

WMGLD
P.O. BOX 190 480 North Ave.
Wakefield, MA 01880
Tel. (781) 246-6363 Fax (781)
246-0419



Peter D. Dion, General Manager

Sharon Daly, Chair
Thomas Boettcher,
Secretary
Jennifer Kallay
Elton Prifti
John J. Warchol

WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 04, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE: Commrs., Chair Sharon Daly
Thomas Boettcher, Secretary
Jennifer Kallay
Jack Warchol
Elton Prifti

Peter Dion, General Manager, WMGLD
Mark Cousins, Finance Manager
Dave Polson, Engineering and Operations Manager
Joe Collins, Business Analyst- Energy Services
Sylvia Vaccaro, Minute Secretary

Matt Ide, MMWEC, Executive Director of Special Projects
Daniel Murphy, MMWEC, Manager of Regulatory and
Market Services

Members of the Public

None

PLACE: **480 North Ave., Wakefield, MA**
& ZOOM MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

Commr. Daly called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and advised the meeting was being recorded.

CHAIR REMARKS:

None

COMMISSIONERS REMARKS:

Commr. Warchol remarked that there was discussion last month on the Wakefield Community pages about recording equipment, such as cameras and license plate readers on utility poles. He received an email today about a camera being on a pole on Lake Ave. He did not know if this was going to become an issue as a violation of the public's civil rights. Pete noted that the WMGLD is aware of the cameras and that they have been installed at the request of the Town and the police. Commr. Pete explained that the camera data is fed to the Public Safety Building and that they only record and keep data for a short period of time. He commented that the police notify us when and what poles they are going to use so we do not cut the equipment down. He said that WMGLD does not charge the Town for the use of these poles. Commr. Warchol inquired if WMLGD has a pole attachment policy. Pete stated that there is not a written policy, if the Town or FBI calls to notify WMLGD about putting a camera in a specific area we allow it. It is usually there temporarily. As long as we know about we will not cut it down. Pete clarified that the department does receive revenue from other third party internet and communications companies, in addition to RCN and Comcast.

Pete noted that he asked Jeff Morris, IT Manager to join the meeting tonight to briefly explain the Cyber Security Training emails the Commissioners have received. He explained that training videos will be going out soon to the Commissioners' wmgld.com accounts. These are mandatory for anyone that uses the WMGLD domain name for their email address. He said that we are going through a series of cyber security teachings and tools to educate everyone about using caution when looking at your emails and not clicking on dangerous emails. There will be one of these teaching emails per month. Jeff also explained that it does not matter if you are using a WMGLD computer or a personal computer because there are still risks to the WMGLD domain.

TOWN COUNCIL LIASON:

There is no update to report on the appointment of a Town Council liaison.

Public Comments

None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of the June 17, 2024, minutes was before the Board for approval. Commr. Warchol provided minor edits to page 10.

A motion to approve the June 17, 2024, minutes as amended during this meeting was made by Commr. Boettcher and seconded by Commr. Kallay.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

Approval of the July 17, 2024, minutes was before the Board for approval. Commr. Warchol noted that on page 14 it should be edited to note Mike McLane's name and not Mike McCarthy.

A motion to approve the July 17, 2024, minutes as amended during this meeting was made by Commr. Boettcher and seconded by Commr. Kallay.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

Commr. Daly requested that agenda item E1 under New Business be taken out of order.

A motion to move item E1 out of order was made by Commr. Warchol and seconded by Commr. Boettcher.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

NEPOOL GIS (Generation Information System) Hourly Certificate Rule Changes

Matt Ide stated that the NEPOOL Markets Committee is the group of electricity market participants that advises ISO New England on policy matters. Policy matters that impact the rules of running and operating the grid go through the NEPOOL stakeholder process for advice that MMWEC would then give to ISO New England, which is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) ISO has to report to FERC if they want to make any changes to the market rules. Also, since NEPOOL has some legal status on certain matters, we can go directly to FERC and petition FERC to make changes to the market rules and the tariffs. This is where the issue arose around the proposed changes to GIS operating rules. Commr. Daly said she heard about it through an email chain from other municipal utilities whether they should vote for or against this and wanted to hear MMWEC's position on this matter. Pete Dion stated that he circulated the email from Matt to the Board for their review. Matt explained the GIS system records the generation of non-carbon emitting assets on a monthly basis in aggregate, capturing the total megawatt hours generated that month. The proposers of the change want to capture generation on an hourly basis rather than a monthly basis. This is important in the sense when the generation is recorded in the GIS system, this is the fundamental information that turns a generator's output into a REC. If a generator chooses to record its output on an hourly basis, it will mint RECs on an hourly basis. The concern is that if generators opt to mint hourly RECs, they would be essentially reducing the number of RECs available for utilities to meet their compliance requirements, which would possibly increase their cost of compliance. For example, if a corporation's objective is to be a zero-emitting operation, they would look at their electricity consumption on an hourly basis and then buy hourly RECs to match generation to their consumption, more tightly matching their load curve. Generators opting to mint hourly RECs could effectively sell them for a higher

price to corporations that use them to match their corporate sustainability goals thereby reducing the supply of RECs that could be available to the utilities to meet their compliance requirements. Although the demand for RECs would stay relatively constant, supply could go down, which would cause upward pressure on the price of RECs that would be used for utilities for compliance. Some municipals also have strategies where they are combining retiring RECs of assets that they owned and also acquiring RECs to get them to their appropriate level of compliance. There is concern that the proposed change could ultimately increase the cost of those RECs that the MLPs are buying, which would be passed onto their customers, so that effectively was the objection that created a level of controversy.

MMWEC plays a unique role in the NEPOOL stakeholder process because they represent generating assets on behalf of MLPs, for example, Seabrook and Millstone nuclear power plants, and MLPs are also load-serving entities. Therefore, MMWEC has a variety of interests that a lot of other NEPOOL stakeholders do not have. For example, if you are a merchant generator you just care about generation and if you are a load serving entity, you don't have as many concerns about cost because costs get passed along to the consumer in the rates.

MMWEC is always trying to balance all these interests. The Markets Committee formed a GIS working group to research this further to see if this proposed change would have a negative impact on both the supply and pricing of RECs. Constellation Energy, who is a proponent of this change conducted the research. The Market Committee was not satisfied with the research results and asked Constellation if they could get the New York ISO (NYISO) to adapt the same change so that when New England's market changes New York changes at the same time. This would alleviate some of the concerns that we had about rising prices in the New England markets. Unfortunately, New York is not planning to make the change in the near future. Constellation did make a good faith effort. They provided further analysis that showed there wasn't going to be a significant risk of rising REC prices in the New England market. The New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) is supporting this proposal as well as the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) because this is a voluntary program. Looking at the big picture, this will be a trend that will continue across the country. Matt stated that MMWEC was still polling members but intended to vote in support of this proposal. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

Project Updates

Energy Park

Pete Dion stated that work continues on the Energy Park. The conduit work is completed, and gas has been brought down to the site. Northeast Metro Tech is not going to have gas heat but will utilize gas for labs and for cooking. He noted that there has been an issue with the roof on the Tech building and that they are working on resolving the issue to ensure that

there would not be any problems with installing solar on the roof. Site work for the new high school is also moving forward.

Kenneth J. Chase Jr. Community Solar Project and Dedication Update

Joe Collins stated that there has been positive feedback regarding the solar program. Commr. Warchol stated that he has been in contact with the Business Manager at Brightview and she thought that having the dedication ceremony at Brightview was doable. She will discuss this with the Executive Director and get back to him about a potential date in late September or early October.

Review of Strategic Planning Goals, Initiatives and Schedule

Pete Dion noted that in this review process it was discovered that time frames for several of these goals and initiatives will be ongoing. Certain things had specific deliverables and others that we would deliver on an initial plan, but then review on an annual basis. For example, under workforce- identify new roles and skills sets. What these roles look like now versus 5 years and then 10 years from now could be very different. The Board discussed how to potentially prioritize these goals and initiatives.

Town's Energy Reduction Plan – School Project

Pete Dion noted that the detailed energy audit reports performed on the Dolbeare and Woodville schools were received by WMGLD and the schools. Joe Collins stated that the Town reviewed the audit and applied for the energy efficiency block grant for the Dolbeare school with the assistance of WMGLD. This grant would go towards the engineering design for replacing the current heating system with heat pumps. Pete noted that once the engineering design is completed, WMGLD could look at customizing a rebate to assist the school. Commr Boettcher stated that the Galvin school is looking to put solar on the roof and inquired how WMGLD may assist in this. Pete stated we have been working with the Town on this project and that it would also require a customized rebate. Pete said that any rebate WMGLD would give would require that we receive and retire the RECs.

New Business

Mid- Year Review of 2024 Goals and Objectives

Two underground feeders from Beebe to Wakefield Ave were included in the Capitol budget for 2025 and 2026. There was a failure on one of them so after analyzing the cable, half of the feeder has been replaced this year and at least another 25% will be replaced before the end of the year, with the remaining 25% being replaced next year. This is why there will be some changes to the Capital Budget.

On the Customer Service side, WMGLD reduced our base rate by 25% in late Spring. Pete Dion mentioned that Joe Collins and Olivia Hayes conducted an info session on WMGLD's customer programs for the Retired Men's and Women's Club

of Wakefield. Joe stated that the information was well received. Pete said we were approached by Greentown Labs, a climatetech incubator, to make a presentation on the Energy Park in November. Dave Polson explained that Greentown Labs is a non-profit that partners with entrepreneurs emergent technologies.

Any other matter not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Executive Session if necessary

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:44 pm by Commr. Warchol and seconded by Commr. Kallay.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.