lighting of the Taunton Green and 11 years as a major Holiday Festival in the City's downtown neighborhood. This local tradition has blossomed in recent years and is now a regional event that draws an average of 10-15,000 people to downtown Taunton on Lights on Festival night and thousands more throughout December to see the wondrous decorations and enjoy our City center.*

*In addition to being a beloved tradition, the event is an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to increase their brand awareness and tap new markets through one of our generous sponsorship packages. Attached, please find the 2024 Sponsorship form. Once you have decided which level is the best fit for your business or organization, please follow the directions on the form to get started.*

*Please let us know if you have any questions.*

Commissioner Corr asked if we will be getting a request for the parade too.

Manager Holmes stated that I don't recall getting a request for the parade but we do try to submit a truck as a float for the parade.

Commissioner Corr stated I just figured we could get that done tonight if that was the case.

Manager Holmes stated I have not received a request and I don't know if it is a formal request. We just usually participate in the parade.

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to authorize a donation for the 111<sup>th</sup> Lighting of the Taunton Green in the amount of \$500. Unanimous. 24-128

**Letter from Mayor Shaunna O'Connell dated August 29, 2024: Letter of Appreciation for Participating in Summer Celebration Event**

Manager Holmes read the following letter into the record:

*On behalf of the City of Taunton, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and the TMLP team for your participation in our Summer Celebration event. Your support and collaboration played a vital role in making this event a resounding success, bringing joy and connection to our community.*

*We are especially grateful for the truck and swag you provided for kids and families to enjoy. Your dedication of time and resources created an atmosphere of fun and excitement, allowing families to come together and make lasting memories. The community partners were a highlight of the celebration and contributed significantly to the overall success of the event.*

*Your commitment to our community exemplifies the strong spirit of partnership that makes Taunton such a special place to live and work.*

*Thank you once again for your invaluable contribution to our Summer Celebration!*

*Warmly,*

*Mayor Shaunna O'Connell*

Motion by Commissioner DeMelo, seconded by Commissioner Corr to receive the letter of appreciation from Mayor Shaunna O'Connell and place on file. Unanimous. 24-129

**Letter from the Taunton Retirement Board dated September 3, 2024: RE: Retirement of Maria Fernandez effective December 1, 2024**

Manager Holmes read the following letter into the record:

*Please be advised of the retirement for Superannuation of Maria Fernandez an employee of the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant on December 1, 2024 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 Holmes stated Maria started here November 14, 1983 and has been with us for 41 years. We are going to miss her dearly.

Commissioner DeMelo stated I have never met Ms. Fernandes until yesterday. She was actually manning the TMLP table at the Raynham Family Fund days. So it was a pleasure to meet her for the first time at the event.

Commissioner Strojny added Maria actually started 4 months after I did, that is how long ago.

Commission wished Ms. Fernandez the best in her retirement.

Motion by Commissioner Corr, seconded by Commissioner DeMelo to accept letter of retirement for Maria Fernandez effective December 1, 2024 and place on file. Unanimous. 24-130

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

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chairman Strojny announced that the next Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM.

Commissioner Strojny stated that we are going to be transitioning this weekend over to the Cogsdale Customer Service System with plans to "Go Live", if all goes well, on Monday.

Manager Holmes added that customers are going to be receiving a post card, we have put up some information out on Facebook but this post card is an additional thing to catch the people who are not online. We will also be updating customers as we go along because there are going to be some things where customers will have to go in an update their information. Everyone will be getting a new account number and they will have to log into a new portal to set up their online bill pay. So we wanted to make customers aware there is going to be some changes happening over the next week.

Chairman Strojny 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 DeMelo to go into Executive Session for Competitive Advantage and Contract Negotiations. Unanimous. (4:22 PM) 24-131

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

**In Favor**

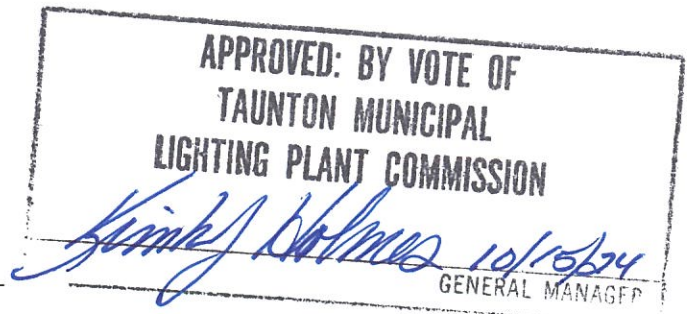
**Absent**

Commissioner DeMelo  
Commissioner Corr  
Chairman Strojny

*Executive Session discussion.*



SECRETARY



dmt



**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 DeMelo to adjourn. Unanimous. (4:47 PM) 24-132