

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING
March 10, 2020**

PURSUANT TO notice given, the Merrimac Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met in the Municipal Light Department’s (“MLD” or “Department”) Administration Building, 10 W Main Street, at 3:30 PM.

PRESENT

Those present included Chairman Norman Denault, Vice Chair Paula Hamel, Secretary Larry Fisher, MLD’s General Manager Francisco Frias, and Office Manager Tara Aniello. The Chairman for the Board of Selectmen, Joel Breen, Cyrus Etemadi from Kruger Energy and Ying Lucy Fan from Peak Power were also present at different moments of the meeting to discuss specific Board Meeting Items.

MEETING START

A motion was made and accepted to bring the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners voted 3-0 to accept the February 11, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes as written.

GENERAL MANAGER’S ITEMS

Town Fiber Project Discussion:

The Board met with Joel Breen, who is the Chairman for the Board of Selectmen, to discuss what the Town’s interest would be concerning the installation of fiber optic in Town. Selectman Breen mentioned that the Town is interested in connecting Town buildings for the phone system but does not have the capital at the moment to consider any financing towards it. The Town will continue to try to find grants, but it is not going to happen within the next fiscal year. Commissioner Fisher informed Selectman Breen that the Light Department has been analyzing the idea of installing fiber optic in the Town to provide broadband. The fiber infrastructure could also be used for other purposes, including the phone system. The Board wanted to know if the Board of Selectmen would support the project if the Light Department chose to move forward, and Selectman Breen said that they would. The Board thanked Selectman Breen for coming in and informed him that the Department will reach out again once it got more information about what it would take to undertake this project.

Financial Forecast and January 2020 Financial Information:

The General Manager (“Manager”) asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the financial information for January 2020 or the 2020 Financial Forecast. The 2020 Financial Forecast for 2020 is based on the 5-Year Financial Forecast, presented earlier in the year. The Department saw a net income of \$26,129 with \$4,524 being interest, compared to a forecasted net loss of (\$23,486). Contributing to this better than expected outcome, was a very mild winter and lower than expected expenses for the month. The forecasted revenue for the end of the year is \$236,104.

DPU Report Review:

The DPU Report was provided for the commissioners to sign. The report is complete and ready to be mailed once the commissioners sign off, which will be done the week of March 19, 2020.

2020 PILOT Discussion:

The Board of Commissioners made a motion to stay with the same amount as last year and give the Town \$15,000 payment in lieu of taxes, on top of other benefits that the Department provides the Town, which is included as part of the MMLD' Annual Town Report.

22 Veterans Way Letter Discussion:

Regarding the billing issue that has been discussed in previous Board meetings, Commissioner Denault said he believes the Department should forgive the entire amount of the debt of Dorothy Whiting since she didn't willingly do anything wrong. Commissioner Fisher also believes that the amount should be forgiven since she moved into the home on good faith that the electrical service and the meter associated with it were correct. Commissioner Hamel recused herself from the discussion and the Board voted 2-0-1 to forgive the full balance for Dorothy Whiting on the basis that the billing issue was not her fault.

Battery Storage Discussion:

Cyrus Etemadi, the CFA at Kruger Energy and Lucy Fan, from Peak Power, came in to discuss their proposal for battery storage next to the Mill Street substation. They talked about their companies, discussed Kruger Energy's proposal and their methodology to effectively capture transmission and capacity peaks. Mr. Etemadi will be updating their proposal's forecast numbers and provide to the Manager for further review. The Manager will update the Board when he gets the updated information.

MLD Annual Town Report Submittal:

The Manager notified the Board that he has submitted the Annual report to the Town.

Elderly Streetlight Request:

The Board approved a streetlight to be installed at 20 Orchard Street on pole #52/7.

Other Items:

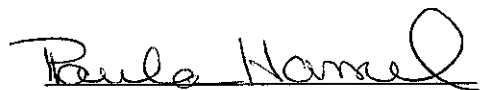
Write-Offs for 2020:

The Office Manager presented the write-offs for \$6,128.44 to the Board and the commissioners signed off on them. Commissioner Hamel asked if anything was being done to try to reduce the amounts and the Office Manager informed the Board that there are better procedures in place and most of the amount was from 2017 and earlier.

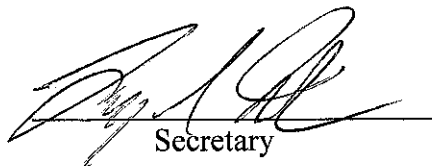
The meeting went into executive session at 5:35 p.m and came out at 6:28 p.m. The public meeting ended at 6:29 p.m.



Chairman



Vice Chair



Secretary