

Jan 18, 2024

Hull Municipal Light Plant Board Meeting

Attendees: Pat Cannon, Jake Vaillancourt, Stephanie-Landry, Mike Schmitt, ~~Panos Tokadjian~~, Thomas Burns, Dan Ciccariello, ~~Anne Finley~~, Jennifer Constable-

Our next two anticipated meeting dates are Feb 29, 2024, and March 21, 2024.

All five members of the board were present.

Has Hull verified that every property with electrical service is served by Hull? Hingham discovered three homes in Hingham on National Grid for eclectic and got into the green communities without having to pay into the fund. Hull voted not to participate in green communities in 2010. Hull has no connections on electricity served by national grid so there is no way for Hull to get into green communities without paying into the fund.

Light plant managers update:

The union contract for our office staff has expired. Anne Finley was appointed shop steward in Debbie's. The light plant is on a calendar year budget, whereas the town runs on a fiscal year budget. The local clerks union represents them.

Andrew W. was brought on as a meter tech. The current town meeting warrant is open and closes on Feb 6, 2024. There is a proposed 40B project at 45 Ipswich Street. Mass Housing performed a site visit Jan 16, 2024. It was initially supposed to be 40 units. Now, they are proposing two buildings with a total of 12 units (most likely 8 units in one and 4 units in the other). We have requested an extension for additional time to submit our comments to Mass Housing regarding this proposed development.

The town signed its MOU with DCR. We are interested potentially in pursuing the land where the temporary winter generators are stored.

Operations Manager update:

The breaker for Hull Wind II has arrived. Hull Wind I's dismantling contractor is going through the permitting process. We are hoping to have a date for deconstruction by the end of Jan 2024.

The financial portion of our new customer service software is set to go live at the end of January 2024; this will be internal only for now; there have yet to be any changes to the payment or billing process for ratepayers. June 3, 2024, is the go-live date for full-service integration.

We had a pole fall down and strike two automobiles at Hull gut on Dec 19, 2023. No injuries occurred.

We have no updates on Spinnaker Island. The town attorney is meeting with the light department next week on this topic.

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The temporary holiday lights have been taken down. Positive feedback was heard from multiple ratepayers; some did ask we consider a warmer color temperature in the future.

Upcoming rate study:

- Hull Light provides parking lot lighting for customers if they so wish. Most of them are high-pressure sodium 250 to 400 watts. We should upgrade them to LED. This will save us money. The current rate is \$25 per month per parking lot light. It is a rental, and we cover the equipment.
- Cost of reconnecting after Hull has disconnected their power due to non-payment. During the summer, we turn off 10 to 15 customers every week for non-payment. It used to be that you could pay \$150 for a trouble person to come out at night after our normal business hours for a reconnect. This is no longer a lineman working because the smart meters can be turned off and on remotely.
- The municipal rate has been kept purposefully low. We want to review this to ensure fairness for all ratepayers.
- Rate payers routinely have questions about our solar rate; they want the credits to stay active at the end of the year. We have 57 customers who have residential solar. It is a lot of work to do the calculation as it was done by hand. The new software will allow us to change the current policy of resetting the credits at the end of every calendar year if the light board chooses to. We have a limit of 15 Kw for solar installs right now.
- The town of Ipswich does offer heat pump and other energy related financing via their customers light bill's. Asking MMWEC about the impact on Hull for creating a rate like Ipswich's to encourage the conversion from fossil fuel-based home heating systems to non-carbon emitting heat pumps.

MMWEC is presenting in March 2024. We want to formalize some questions ahead of time light board and rate payers are encouraged to bring our questions to Mike and Panos before the March 2024 presentation.

Hull Wind II, what would the cost be to replace it, and does it make sense on paper to do so? What is the effect it would have on the rates? Our operations management team is considering these questions.

Jake Vaillancourt made the motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM, and Tom Burns seconded. All members approved.