Concord Municipal Light Board - February 10, 2021

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Municipal Light Board was held on Wednesday February 10, 2021, at 7:30AM, via a Zoom Webinar. Present were Board Members: Wendy Rovelli, Gordon Brockway, Alice Kaufman (Chair), Pamela Hill and Brian Foulds. Also in attendance were David Wood, CMLP Director; Joe Repoff, CMLP Assistant Director; Laura Scott, CMLP Power Supply and Rates Administrator; Carole Hilton, CMLP Customer Service Administrator; Jan Aceti, Energy Conservation Coordinator; Jason Bulger, Concord CIO; Anne Steven & Diane Saleh: CMLP CSR's; Karin Farrow, CMLP Admin; Greg Marcinek, Telecomm Director; Stephen Crane, Concord Town Manager; Ray Andrews, Finance Committee liaison to the Light Board; Terri Ackerman Select Board liaison to The Light Board and residents: Karlen Reed, Louise Berliner, David Allen, Jerry Frenkil, Courtney Whalen, Sheldon Hines, Virginia Hines, Frank Breen and Halvor Iverson.

A video recording can be found here https://youtu.be/5D_qvjAm2zQ. Time stamps are listed below.

Note definitions for acronyms used in these minutes:

AMI: Advanced metering infrastructure (i.e. Smart Meter)
AMR: Advanced Meter Reading (Technology Currently in Use)
CARES: Conservation and Renewable Energy Services
CSR: Customer Service Representative
EV: Electric Vehicle
PPA: Power Purchase Agreement
REC: Renewable Energy Credits
RFP: Request for Proposal
TOUR: Time of Use Rate

CALL TO ORDER (00:00:00)

Ms. Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:31 AM. The meeting recording will be posted to the Minuteman Media Website as soon as it is available. Note that the Zoom chat function would not be utilized.

Minutes for November 18, 2021, received some last-minute revisions and approval was deferred to allow the Board time to review. **With a motion made by Ms. Rovelli, a second from Mr. Brockway and a unanimous roll call vote, the minutes for the November 25, 2021, meeting as distributed to Board Members on 11/24/2021 were approved.**

FUTURE MEETINGS and MINUTES

March 10, 2021, April 14, 2021, May 12, 2021, June 9, 2021, July 14, 2021, August 11, 2021, September 8, 2021, October 13, 2021, November 10, 2021, December 8, 2021

DIRECTORS UPDATE (00:06:15)

Electric Vehicles - In late January an e-News letter was sent to customers publicizing CMLP EV Programs, resulting in 75 customers using the Drive & Save Wizard to create 125 estimates of how much money and carbon they can save by driving a particular make and model of an electric vehicle instead of a comparable gas-powered car. Customers were offered magnetic and static cling "Concord Drives Electric" decals. To date, 11 customers have requested them. In the next few weeks known EV owners will be contacted and offered the decals.

CMLP is currently working with Ms. Hanley on a grant for two Level III (DC fast charging) electric charging stations. Possible locations are being reviewed. Depending on the location, the funding could be 80% or 100% if located on municipal property. The grant application deadline is March 19, 2021.

Town Annual Report - The annual report is now complete and ready to be sent on to Erin Stevens.

Job Opening - We are in the recruitment process for a network engineer, and with second round interviews completed, reference checking is in process. We are also in the recruitment process (scheduling second round interviews) for a Grade 1 line worker.

Energy Storage - Research on Battery Storage, although a high priority, has been temporarily put on hold due to competing priorities. Work has resumed and the board can expect a substantial update in the next month or two. The new owners of 300 Baker Ave are interested in making the building carbon neutral. Historically one of the top users of electricity in town, they are interested in a large solar array and a number of other initiatives, and are asking about our Net metering cap, rebates, and battery storage. We will continue the dialog with them, and some current policies may need to be reviewed.

Mr. Rovelli asked Mr. Wood if he thought that Town Funding would be needed for battery storage to which Mr. Wood replied that the answer to that was being worked on, however it will be expensive. There are many factors to consider: to enter into a PPA for it or buy it outright, what is the Return on Investment, what is the savings in the Capacity Market.
Mr. Foulds opined that it was wonderful that CMLP was working with the owners of 300 Baker Ave and would like to hear what barriers they were encountering, as well as updates on their progress. Mr. Wood pointed out if net zero was achieved, that the overhead CMLP costs that are presently covered by their billings would now need to be covered by the other customers. What the path for CMLP would be, that is in alignment CMLP's approach must be aligned with town goals and be financially responsible, is being sought.
Ms. Kaufman opined that if the original intent was to make the building all electric, would that not offset the revenue lost from becoming carbon neutral. Mr. Wood noted that with a 3-Megawatt rooftop solar array, there would be a significant drop in revenue. Currently any installation over 50 kw will require battery storage due to solar saturation. The net metering policy would need to be revised to accommodate that large of an array. Many details still need to be worked out and those applicable to the Board determined.

Ms. Kaufman requested that a copy of the Annual report be provided to Board Members.

Ms. Kaufman questioned if putting the Level III charging on municipal property was the wisest choice, as these might not be the most accessible locations. Mr. Wood said Rte. 2 access was a priority, along with the need to minimize the build of infrastructure for the station. There may be better locations, but infrastructure cost also needs to be considered. Mr. Foulds opined that there currently were no rapid charging options along these sections of Route 2, and it would be utilized wherever it was put. As an EV owner, he would be looking to be close to something to do while his vehicle was charging which would have the added benefit of driving business to Concord. Mr. Wood agreed locating the Station in one of the business sections could be ideal, but all factors needed to be considered when selecting a location. At 80% funding, locating in in a public parking lot is still attractive and cost effective, similar to the Stations already installed.

Mr. Brockway opined that a 3-Megawatt system on net metering would have a significant impact on our net revenue and further conversation should occur in the discussions regarding conjunction with net metering and TOUR.

AMI RFP Status Update (00:19:00)

The 6 accepted RFP submissions were received on 01/07/2021 (Lemmerhirt, E Source, S.L. Serco, Weston Sampson, Power Systems Engineering & Vass Solutions). The CMLP staff (Mr. Wood, Ms. Hilton, Ms. Scott & Mr. Repoff) have evaluated and ranked the proposals and opened the price proposals. The three highest ranked vendors (Lemmerhirt, Vass & Power Systems Engineering) made presentations. Lemmerhirt received the highest ranking, and we will be moving forward with this vendor. The project remains on track with target dates. The Lemmerhirt proposal/presentation was detailed, and a job well done is anticipated. They have experience working with Municipal Light Plants in the Northeast. Ms. Scott added that their timeline for the project extends out 50 weeks. She also noted that Lemmerhirt was not the lowest bid. The next few weeks would be spent negotiating the contract with them and that a lot of work would be required on the front end, providing data, answering questions etc. We have received good feedback about the Company. We do have a fallback in case a contract cannot be negotiated with the frontrunner and our second choice is on notice. We are in a good place to get this work done this year. At the end of the consultant's timeline, we will have a RFP for the purchase of an AMI system completed through the Award process. The negotiation with the vendor may be a lengthy process with installation completion expected in 2023. Part of the recommendation will be if the installation will be outsourced or handled internally.

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY RATE ADJUSTMENT (00:26:40)

Ms. Scott reviewed the memo that had been distributed. (See Addendum A below) CMLP has entitlement rights to a small percent of the hydropower produced from the Niagara Project. The benefits of this power are administered by the Massachusetts Municipal Energy Cooperative (MWEC). MWEC Tracks the value of the power on a monthly basis. The power is generally at a lower cost than CMLP purchases. These savings are set aside, in accordance with federal regulations requiring that cost savings go back to residential customers. Current policy is to provide a credit to the first seventy-five (75) kWh of energy per month sold to residential customers. Monthly savings vary and so the reserve balance varies. Periodically the credit needs to be adjusted to reflect current savings, as shown in Chart 1 (p.3) shows that back in 2018 CMLP was collecting (reserve balance) more than was given back. Mid-2019 reversed the accumulation (high of $400,000+) and more was being given back to the customers drawing down the reserve balance. A credit reduction (from $0.05/kWh to $.015/kWh) effective 03/01/2021 is being proposed. This is anticipated to bring the reserve balance to ~$80,000 by the end of the year. Even though the value of the NTPA credit is unknown, the end of year projection is reasonable.

Mr. Foulds inquired as to the possibility of establishing a monthly credit based on the monthly NYPA value, as opposed to using a fixed monthly rate which would take away the need to manage the balance. Mr. Wood responded that changing the credit would require a vote and administratively it does not make sense. The current process of annual review has worked well.

Ms. Hill asked for clarification on the Board's role in the matter. As presented, it appears to be an administrative function more than a controversial matter. Mr. Wood classified it as a 'Housekeeping item". Mr. Wood may have additional information on NYPA to share after their Board Meeting in June.

Ms. Kaufman asked if there should be a policy set around the balance in the fund. Mr. Wood was in favor of a threshold being set noting that it may result in additional votes being required during the year. Ms. Scott opined that replacing threshold with target was preferable as there is a timing lag on the data. Ms. Kaufman deferred conversation around a fund balance policy to a later Board Meeting.

Ms. Rovelli moved to adopt the recommendation that the NYPA rate be decreased from its current $0.0500/kWh credit to $0.0150/kWh credit effective 3/1/2021. Mr. Foulds provided the second and with a unanimous roll call vote the motion passed.

SMART METER: CUSTOMER OPT-OUT POLICY (00:40:45)

A drafted opt-out policy and application were provided to Board Members prior to the meeting. (See Addendum B below) Mr. Wood explained that the plan is to implement smart meter technology, the board needs to consider customers wishing to opt-out and have an analog meter. Currently there are some smart meters being used with the balance of the meters being "radio read" types that are read using a radio interface. Some customers have expressed a desire for an analog meter. The draft policy is designed to provide structure around an opt-out choice. Opting out of a smart or radio read meter would result in a monthly fee of $20.00 for a manual meter read. Additionally, there would be a one-time $75.00 fee for the removal of the old and the installation of the new meter. Of note, the $75.00 fee does not cover actual cost in meter replacement. The monthly $20.00 fee also does not fully cover the truck roll and manual meter reading costs, but it is in line with what other MLP's are charging. Clarifying for Ms. Kaufman, the $75.00 fee would be to recover the installation/removal cost and did not include the cost of the actual meter. Per Mr. Wood, the actual cost of an installation/removal would be closer to $100.00. Similarly, a monthly meter read cost would also be in the $100.00 range with the cost decreasing if there were more than one manual read being done with the same truck roll.

Mr. Wood clarified the terminology on the meters in response to a question by Mr. Brockway. Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) as being Radio read (system currently being used) and AMI as being a meter using Smart Meter technology. Board members opined that as written the terminology was unclear and requested a 'plain English" alternative be provided to customers. Ms. Kaufman believes it is an internal board policy to guide the Light Plant on the direction to take on installing non-AMI meters. Mr. Foulds suggested that the terminology on the opt-out form be changed/amended to reflect that the customer acknowledged that they were opting out of wireless technology. Ms. Kaufman agreed that that form could be edited.

Mr. Foulds went on to ask how many customers it would take, at the proposed $20/monthly fee. to cover the cost of a meter read truck roll. Mr. Wood explained he had used a figure that was similar to others in the industry, while also keeping in mind that the Board had previously expressed their support for a fee with the caveat that it is not exorbitant.

Mr. Foulds requested clarification on whether the $20 charge would be in addition to the current meter charge ($16.00/month) or in place of it. Mr. Wood agreed that it should be in addition to cover the additional expense. Ms. Hill opined that as an additional charge it would have the effect of incentivizing wireless technology and was reflective of the additional cost of remaining in an antiquated system. Ms. Rovelli voiced her agreement with Ms. Hill adding that covering costs was important. Mr. Wood explained that a monthly fee of $20.00 was at the lower end of the range of fees being charged elsewhere.

Ms. Rovelli suggested that the fee be reevaluated in a year to determine if it was being set at the correct level. Mr. Foulds agreed that after costs could be determined (cost/number of reads per truck roll) that the rate could be adjusted.

Mr. Brockway suggested that there may be customers that would have no objection to keeping their current meter (AMR meter which uses wireless communication so does not require a manual read) in lieu of a transition to a Smart Meter. Mr. Foulds opined that the goal was not to establish a "pick your own meter" forum. Mr. Wood stated that based on data provided by the AMI Consultant, the expected adoption rate for non-AMI meters would be very low.

Ms. Kaufman voiced concern that the rates set were being punitive as it would be asking customers to pay an additional $240/year plus the initial installation/removal charge of $75 for choosing to keep a current meter (when Smart meters are deployed) or revert to old technology (analog meter) amounted to a significant cost.

Ms. Hill reiterated her prior comments that the fee structure should represent the additional cost burden that the opting out election represents as the Town should not suffer (financially) because someone chooses a technology that is basically antiquated and not practically helpful with our climate and long-term goals. The fees should represent an accurate reflection of the additional burden.

Mr. Foulds opined that the rate was not punitive. The install/removal fee of $75 is lower than the estimated cost ($100) of performing the service. The monthly fee ($20.00) does not fully recoup the cost to the Light Plant and is fair, not punitive, and can be revised after actual costs and number of customers is known.

Mr. Brockway voiced his agreement with Ms. Hill adding that the Light Plant is a small organization that fights cost while providing a high-quality service at a competitive price. Increasing the work burden on the Light Plant with additional tasks increases costs. Accommodating a small subset of the community, which Concord is open to, comes at a cost.

Ms. Hill suggested that the costs outlined reflect actual costs as the intent is not to subsidize and will be reviewed in a year.

Audience Questions on Opt-Out Meter Policy (01:07:15)

Mr. Allen opined that it was crucial as a community to be clear that price was not being used to push customers in one direction or another. The fees being considered, based on the costs outlined clearly put those customers into a subsidized category.

In response to Mr. Andrew's question on the removal/install fee was answered by Mr. Wood, stating that the fee ($75) covered the removal of the old meter and the installation of the requested meter.

Ms. Ackerman requested information on the benefits of a Smart Meter. To which Ms. Scott responded that benefits emanate from a couple of sources. There is a benefit to the customer on their energy use which will be provided by CMLP back to seeing, in terms of the customer. This will give them the information they need to lower their electricity costs when we go to Time of Use Rates. The meter will also be able to provide situational awareness to CMLP, alerting them to outages and initiating responses even before the customer is aware that an outage has occurred. Additionally, the system will provide information about "right sizing". Assuming now the Concord power distribution system is over-sized, as actual usage cannot be determined, bringing the system to the right size (smaller) would reduce costs. Ms. Scott also clarified that the meter will only capture the total hourly use, not provide information on use of a specific item (i.e., heat pump, light bulbs etc.).

Ms. Reed voiced her support of the Light Board's approach and policy, finding it useful and necessary to keep the Light Plant going as well as provide the information that the Smart Meter offers. The key to its success will be communicating the need and benefits for this approach: the need to change and the need to charge.

Mr. Wood offered that the draft of the policy has an effective date of 03/01/2021, but as meters had not yet been purchased (as there is not a policy in place) it was uncertain if anyone could be put on that rate structure on that date.

Ms. Hill put forth that the primary reason for requesting an opt-out policy was a small group of resident's different sense of the science on EMR. She noted it is not a matter of dis-incentivizing but a fair description of the additional costs. From a "30,000 foot" view, we are looking at the collective good, the community good that on balance goes in the direction of Smart Meters. Secondly, on balance the science, while acknowledging that there are differences of opinion, we are going in the direction of Smart Meters.

Ms. Rovelli reminded everyone that for some customers, it was a matter of security and privacy.

Ms. Whalen thanked the Board and Mr. Wood for taking up the issue and working on a Policy. She opined that the $20.00/monthly fee was excessive, and while not a financial issue for some, would possibly dis-incentivize others. It could be an unfair burden on those wishing to opt out as the Light Plant has the funds available to implement Smart Meters. She posed the questions as to the cost of running an AMI meter versus having a hard-wired device, what would be the transmission frequency of the Smart Meters and what would be the timeline on the availability/installation of an analog meter. Mr. Woods responded that the timeline would depend primarily on the lead-time/availability of the analog meters and that he would start the procurement process after the meeting. Ms. Scott stated that the energy use of one type of meter or another could not yet be determined, as it would be dependent on the meters ultimately deployed. Multiple technologies are being considered, and each would have their own energy use profile. The number of transmissions is also dependent on the technology selected.

Ms. Hire thanked Ms. Rovelli for mentioning the security issue. It's a big concern and important issue for her. She is uncomfortable with the Town knowing how much energy she is using on an hourly/daily basis. She also voiced her opinion that the science was developing regarding safety concerns around wireless meters, mentioning that the FCC had been sued over their measuring and the effects of radiation.

Ms. Kaufman pointed out the policy was being presented around current technology available and that as the technology develops that the policy may need to change as well. The policy at this time is to address the issue of a small number of customers who have requested analog meters.

In a way of clarification, Mr. Brockway added the policy applies to wireless (AMR & AMI) vs. wired meters. Smart meters that provide the high-resolution data are not necessarily wireless.

Ms. Rovelli moved that the policy presented, with a modification to the language to the Customer Request form to help with clarification be adopted. Mr. Foulds provided the second and with a unanimous roll call vote, the motion was passed.

A point clarification was made that the $20 monthly fee (for a manual read) was in addition to the $16.00/month meter fee currently being charged.

Board Goals (01:29:00)

Ms. Kaufman had compiled a list of goals for the Board for the current year by integrating the goals received from the other Board Members. (See Addendum C below) Alignment with the Select Board/community goals were taken into consideration on the bigger goals of governance, financial security, public health, and safety. She had deemed some items suggested as more of a means to achieve the goal and some of the goals warrant additional discussion/meeting time to discuss implementation strategies. Reminding the Board that their role was to guide the Light Plant by policy and decision making. The implementation of the goals being considered will extend beyond one year in some cases.

Budgeting - Key among the goals requested was the addition of an item on budgeting that ensured fiscal accountability was ensured, as there were questions about the financial standing. Addressing the question of financial stability, we are accounting for the inherent financial risk in market fluctuations. The first goal would be to have a budget that reflects our true costs and that market fluctuations are understood. Another goal would be to update the strategic plan. The Boards responsibility is not to rewrite/update the strategic plan but to provide guidance on what needs to be included/updated in the plan.

Vision Statement - As a goal, the re-written version of the vision statement is: "Together with our customers and partners CMLP will help build a stronger, more vital community by providing safe, reliable electricity and broadband services at a fair cost while actively working to achieve Concord's Climate Sustainability and Resilience Goals." Board members agreed that, working with the Light Plant, on updating the Strategic Plan is to be one of the Board's Goals.

Renewable Power Supply - Another goal would be to revise the CMLP renewable power supply sections of the Strategic Plan, acknowledging that as previously written, the targets were not being met. Mr. Wood suggested that what might being referenced was the Renewable Energy Policy. Mr. Foulds, uncertain as to where the goal suggestion originated, opined that the Power Supply portfolio was on track regarding the renewable energy targets. He also suggested that further discussion should include the use of nuclear and clarifying the difference between non-emitting and renewable sources to determine what percentage of the portfolio the Board would like to see them hold. Ms. Kaufman removed it from the list of goals being considered and suggested that it would be a good topic for public input.

AMI - The development of a multi-year roll-out strategy for AMI meters would be another goal. As earlier in the meeting an AMI timeline was presented and an Opt-out Policy approved, Ms. Kaufman opined that the Board was on target for this goal.

Utility-Scale Energy Storage - The development of a utility-scale battery storage strategy within the next two years is key and it is up to the Board to assist/direct CMLP on its development.

Citizen Engagement/Goals - At the last Board Meeting there was a presentation on incentives and the discussion that followed led to the question of scalability. Are the right incentive programs being offered to meet our sustainability goals? The next goal being reviewed is Should there also be a Citizen Engagement Goal. The last public forum was about two years ago and there should be an effort to garner more public opinions, by conducting an annual public meeting on where we are on our sustainability goals, planning, and with the Climate Action Plans goals.

Undergrounding - Ms. Kaufman questioned if it was of high enough priority to include a goal of completing a mile of wire undergrounding. Mr. Wood responded that as there was already an undergrounding policy in place, making it a Board goal would not change how quickly the undergrounding was accomplished. Ms. Rovelli opined that undergrounding is limited by the limited collection of funds, and the need to accelerate that is the issue that the Board should be considering. Mr. Wood clarified by stating that currently a 1.5% surcharge is being collecting, 166 Regulations have a 2% maximum so there would be a limit to the additional amount of funding that could be collected. With a current rate of collection around $400,000/year and a cost of $1M/mile increasing the surcharge would not have a significant impact on the completion rate. Ms. Kaufman agreed the mile of undergrounding completion was not a Board Goal for the year. She pointed out that the Cambridge Turnpike Project, which had massive undergrounding, had been the CMLP focus last year. Ms. Rovelli opined that when rates are discussed at the end of the year that increasing the rate should be part of the discussion. Mr. Wood provided some detail on the underground completion project by stating that it was a little over 50% converted: 30 miles was commercial development of private residences with undergrounding a requirement of the build, the other 20 miles being conversions. Based on the current three-year cycle to fund and complete a mile, a rate of converting a mile/year is not attainable. Mr. Brockway asked if the process could be sped up, or the conversions that provided "the most bang for the buck" be completed and then consider the conversion project completed. Mr. Wood suggested that if the Board were to have a goal centered around underground that it be more centered around the rate.

ZNE Middle School - The Zero Net Energy Middle School Project was included as a goal. Ms. Kaufman felt it was important the Board be aware/informed to provide the support and guidance to CMLP in its efforts to work

alongside the Climate Action Plan in supporting/advising on the project as among other things a solar field at the school is being considered.

On-Bill Financing - Ms. Kaufman said financing is always a big question when it comes to weatherization projects suggested to the homeowner in the home energy assessment. The Board needs to understand the legal constraints related to the Light Plant offering on-bill financing for weatherization projects. A policy and an implementation strategy would need to be developed for the Board to attain its goals.

Board Member Training - Another goal is a process for the training of new Board Members. To that point, a briefing notebook was suggested as a starting point. Important documents, like the NYPA Memo could be included in the compendium of reference materials.

Broadband Rate Support / Mobile Phone Coverage - A board member questioned if there should be more priority on providing uninterrupted internet service for health and business purposes that could be prioritized through rates. Ms. Ackerman provided some insight on the Select Board Goal around internet improvement stating that there is an issue with cellular service in downtown and other areas and that there had been some citizen requests for 5G service in town. Ms. Kaufman had added it to the Light Board Goals as the Light Plant providing internet services did not want to overlook it. Mr. Foulds suggested that the line item of reviewing the Town's internet could be removed from the Light Board goals. Mr. Brockway opined that 5G may present a strategic threat to the Light Plant. Mr. Crane added that 5G was more of a future discussion, however he thought what should be on the Light Boards radar was that the Town was looking into options into building a telecommunications tower and what level of involvement should the Light Plant/Broadband enterprises have. There is tremendous sensitivity about what the structure might look like. If the utility builds the structure, it will reduce the amount of profitability pressure and allow for spending more on the structure aesthetics. Mr. Crane requested that if the Board removes it from their goal list that they keep it in mind, they should remain apprised on the initiative as the Town will likely move forward.

Ms. Kaufman stated she will take the Goals list and edit it with today's discussions and redistribute to the Board and vote on it at the next Board Meeting.

Time-of-Use - Mr. Foulds wanted to comment on the re-worked vision statement and raise a concern that the rate structure for Time of Use Rate had not been made a high enough priority to make it to the goal list. Ms. Kaufman pointed out that it is a point listed under the AMI Metering goal. She acknowledged that she was aware he had a lot to share on the subject and that he would be able to do that at a future meeting. Mr. Foulds reminded Ms. Kaufman that the time of use rate was continually delayed referring to Ms. Rovelli's comment captured in the November minute "this board needs to commit itself to figuring out time of use", he opined that it deserved more priority than being a line-item mention within a goal. Ms. Kaufman agreed to make it an individual goal during her editing. The additional bullets Mr. Foulds had provided Ms. Kaufman she considered discussion points, not individual goals.

Vision Statement - Mr. Brockway suggested that there was room in the Vision Statement to add a value aspect; that the assistance program was a value add to the community. Consideration should be given to establishing high priority protocol service for those customers with life sustaining medical equipment in their homes. Mr. Foulds offered that his edit suggestions to the Vision statement included reference to sustaining the historical culture and charm of Concord, which spoke to the value Mr. Brockway had just referenced. He suggested that the addition of words along the lines of upholding traditions and historic charm was warranted as it was an integral part of what was being done while changes were being made and that the sustainability goals did not mean that the Town would need to lose its charm.

Ms. Kaufman will rework the goals taking into consideration the edit previously received that had not been incorporated and the discussion from today and redistribute to the Board prior to the next meeting.

LIAISON & PUBLIC COMMENTS (02:03:00)

Mr. Allen, commenting on the Select Board's goal on wireless in town and 5G as a competitive threat, suggested that it was a competitive opportunity and that it would be the Light Board/Light Plant that would be taking on the task of moving in that direction. Real 5G would require a tower every few blocks not just a single tower and all the things to be considered, siting, permits, citizen concerns, negotiations along with the extraordinary advantages that come with it. It is an opportunity that should be taken seriously.

Mr. Hines voiced agreement for what Mr. Allen said adding that with FCC regulations that 5G could loop the fiber optic system and allow for a carrier to take over the system. Additionally, he stated that the Light Plant had failed to respond to his request for the status of their compliance with FCC regulations regarding the placement of wireless meters, the need for a certificate from the meter vendor and the need for an 8-inch barrier between the meter and living quarters. There are more than 100 residents whose bed rests against the same wall as the meter is mounted. Opining that the required certificate had not been obtained and that residents had not been properly notified. The 8-inch requirement is something Mr. Hines considered dangerous. Other safety concerns are being overlooked by the FCC because their measurement methods are outdated, according to Mr. Hines.

Mr. Breen asked when broadband would be available in his part of town. Mr. Wood responded by saying that there was about 5% of the town that was in a similar situation underground having been installed at time of construction without conduit, at this time, a timeline had not been established to address the situation. Admitting it was a big issue and that it was being investigated.

Ms. Rovelli moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Foulds provided the second and with a unanimous roll call vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 MA.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Foulds, Clerk

Addendum A

CONCORD MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT
ELECTRIC | BROADBAND | ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Date: January 27, 2021

To: Municipal Light Board

Via: David Wood, Light Plant Director

From: Laura Scott, Power Supply and Rates Administrator

Subject: New York Power Authority Power Cost Adjustment for Residential Ratepayers

NYPA Hydropower

Background Information:

In 1957 Congress passed the Niagara Redevelopment Act which granted the New York Power Authority (NYPA) a federal license to fully develop the United Stated share of the Niagara Rivers hydropower potential. The allocation of this power is governed primarily by Federal and State law, "as administratively and judicially interpreted, with discretion given to NYPA regarding allocation and contracts." Currently Concord is entitled to 2.12% of the capacity and energy made available to Massachusetts.

The plant became operational in 1961. In 2007 the federal license was renewed so the project will continue to produce clean, carbon free hydropower for another 50 plus years.

The Benefit of NYPA Power:

The combined cost of power and transmission from the Niagara project is typically at a lower rate, on average, than other resources in CMLP's power portfolio. CMLP tracks monthly how NYPA power costs compare to market prices (as established by the New England Independent System Operator) and maintains separate accounting to hold a reserve for the difference. CMLP then calculates a per-kWh (kilowatt hour) credit (the NYPA Power Cost Adjustment or NYPA PCA) to be applied to the first seventy-five (75) kWh of energy per month sold to residential customers. The actual benefit varies by month; therefore the reserve level changes over time. Periodically the NYPA PCA must be adjusted to reflect current savings.

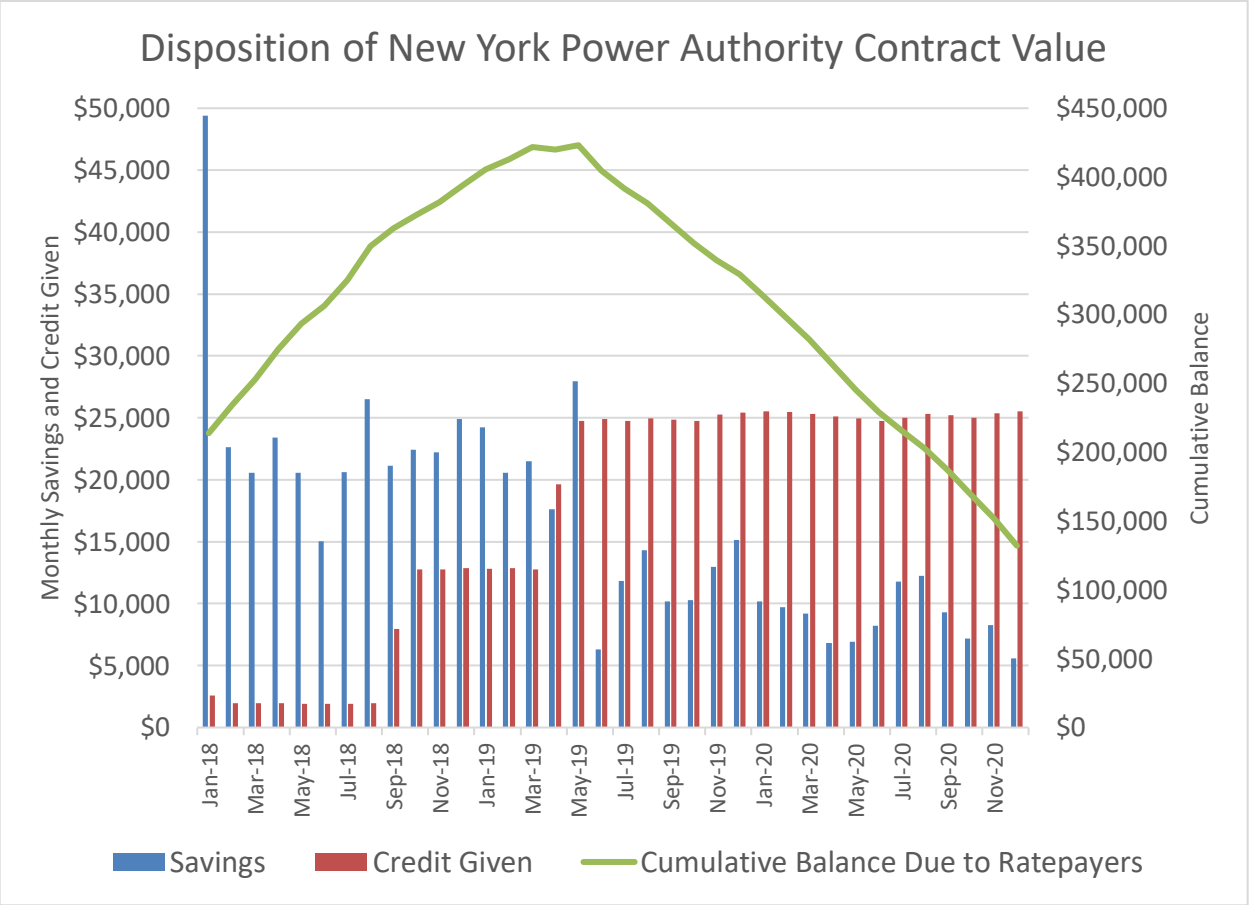
Historical NYPA Adjustment Rates

The annual NYPA benefit has varied over the last 8 years between $87,000 and $289,000. The table below shows the reserve balance at the beginning of each year, the wholesale power cost benefit, the credit passed on to residential customers in both total dollars and dollars per kWh, and the resulting reserve balance at the end of each year.

	Beginning Balance	Savings	Customer Credit $	Customer Credit $/kWh	Ending Balance
2013	$69,063	$141,622	($120,437)	($0.0200)	$90,248
2014	$90,248	$200,969	($119,940)	($0.0200)	$171,277
2015	$171,277	$137,435	($275,153)	($0.0571)	$33,558
2016	$33,558	$86,728	($154,850)	($0.0256)	($34,563)
2017	($34,563)	$247,057	($45,458)	($0.0038)	$167,036
2018	$167,036	$289,496	($62,565)	($0.0038)	$393,967
2019	$393,967	$193,016	($257,677)	($0.0250)	$329,306
2020	$329,306	$105,441	($302,684)	($0.0500)	$132,063

Chart 1 on the following page graphically shows the recent monthly accrual and disposition of the NYPA credit and the cumulative balance due to ratepayers.

Chart 1



Recommended NYPA Adjustment Rate

The value of NYPA power has been on a downtrend since the decrease in New England capacity values beginning in 2019. In order to match actual savings with the amount of credit being passed to CMLP residential customers, it is recommended that the NYYPA rate be decreased from its current $0.0500/kWh credit to $0.0150/kWh credit effective 3/1/2021. Such a decrease, along with conservative estimates of savings, is forecasted to pass $125,000 to residential customers and leave the reserve account at $80,000 by year end.

Please let us know if there are any questions.

Addendum B

Automatic Meter Reading & Advance Meter Infrastructure Opt Out Policy

Effective March 1, 2021

This policy provides a choice for those customers who do not wish to have an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) or Advance Meter Infrastructure (AMI) meter installed at their service location. The Concord Municipal Lighting Plant (CMLP) reserves the right to change its Opt Out Policy at any time.

It is the policy of the CMLP that any customer who wishes to opt out of AMR or AMI meter can do so by notifying CMLP and completing the AMR/AMI Opt Out Form.

CMLP will charge a monthly Manual Read Fee of $20 which will be applied to the customer's monthly bill to have a CMLP representative read the meter if you choose to Opt Out.

If a customer who has an AMR or AMI meter wants to go back to a non-AMR/AMI meter they may do so but will be charged a $75 remove/install fee.

If the fees are unpaid, CMLP will install an AMR or AMI meter at the customers location, and all disconnect policies will apply.

Automatic Meter Reading & Advance Meter Infrastructure Opt Out Form

CUSTOMER INFORMATION	
Name on CMLP bill:	Phone #:
Mailing Address:	Account #:
Service Address:	Meter #:

LOCATION INFORMATION		
Do you operate life support or other medical equipment in your home?	YES	NO
Do you have meter access issues such as locked gate, dog, etc.?	YES	NO
Please describe:		

The following charges apply for this option:

- Monthly Manual Read Fee - $20 will be applied to customers monthly statement
- Removal /installation Fee - $75

I agree that I am the customer of record on the account listed above. Further, I am indicating that I want to opt out of the AMR or AMI metering and understand the Monthly Manual Read Fee will be applied. I understand that if fees are unpaid, an AMR or AMI meter will be installed at my location, and that all disconnect policies will apply.

X_____

Customer Signature **Date**

This form must be returned to:
Concord Municipal Lighting Plant
Attention: Light Plant Director

The Concord Municipal Lighting Plant reserves the right to change its Opt Out Policy at any time.

Addendum C

CMLP

(Old) Vision Statement

We will partner with our customers, civic institutions, and employees to foster a vital community, in the near and in the long term, in which to live, raise a family, work, and operate a business.

Proposed:
Together with our customers and partners CMLP will help build a stronger and more vital community that aligns with community climate, sustainability and resilience goals. This is aligned with CMLP's goal of providing safe and reliable electricity services at a fair cost while helping concord to meet its climate goals.

Select Board Goals Framework

1. **Governance**: Effective, Responsive and Transparent Governance
2. **Public Health and Safety**: Exemplary of Best Practices for the Safety of All
3. **Financial Stability**: Fiscal Responsibility and Financial Stability/Sustainability
4. **Infrastructure**: Sufficient and Sustainable, Well-maintained and Reliable
5. **Quality of Life**: High Level Maintenance of Town Services for Concord Citizens
6. **Balance and Equity**: Balance and Equity among divergent individual, neighborhood and townwide interests
7. **Diversity:** Conscious Decision Making to Support Economic and Social Diversity and Inclusion
8. **Historic and Cultural Heritage:** Preservation and Promotion of Historic and Cultural Heritage
9. **Agricultural and Natural Resources:** Protection and Enhancement
10. **Sustainability and Resilience:** Sustainable Management of Energy Resources, Reduction of Carbon Emissions, and Regeneration of Our Natural Environment.
11. **Economic Resilience**: To Protect the Vitality of the Town and Businesses
12. **Regional and State Interests**: Advancement of Concord's Interest in the Region and the Commonwealth

Concord Municipal Light Board Draft Specific Goals

1. Review and approve CMLP annual budget ensuring fiscal accountability admidst inherent risk [SB Goal #2]
2. Update Strategic Plan to reflect Article 51, Envision Concord and the Concord Climate and Resiliency Plan [SB Goal #1,3, 4, 5, 9]
    a. Revise CMLP renewable power supply strategy in Strategic Plan acknowledging slow down in meeting targets
3. Research and implement AMI roll out – 2 year strategy [SB Goals # 4, 9]
    a. Time of Use Rate design process [SB Goals #1,3,6]
    b. Develop opt-out policy ([B Goal #4]
    c. Prioritize customers who require uninterrupted power for reasons pf health or business requirements, for example
4. Research and implement utility scale battery storage [SB Goals # 4,9]

5. Perform evaluation of Incentive programs to identify scalability, financial and marketing commitments and impacts on GHG emissions reductions. Identify specific goals for each incentive and how they relate to each other [SB Goal #1, 3, 9]
    a. Ensure that incentive offerings are demonstrating returns in reduced GHG emission
    b. Achieve market penetration and scale of customer uptake for : EVs, Energy Audits and home repairs, heat pumps. Develop marketing and outreach plan to achieve scale.
    c. Review special rate classes for consistency with new and proposed rate structure
4. Citizen engagement through public listening sessions [SB Goals #1, 5, 9
5. Complete 1 mile of wire installation where conduit is already installed [SB Goal #4]
6. ZNE Middle School project [SB Goals # 1, 2, 3, 4, 9]
7. Investigate opportunities for providing financing to incentivize greater weatherization and energy efficiency opportunities or installation of appropriate technology that reduce GHG contribution to the town's inventory [SB Goals # 1, 4, 9]
8. Training of new board members [SB Goals # 1, 7]
9. Review town's wireless communications plan (from SB goals)
    a. Prioritize customers who require uninterrupted internet services for health or business processes, for example.