



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

**Marblehead Municipal Light - 11.26.24**

Hybrid Meeting

LWVM Observer: Maggie Smist

### **In Attendance:**

Light Commissioners: Michael Hull, Jean Jacques Yarmoff, Simon Frechette, Mike Hull, Lisa Wolf (chair). Jean Jacques Yarmoff (remote)

Light Department: Joe Kowalik (General Manager) Matt Barrett

### **-4:03 Meeting Called to Order**

Land Acknowledgement was read. Minutes from 11/14 joint meeting with charter commission, 11/21 public session and 11/21 executive session moved and approved.

### **Public Comment**

#### **- Outstanding items and requests from previous meetings**

**1. Employee survey** – the MMLD submitted an edited survey last week and they are waiting to hear back from POLCO that survey is appropriate. The employee survey will go out electronically once approved. POLCO will make themselves available to employees for questions.

**2. Juicebox EV Charger customer** – Joe followed up and the company making them is going out of business. The software will be terminated so everyone will be moved off this platform. MEMIC has reached out to

current customers and there are 7 customers where there is no solution at this time. Joe is continuing to work for solutions

### **3. MEAM (Municipal Electric Association of MA) legislative actions -**

**VOTE REQUESTED Background** -On Thursday October 17, Chairs of a MLP Legislative Caucus reached out to legislators (Jenny Armini) with MLPs in their district to request sign on to two letters of comment for DEP (Dept of Environmental Protection) and DOER (Dept of Energy Resources) on draft regulations. These letters outlined concerns with proposals related to the Clean Heat Standard and Large Building Energy Reporting and were drafted with MEAM. The letters requested sign-on by legislators by mid-day Tuesday October 22. The GM and MEAM did not share these letters with MMLD Commissioners in advance of the request for legislative sign on or solicit MMLD Commissioner input on these comments. The timing and urgency are also unclear.

Proposed Motion to: *Direct our GM to ask MEAM to share all letters related to draft regulations and legislation with Commissioners, prior to sending to legislators.*

Discussion followed about the need for the motions. They discussed the difference between legislation and regulation.

Motion was proposed, seconded and approved.

### **General Manager Updates**

**1.Village 13 Update** – construction bid went out and lead contractor has to be electrical contractor. There are six good vendors who we hope will bid. Bid package is 250 pages, and deadline for bids is 12/11.

**2.MA Coastal Zone Management grant** – reconciled with town that additional funds were approved. Department will receive \$161,000.

**3.Preliminary 2025 Operating Budget** – this year tracking against plan has been very positive. Barring any extreme weather, the department is in good shape to end the year.

**4. Preliminary 2025 Capital Budget** – with projects for 2025, department is showing an increase in expense budget. Projected rates for 2025 show there will be no change in rates at this point.

In 2025, there will be more money spent on capital plans – the Light Department hopes to finish the Village 13 project. Federal CEC Grant applied for – it is for \$2 million. If we get that grant in December, we need to spend money in next two years. We would need to come up with \$600k to apply to this project. If we don't get grant, we will still need to do a portion of the work covered by this grant.

\$2 million is also needed for other equipment expenditures (vehicles, switchgear, general upgrades). General discussion followed on what is needed and type of vehicle the department is exploring.

**5. Ocean Ave utility easement requests** – the Light Department attorney has been involved and there are a few remaining items to be done. The easement has the MMLD 'owning' this easement. There will be future easements to give MMLD the right to be in the front yard of some properties.

**6. Title dispute on Atlantic Ave entrance to Clifton Substation** – issue with definition of the parcel listed above. The Town Planning board during their October, 2024 meeting gave some of this parcel back to landowners on Atlantic Avenue, but MMLD was not made aware of the transaction. There is a dispute within the town. MMLD will continue to work on how to proceed.

**7. IT upgrades** -the department has updated comcast internet and working with town on future IT upgrades.

Meeting went into Executive Session at 5:10 pm