



## OBSERVER REPORT

### **MARBLEHEAD MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD -09-05-23 – Hybrid Meeting**

Recorded by Video, available on the MMLD website.

LWVM Observer: Steven Levy

The members in attendance were Jean Jacques Yarmoff, Simon Frechette, Adam Smith, Lisa Wolf (Chair). Michael Hull was not present. Joe Kowalik, General Manager was present.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. The minutes of July 26th both public and executive sessions were approved. The executive session of December 19, 2022, was also approved.

Public Comments: Jim Zisson made comments about solar panels on schools.

Outstanding Items (old business):

> A motion was passed to review and approve a residential battery interconnection agreement, subject to UL certification and pass other required Marblehead Building Department building and electrical approvals. MMLD rebates will become available on specific brands on residential battery units.

> EV (Electric Vehicle) Charging: There are two EV Charger programs offered to Marblehead residents. The Scheduled Charging Program offers a free ChargePoint charger to residents who agree to having their charging level lowered from Level 2 to Level 1 from 5-9 pm, non-Holiday weekdays. Some customers in 2021-22 received a JuiceBox charger that reduces Level 2 charging to no charging from 5-9 pm, non-Holiday weekdays. The NextZero program offers a monthly rebate for participation in a peak reduction program. Details are on the MMLD website. There will be more discussion at the next meeting. Only Charge Point units will be used in the future.

NEPPA (Northeast Public Power Association) annual conference overview by Jean Jacques.

General Manager (GM) Contract: The Marblehead Municipal Light Department fiscal year ends on December 31st. The current GM contract runs from April to April. The GM contract provisions for annual goal setting was changed to match the Marblehead fiscal year/calendar year.

MMLD Board and GM sent a letter to Mass DOER (Department of Environmental Resources) regarding their request for bids on testing new long-term battery storage solutions. There were two public meetings. Munis can test new deployments.

#### General Manager (GM) Items:

>Solar PV on Schools: The Brown School was identified as the first potential school for rooftop solar because it has the newest roof. A proposal will be created to explain the costs and benefits. Levelized cost of energy is not the total benefit. Capacity and transmission costs are avoided, which also add economic value to the installation. Next month we will look at a detailed analysis on a spreadsheet. Rooftop installation can be done while the school is running.

> A Utility Battery electric storage system (BESS) will lower transmission and capacity payments to ISO NE for the next 20 years. This larger battery would save almost \$10 million over 20 years. We need a 15,000 square foot plot. That is 100 by 150 feet. To move forward we need a piece of land close to the Village 13 substation. The substation is behind the Animal Shelter on Village Street. Rec and Park has an adjacent parcel that currently appears underutilized. MMLD would need to receive care, custody, and control of the parcel from Rec and Parking to proceed. This transfer would happen at a town meeting.

> Premier Fence has the winning bid for the new fence and gates on 80 Commercial Street.

> Financial operations for July 2023 year to date: Total revenue was \$12.8 million with a net income of \$1.1 million.

> A motion was made and passed to transfer \$330,000 from the MMLD 2022 operating revenue surplus to the Town of Marblehead.

> New positions were proposed: a Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/ IT Tech Specialist, an Energy Services Manager responsible for managing and marketing customer energy efficiency programs and writing applications for Fed and State grants, and a Capital Projects Manager to define the scope and costs of needed distribution system projects, and prioritize and schedule projects to improve the town electric distribution system capacity and reliability.

> MMLD does not have a need to widen the two bridges at Lead Mills. We want to keep these bridges for pedestrian, bike, and carriage traffic only. We agree with the need to make repairs to the decks and rails.

> Go Green Now Program has a new logo. The average residential customer participating in the Program to receive 100% Carbon-Free electricity pays under \$160/year to participate.