

***Chicopee Municipal Lighting Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday April 20, 2022***

Commissioner Pajak called a regular meeting of the Chicopee Municipal Lighting Board to order at 4:01 pm, Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

Present for this meeting were Commissioner Robert L. Pajak, Commissioner Joseph F. Pasternak, III, Commissioner Carl E. Sittard, and General Manager and Clerk of the Board James M. Lisowski.

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to accept the minutes of March 22, 2022 as presented. Commissioner Pajak seconded the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0

Commissioner Pajak made a motion to concur with the payment of

***Warrant #E040122*** dated 3/28/2022 in the amount of \$21,608.87;  
***Warrant #E040122*** dated 3/25/2022 in the amount of \$175,054.28;  
***Warrant #E040822*** dated 4/1/2022 in the amount of \$228,000.34;  
***Warrant #E040822*** dated 4/4/2022 in the amount of \$44,226.14;  
***Warrant #E041522*** dated 4/7/2022 in the amount of \$461,957.43;  
***Warrant #E041522*** dated 4/11/2022 in the amount of \$140,534.35 and  
***Warrant #E042222*** dated 4/19/2022 in the amount of \$3,482,251.35

Commissioner Pasternak 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 ***\$211,216.62***. Commissioner Pajak the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to pay ***Write-off Uncollectibles*** in the amount of ***\$65,411.64***. Commissioner Sittard the motion. Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Review 2022 GM and Company Goals and Objectives**

The General Manager and Board reviewed the person and company Goals and Objectives for 2022. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Succession Planning activities – Compliance Officer, Operations GF and GM
- Responsibility delegation – GM is retiring in 2023 and will need to pass down institutional knowledge to existing staff and new GM
- Chicopee Hydro – establish plan to bring site back into operation
- Telecom – Ongoing FSA construction and new customer acquisition
- Budget and Financial Preparation and Review, including necessary PPA adjustments in 2022 and Rate Adjustment for 2023
- S&P Rating Review – annual process for CEL to maintain existing AA- rating
- Power Supply Activities

- Reduce Open Energy and Capacity positions
- BTM Battery Storage Opportunity – contract for new 5MW Project
- MMWEC Project 2021A – Mayflower Offshore Wind
- MMWEC Project 2022A – Campus Battery Project

### **Crossroads Fiber Update**

The General Manager updated the Board that we currently have approximately 2200 customers and have an additional 154 in the survey/schedule/install queue. Since the last meeting we have made the repairs at the Veterans Bridge between Fuller Rd and E. Main St. and repaired the splice on Grove St. damaged by the failed secondary cable in a manhole. We have opened up 5 FSA's – 3 in the Chicopee Falls area of the City (East St., E. Main St. and Beauchamp Terr.), 1 in Aldenville and 1 in the Willimansett section of the City. Currently building 3 additional FSA's – 1 in Aldenville and 1 Willimansett (Chicopee/ Meadow St.). The Board was informed that it appears that we finally on Charter's radar – they are not offering a promotional 1 Year rate for Crossroads customers if they jump over to Charter. We have lost approx. 20 customers as a result of this promotional rate/offering. We currently have 50 opened FSA's with goal to construct an additional 15 +/- through the end of the year

### **Succession Planning Update**

The General Manager informed the Board that we have hired a replacement for our Compliance Manager, who retires at the end of August. This individual has asked to start on June 4<sup>th</sup> due to obligations at his current employer – CEL is agreeable to this in that it still provides 3 months of overlap to allow for training.

The General Manager informed the Board that he is considering pushing his retirement date out from January 2023 to mid-late June 2023. He agreed to update the Board at the next meeting.

### **Chicopee Hydro Update**

The General Manager informed the Board that we have received 3 qualified proposals from consultants to provide services related to the penstock repair. We will review the proposal over the next several weeks with the goal to select the consultant by the end of the month.

### **City “Retention Bonus” Payment**

The General Manager informed the Board that he met with the Mayor concerning this Retention Payment and requested a one-time reduction in our PILOT to allow CEL to provide comparable payment to our employees. The Mayor informed the General Manager that City Council has yet to approve the payments and this will be addressed in April. The Mayor contacted the General Manager and informed him that the City will propose to include CEL employees in the Retention Bonus Payment. CEL staff are working with City Hall on the mechanism to make this happen.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- The General Manager informed the Board that our total delinquencies at the end of March (as we head out of protection and begin disconnections again) is \$554K (555

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Total), of which \$250K (113 Total) are protected accounts. This total amount is \$75-100K (75-100 customers) lower than average pre-COVID levels. Some of this can be attributed to the COVID related VOC payment received last fall, but is also a result of the hard work by our customer service team.

- The General Manager informed the Board that based on current market conditions/pricing, it will be necessary to implement a 2nd increase in our PPA in June or July. Power supply costs for 2022 are projected to be approximately 20-25% higher than budgeted and historical actuals. The exact timing and amount will be determined over the next couple of months.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The General Manager recommended that the Commission go into executive session for the purpose of approving the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2022 and discussing trade secrets, commercial and financial information and strategy related to potential power supply/contract opportunities and return to Regular Session after conclusion. The motion was seconded on the basis of a roll call vote as follows:

Pasternak     Aye  
Pajak         Aye  
Sittard        Aye

The motion was passed 3 to 0

Commissioner Sittard made a motion at 5:10 PM to adjourn from Executive Session and enter into Regular Session. Motion was seconded on the basis of a roll call vote as follows:

Pasternak     Aye  
Pajak         Aye  
Sittard        Aye

The motion was passed 3 to 0

**REGULAR SESSION**

Commissioner Pajak made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute the ***Participation Acknowledgement*** on behalf of the utility for MMWEC Special Project 2022A (MMWEC Campus Battery Storage Project) per the ***Certificate of Vote*** language as follows:

***Certificate of Vote***  
***MMWEC Special Project 2022A***

I, the Clerk of the Municipal Light Board or Commission of the City of Chicopee, Massachusetts, certify that at a meeting of the Light Board or Commission held on April 20, 2022, of which meeting all members of the Board or Commission were duly notified, all notices were duly posted and at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout, and which meeting was duly convened in Open Session and following a roll call vote on a motion to enter into Executive Session in order to address, among other things, Trade Secrets as defined in G.L.

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c 164, Sec. 47D and St. 1975, c. 775, Sec. 19 (a) relating to participation in Special Project 2022A and following the conclusion of the Executive Session and in the reconvened Open Session, the following vote was passed in Open Session by a vote of 3 to 0, all of which appears in the official records of the Board or Commission in my custody:

- Voted:**
1. that the City of Chicopee, acting by and through the Municipal Light Board or Commission, in accordance with St. 1975, c. 775, § 1 hereby votes and agrees to participate in MMWEC's Special Project 2022A; and
  2. that the City of Chicopee, acting by and through the Municipal Light Board or Commission, in accordance with St. 1975, c. 775 § 1 hereby agrees to pay its pro rata share of the costs of carrying out Special Project 2022A, as established by the MMWEC Board of Directors in the Special Project Fund for such Special Project 2022A, which pro rata share shall be based on the City's participation in Special Project 2022A; and
  3. that the City of Chicopee, acting by and through its Municipal Light Department, in accordance with St. 1975, c. 775 § 1 hereby agrees to execute, deliver and perform its obligations under the MMWEC Battery Storage Project 2022A Power Sales Agreement ("PSA"), substantially in the form of the PSA presented to the Municipal Light Board or Commission and made a part of the record of this meeting and authorizes the Manager to execute the PSA at a time he deems it appropriate; and
  4. directs the Manager to cause the Chicopee Municipal Lighting Plant to perform all of the obligations under the PSA and to take any and all further actions the General Manager deems may be required to carry out, give effect to, and consummate the transactions contemplated by this vote, including, but not limited to, the execution of any other documents; and
  5. that the Manager is hereby authorized and directed to make payments to MMWEC calculated as set forth in the preceding paragraph 2; and
  6. that the Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Participation Acknowledgement, a copy of which has been presented at this meeting and is filed with the permanent records thereof; and
  7. that any actions previously taken by the Manager, which are consistent with the purpose of this vote, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

I further certify that the above vote was taken in a duly convened meeting which convened open to the public; that notice stating the place, date, and time of the meeting was filed with the City clerk and a copy thereof was posted in the office of the City clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of the City at least 48 hours prior to this meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays, and that the official record of the meeting was or will be made available to the public, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A Sections 18-25, as amended.

Commissioner Pasternak seconded the motion; Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Pasternak made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute the ***Participation Acknowledgement*** on behalf of the utility for MMWEC Special Project 2021A (Mayflower Off-Shore Wind Project) per the ***Certificate of Vote*** language as follows:

***Certificate of Vote***  
***Special Project 2021A***

I, the Clerk of the Municipal Light Board or Commission of the City of Chicopee, Massachusetts, certify that at a meeting of the Board or Commission held on April 20, 2022, of which meeting all members of the Board or Commission were duly notified, all notices were duly posted and at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout, and which meeting was duly convened in Open Session and following a roll call vote on a motion to enter into Executive Session in order to address, among other things, Trade Secrets as defined in G.L c 164, Sec. 47D and St. 1975, c. 775, Sec. 19 (a) relating to participation in Special Project 2021A and following the conclusion of the Executive Session and in the reconvened Open Session, the following vote was passed in Open Session by a vote of 3 to 0, all of which appears in the official records of the Board or Commission in my custody:

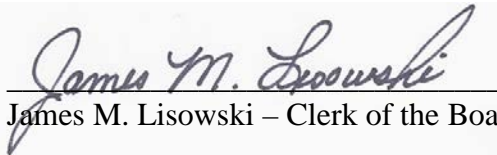
- Voted:**
1. that the City of Chicopee, acting by and through the Municipal Light Board or Commission, in accordance with St. 1975, c. 775, § 1 hereby votes and agrees to participate in MMWEC's Special Project 2021A; and
  2. that the City of Chicopee, acting by and through the Municipal Light Board or Commission, in accordance with St. 1975, c. 775 § 1 hereby agrees to pay its pro rata share of the costs of carrying out Special Project 2021A, as established by the MMWEC Board of Directors in the Special Project Fund for such Special Project 2021A, which pro rata share shall be based on the City's participation in Special Project 2021A; and
  3. that the Manager is hereby authorized and directed to make payments to MMWEC calculated as set forth in the preceding paragraph 2; and
  4. that the Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Participation Acknowledgement, a copy of which has been presented at this meeting and is filed with the permanent records thereof; and
  5. that any actions previously taken by the Manager, which are consistent with the purpose of this vote, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

I further certify that the above vote was taken in a duly convened meeting which convened open to the public; that notice stating the place, date, and time of the meeting was filed with the City clerk and a copy thereof was posted in the office of the City clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of the City or Town at least 48 hours prior to this meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays, and that the official record of the meeting was or will be made available to the public, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A Sections 18-25, as amended.

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Commissioner Pajak seconded the motion; Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

Commissioner Sittard made a motion to adjourn at 5:18 PM. Commissioner Pasternak seconded the motion; Discussion: None; Motion was passed 3 to 0.

  
James M. Lisowski – Clerk of the Board

Approved: May 24, 2022