

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

Those present from Advisory Committee included Shawn Baker, Doug Smith, Madison Riley, Rani Elwy, Gail Sullivan, David Prock, Bill Schauffler, Pete Pedersen, Jeff Levitan, Al Ferrer, Jenn Fallon, Christina Dougherty, Wendy Paul.

Shawn Baker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was taken by Madison Riley.

Citizen Speak

There was no one present for Citizen Speak.

Paul Criswell, Chair, Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Board and Don Newell, Director, MLP presented an overview of MLP and current projects.

Questions

- A question was asked about the carbon credits and if a better investment could be found.
 - This has been debated in open session of the MLP board. The theory behind the renewable energy credits is that it is a coupon received if certain types of renewable energy or non-remitting energy is produced. There is a state mandate to purchase a certain number of renewable energy credits. If a municipality wants to finance a renewable energy project they can go to bank and use money from electricity and money from renewable energy credits. In addition, corporations and business will buy these to achieve zero emissions status. Municipalities will also buy them. The theory is as the demand for renewable energy credits goes up there is the greater ability to finance projects. The MLP has compromised by setting aside 15% of these volunteer funds for the purchase of renewable energy credits. Other towns fill in the gap of renewable energy credits.
- A comment was made regarding the excellent reliability of electricity in town.
- Does MLP sell electricity to others?
 - The MLP does not produce electricity in Wellesley. Electricity is bought on the open market and sold to customers. When MLP overbuys, the electricity can be sold back into grid at the spot market price. MLP has investigated putting some power generation in Wellesley but has not been able to make it feasible. When towns around us don't have electricity it's because transmission is down, not that there isn't electricity available. MLP will provide mutual aid to other communities to help put up poles and get power going. For example, the MLP sent a fully equipped service truck to Florida with line workers. This truck joined an army of municipal electric companies sending people down to Florida to help with rebuilding after the recent hurricane.
- Is the MLP a for-profit or non-profit?
 - The MLP is governed by Section 164 of the MGL, and it doesn't fit neatly into for profit or not for profit. The MLP is owned by the town of Wellesley and provides financial benefits to the Town of Wellesley. There are regulations of how much profit can be earned each year.
- If more profit is produced, does that go into something else?
 - The assistance provided to Florida was at no cost to MLP and was paid for by the insurance companies to rebuild the state of Florida. MLP sets rates to continue the one-million-dollar contribution to the town's General Fund and to fund half a million dollars

of projects that benefit the town of Wellesley. MLP also needs adequate cash reserves to maintain the highest bond rating.

- Do you feel it is disingenuous to have the opt out provision for the MLP's WECARE program?
 - The program was extensively debated and voted on by Town Meeting.
- What is the opt out rate?
 - 6 to 7%
- Is the MLP the owner of EV charging stations in town and what is the fee structure?
 - MLP is involved with the charging stations on town properties. Others are for profit charging stations if they are not on municipal property. MLP and other involved parties are still working out the details for the Middle School parking lot EV stations.
- Are you serving as an ISP for internet service for the town?
 - MLP provides internet connectivity to businesses only. This was a small pilot program. MLP is not offering residential internet. MLP is not ready yet for residential service as it's complicated.
- Does the MLP complete a risk analysis for transmission lines?
 - The transmission on the entire NE grid is controlled by ISO New England and they run the grid and they do that benefit analysis. The MLP can only influence at the local level. MLP is looking at this and hired a consultant to help with this going forward. We need to understand the risk of the various capacity coming in and how this is managed going forward
- A question was asked about differential pricing and charging different rates for usage at different times of the day.
 - MLP is not at the point where we can do this yet as MLP can't monitor everyone's electricity use at that level. A cost-of-service study will show the different amounts of electricity used by the different classes of customers at different times and how this affects the overall cost of electricity. Recently a cost-of-service study was presented to the MLP as an educational program and did not have the granular detail on the different usages. The previous cost-of-service study was completed in early 1990s.
- Where does nuclear fit in in the future?
 - Currently the policy is that nuclear energy is non carbon emitting. It is more beneficial to source electricity from non-carbon emitting sources than the concerns about nuclear waste.
- What is the participation rate for those opting into the 100% renewable WECARE program?
 - This number is not available and will be provided later.
- A comment was made that the electric usage information will be available in real time with the new meters.
- What is the cost percentage of power versus distribution versus overhead in the rates?
 - Rates are power, capacity, tail end of power capacity. The significant elements of costs are 5 ½ cents for purchasing the KWH; the rates are 13.5 cents.
- How far away is the advanced metering system and will this be phased?
 - The on-line portal will be live after the full metering is deployed. Meters will be deployed within 18 months to 2 years starting in December or January.
- As power costs go up is there opportunity to scale back the power to Devon?
 - Devon is purely a service contract; no power is provided. Devon helps MLP to manage its work force.
- Will there be an educational solar unit data panel at the library and elementary schools?
 - The high school had one, but it was discontinued. We can pursue the for the library and the elementary schools.
- As prices go up this winter is there an effort to shave off demand such as encouraging home energy audits?

Approved October 24, 2022

- The MLP is staffing up to promote energy conservation initiatives.

Administrative matters

Update on Town Hall Interior budget and financing on Friday, October 21, 2022.

Minutes Approval

Jenn Fallon made, and Bill Schauffler seconded a motion to approve the October 12, 2022 minutes.

Roll Call Vote

Jennifer Fallon – yes

Jake Erhard – absent

Jeff Levitan - yes

Doug Smith – yes

Susan Clapham - absent

Al Ferrer - absent

Wendy Paul – yes

Pete Pedersen - yes

Madison Riley – yes

Rani Elwy - yes

Christina Dougherty - yes

Gail Sullivan – yes

David Prock -yes

William Schauffler - yes

The October 12, 2022 minutes were approved, 11 to 0.

There is no regular Advisory meeting next Wednesday, October 26, 2022.

Liaison Reports

DPW/Pete Pedersen – update of recent meeting was provided and there is no change on PFAS, and Stormwater as presented to Advisory last week; recycling commodity prices are off and not all commodities have been surveyed.

Audit/Gail Sullivan – financials for the Retirement Plan and MLP were approved; results of cybersecurity were presented and will be presented to the Select Board on Nov. 7.

COA/Bill Schauffler – COA hired a new director who will start in 3 to 4 weeks; COA does not have an assistant director or program manager; there is a vacuum at the top of the COA; the health fair was successful; the kitchen status is unresolved, and a consultant will be giving advice to FMD and COA but there will be no FY24 implications. The COA will need someone to manage the project.

FMD/Bill Schauffler – FMD to present to Advisory on December 14 and will answer questions on the 5-year Capital Plan that will be presented to the SB on Nov. 22

Library/Christina Dougherty – Strategic plan consultant provided an overview and timeline; strategic plan is to be completed in May 2023; accepted updated collection policy; first draft of capital request was reviewed; requested that the traffic study be done after Hunnewell opens and prior to the design of the parking lot which would move paving to FY25; book sale on October 21.

Select Board/Doug Smith – update of recent meeting was provided; Deputy chief promotion was approved; discussion and vote on a not to exceed number for Town Hall \$23,898,835. Advisory will receive details from PBC; CAC presentation on stretch energy code update and this may come to ATM; non TMM residents who want to speak at STM must register with the Town Clerk by Saturday.

Recreation/Playing Fields Task Force/Wendy Paul – field utilization study is live; discussion at PFTF about sound and sound around fields however this was felt it should be a multi board discussion to include NRC and Schools; Recreation turnback to town – just over \$100,000 for FY22.

Approved October 24, 2022

CPC/Wendy Paul– on-going conversation with WHA regarding renovations. On-going conversation with Recreation regarding beach house and its position in queue to be renovated. Funds have been discussed and approved by CPC.

There was a question about STM prep session. This is for TMM prior to STM and will be a tech test.

Adjourn

Jeff Levitan made, and Rani Elwy seconded a motion to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote

Jennifer Fallon – yes

Jake Erhard – absent

Jeff Levitan - yes

Doug Smith – yes

Susan Clapham - absent

Al Ferrer - absent

Wendy Paul – yes

Pete Pedersen - yes

Madison Riley – yes

Rani Elwy - yes

Christina Dougherty - yes

Gail Sullivan – yes

David Prock -yes

William Schauffler - yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m., 11 to 0.

Documents Reviewed

- MLP PowerPoint presentation to Advisory