



HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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General Manager

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Board Members

Laura Burns, Chair
Michael Reive, Vice-Chair
Tyler Herrald, Secretary

MEETING HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD

March 27, 2024
Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82275997827>

Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) was called to order by the Board's Chair, Laura Burns, at approximately 7:30 am on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, via Zoom.

Present:

Board Members: Laura Burns -Chair
Michael Reive -Vice-Chair
Tyler Herrald -Secretary

HMLP: Thomas Morahan -General Manager
Mark Fahey -Asst. General Manager
Joan Griffin - Business Manager
Stephen Girardi - Engineer
Brianna Bennett -Sustainability Coordinator

Ms. Burns read the following disclaimer into the record:

This meeting is being held remotely as an alternative means of public access pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Act of 2022 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Hingham Municipal Light Plant in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

PILOT Payment Discussion

Ms. Burns received two calls from the Town Administrator requesting an increase in the PILOT (Payments In Lieu Of Taxes) from Hingham Light due to difficulties in the budget year, especially for the schools.

The PILOT formula was established around 2004 and is shown below:

kWh sales per year x .0025

This is usually a payment of approximately \$450,000 to \$500,000. Ms. Burns is proposing a \$40,000 increase to the standard payment to assist the Town in meeting the revenue shortfall. Ms. Burns stated that Tom Morahan has spoken with the legal counsel for Hingham Light regarding this request and will ensure that all legal requirements are stated in the PILOT policy. She wants to fully understand the financial impact that this decision would have for both the Light Plant and the Town. Ms. Burns also stated that this \$40,000 increase is a token of recognition that the formula was not accounting for inflation. Ms. Burns committed to researching PILOT programs in the Fall 2024 based on other municipalities and utilities. Mr. Herrald, Mr. Reive and Mr. Morahan are all in favor of the proposal to increase the PILOT. Ms. Griffin wants to ensure that the PILOT formula makes sense and that HMLP has the adequate revenue for the proposed increase. Ms. Bennett located the minutes from the 2004 meeting where the PILOT was discussed and will share them with all Board members and Mr. Morahan.

Ms. Burns made a two-part motion to increase the standard PILOT by \$40,000 this year and revisit the pilot formula later in the year. The motion was moved by Mr. Reive and seconded by Mr. Herrald.

Vote:

Mr. Herrald - "Aye"

Mr. Reive - "Aye"

Ms. Burns - "Aye"

Mr. Herrald stated that mass.gov has information on PILOT programs. He asked that the article from mass.gov be added to the meeting minutes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Reive: "Aye"

Mr. Herrald: "Aye"

Ms. Burns: "Aye"

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 am

Attachments:

- PILOTs-An Introduction from Mass.gov
- HMLP Board Meeting Notes from October 26, 2004