

Chicopee Municipal Lighting Board
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, October 3, 2024

Chairman Mashia called a regular meeting of the Chicopee Municipal Lighting Board to order at 2:13 PM on Thursday, October 3, 2024.

Present for this meeting were Chairman Daniel J. Mashia, Commissioner Joseph F. Pasternak, III, Commissioner Daniel T. Maciolek, and General Manager and Clerk of the Board, Daniel R. Faille. Also present were Stanley Gromacki and Matthew Roman of the Polish American Citizens Club/Pulaski Hall, located at 13 Norman Street.

Public Input

Mr. Roman addressed the board by giving a brief history of his time in Chicopee and managing the Pulaski Club. He provided a history of the club and how the organization evolved over time. Mr. Norman outlined his time spent as President of the organization, to a time where he transitioned to a member, and how the organization continued to evolve when he became a trustee. Mr. Norman described his recent time as a trustee, and the events that lead to the closure of the hall. Mr. Gromacki stated that the location is closed, but that they are making payments to the City and CEL for amounts owed while they make repairs to the building, with the intention of re-opening. Both feel the club is part of their heritage.

Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2024 Meeting

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2024 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Warrants – Concurs, Bills & Customer Refunds, and Power Bill approvals

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to concur with the payment of *Warrant #E072624 dated 7/23/2024 in the amount of \$3,194,347.23; Warrant #E080224 dated 7/29/2024 in the amount of \$75,398.56; Warrant #E080924 dated 8/1/2024 in the amount of \$159,398.85; Warrant #E080924 dated 8/5/2024 in the amount of \$4,080.45; Warrant #E081624 dated 8/8/2024 in the amount of \$476,087.38; Warrant #E081624 dated 8/12/2024 in the amount of \$252,463.06; Warrant #E082324 dated 8/16/2024 in the amount of \$226,973.69; Warrant #E082324 dated 8/19/2024 in the amount of \$212,164.36; Warrant #E083024 dated 8/22/2024 in the amount of \$3,815,630.33; Warrant #E090624 dated 8/29/2024 in the amount of \$275,408.41; Warrant #E090624 dated 9/3/2024 in the amount of \$87,533.36; Warrant #E091324 dated 9/5/2024 in the amount of \$191,957.97; Warrant #E091324 dated 9/9/2024 in the amount of \$108,786.30; Warrant #E092024 dated 9/12/2024 in the amount of \$493,016.29; Warrant #E092024 dated 9/16/2024 in the amount of \$1,872,937.44; Warrant #E092724 dated 9/19/24 in the amount of \$109,181.03; Warrant #E092724 dated 9/23/2024 in the amount of \$1,917,939.90 Warrant #E100424 dated 9/26/2024 in the amount of \$223,611.86 and Warrant #E100424 dated 9/30/2024 in the amount of \$244,802.04.* Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to pay ***Bills and Customer Refunds*** in the amount of \$233,355.02. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Bid Approvals

The General Manager presented the Commissioners with the Annual Bid for OVERHEAD MULTIPLEX SERVICE CABLE. The General Manager explained that staff recommendation is to award Items 1,2,3,4, and 5 to Bidder #1 (AJ Hurley) (Prysmian/General Cable), a total awarded amount of \$19,031.00, and to award Items 6 and 7 to Bidder #2 (AWG), a total awarded amount of \$5,800.00 as materials used for most DOT projects are required to be manufactured in the US if possible. Items 1, 3, 4, and 5 will need to be used for a large DOT project currently slated to begin in 2025. Commissioner Pasternak made a motion, to award the Annual Bid for OVERHEAD MULTIPLEX SERVICE CABLE, consistent with staff's recommendation in response to CEL Bid #24-0514. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0. Document: CEL Bid #24-0514

Aboveground Fuel Storage Tank Replacement

The General Manager informed the board that we have received an Opinion of Probable Cost from Tighe & Bond for replacement options for CEL's existing aboveground storage tank (AST) that is currently used to store diesel for fleet fueling. The current diesel tank system is near the end of the service life expectancy. CEL is investigating the removal and replacement of the 1,000-gallon diesel AST with a new 2,000-gallon tank. The new tank is to be in approximately the same location as the current AST. In addition, CEL is also investigating the removal and replacement of the associated diesel dispenser, pump, electrical system, and adding a concrete containment system, similar to the gasoline protections that were put in place when that tank was replaced several years ago. The estimate cost is \$210,000. During budgeting for 2024 capital projects, \$100,000 was planned for a 1,500-gallon replacement. The General Manager believes that the smaller tank size initially planned, plus a significant increase in material costs accounts for the difference in cost. An analysis of the capital projects planned has revealed due to delays and availability, there are sufficient 2024 funds available to complete this project. The bidding process is expected to take about a month, with tank delivery in January. Project completion is targeted for February/March. There will be provisions made to ensure that fleet fueling will be uninterrupted during the project. Commissioner Pasternak made a motion, to award proceed with the replacement of the aboveground storage tank for diesel, at a cost not-to-exceed \$250,000. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Energy Efficiency Program for Commercial & Industrial Customers

The General Manager informed the board that this year's energy efficiency programs have been quite popular, especially among CEL's commercial and industrial customers, which generally result in the most impactful energy savings. Unfortunately, as of the September bill for the Energy Efficiency program, which is funded by CEL but

administered by MMWEC, CEL has depleted the \$270,000 of budgeted funds for the program. The General Manager asked the board to further fund this program through the end of the 2024 calendar year with \$100,00, which will be made available to commercial and industrial customers immediately.

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion, to fund the Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency program through the end of the 2024 calendar year with \$100,000. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Distributed Generation and Net Metering Policy Updates

The General Manager explained that CEL has a written policy which includes size restrictions for Distributed Generation, including solar systems and batteries. The following changes have been proposed:

1. Residential facilities wanting to install a battery had been limited to 10 kW. We have seen many modern battery storage units have capacities between 11 kW and 12 kW. In order to not prohibit the installation of residential battery systems, CEL's Engineering staff have recommended increasing this limit to 15 kW to cover current and near-future installations. Some customers also wanted to install solar systems between 10 kW and 15 kW, where it was feasible but we needed to give them less than the full net rate.
2. Commercial facilities are credited at their rate class generation rate, which ultimately benefits CEL and therefore the larger ratepayer base. Since transmission study requirements are only triggered at 1 MW, staff recommendation is to allow for installations up to, but not including, a level of 1 MW (≤ 999 kW).

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion, to modify the Distributed Generation and Net Metering policy consistent with staff's recommendation. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Crossroads Fiber Update

The General Manager provided the board a recap of 2024 activities and a plan for 2025 activities as follows:

- 2024 Fiber Serving Areas (FSA)
 - Activated 15 this year (2024)
 - 4 are currently in various stages of construction
 - 3 left to begin construction in 2024
 - 22 total projected for 2024
- 2025 FSAs
 - 14 planned for 2025

- Most require significant underground construction, some mostly multi-dwelling units (MDUs) that need agreements executed (Mitchell Drive, Mall Apartments, Celia South)
- 2026 Projection
 - After 2025 builds this, leaves 8 FSAs with either interest levels less than ten percent (10%), or full MDUs that require agreements (Montcalm Heights, Ames, Falls View Apartments)
 - This does not include nine (9) Chicopee Housing Authority FSAs for which we do not have an agreement yet
- 2024 Budget
 - On track to meet/exceed revenue budget numbers.
 - There are 4934 active residential and business customers.
- Multi-Dwelling Units
 - Completed 6 MDUs this year
 - 2 in construction currently
 - Talks continue with additional associations, possibly 2-3 more to build this year.
 - 203 passing's will be completed across the 8 MDUs
- Customer Loyalty Program
 - Finalizing details and T&C's
 - \$5 off bill for residential customers who have been with us 60+ months.
- 2024 Capital Projects
 - New F550 Bucket Truck (waiting for service body)
 - CO Door replacements, install scheduled next week
 - 100G internal ring is being tested now with a cutover planned in next few weeks
 - Splice Trailer is built and shipped, waiting arrival.
 - Backup AC units for CO1 being installed this week/next week
- WESTCOMM
 - Received commitment for fiber build for new dispatch center today, anticipated activation spring 2025
- Colocation Facility
 - Electrical quotes being sought
 - Purchase of UPS this year.
- Marketing Activities
 - Broadband Nutrition Labels on website, printed
 - Lorraine's Soup Kitchen event 10/5
 - Spooktacular coming up 10/24

Hurricane Helene Mutual Aid

The General Manager provided a brief overview of the Mutual Aid effort for Hurricane Helene. Chicopee Electric Light has contributed 4 linemen, 1 digger truck, a pole trailer, and a line truck to the effort. Our crews are assisting Georgia Power. Overall, the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA), to which Chicopee Electric Light is a

member, has sent the following in Mutual Aid: 6 Groups, 29 Utilities, 22 Buckets, 11 Diggers and 77 personnel.

New Business – not previously known prior to posting of this Agenda

The General Manager briefly discussed the new CARB emissions requirement that is due to take effect in Massachusetts in January, 2025, which will significantly impact Chicopee Electric Light's ability to procure diesel utility trucks. While electric line/bucket trucks do exist, availability is limited, and CEL has not fully evaluated how they fit into the fleet for servicing and reliability. Lobbying for a change or delay by industry groups is ongoing.

Commissioner Pasternak asked the General Manager to follow-up on the training that was to be offered to Commissioners of light boards by MMWEC.

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to adjourn at 3:37 PM. Commissioner Maciolek seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.



Daniel R. Faille, Clerk of the Board

Approved: October 30, 2024