

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
April 20, 2023**

PURSUANT TO notice given, the Merrimac Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met at the Merrimac Light Department 10 W. Main Street, Merrimac, MA

PRESENT

Those present included Chair Norman Denault, Secretary Paula Hamel, General Manager, Mary Usovicz.

MEETING START

On a motion by Commissioner Denault seconded by Commissioner Hamel the Commissioners voted to bring the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. Vote 2-0

GM Usovicz reviewed issues on the warrant article1 on the town warrant.

- Discussion on the differences between withdraw or table the article.
- Sharing all the information on Facebook Merrimac Real Talk
- Miss information regarding the money in MLD rate stabilization fund.
- Communication Town meeting
- No withdrawal No table No to sell card.

Vincent J. Ragucci and John Tzimirangas of Energy New England discussed strategies to communicate with residents about the facts of selling the MLD and noted the DPU commissioners have never heard of a Town wanting to sell a municipal light department and that process could take years.

Tanya Bodell of StoneTurn gave an overview of the initial insights on value and cost for MLD dated 4/20/23.

- Insight of value and costs of what rate payers will give up and what taxpayers will gain.
 - The value to MLD rate payers is the value of the low rates.
 - Pension and OPED payout future and current.
 - Question of the purchase power contracts we currently.
 - Short and long-term commitments that no one has thought about.
- Discussed finding out what the true cost of service for MLD and future cost of service.
- National Grid has the highest rates this winter.
- Separate pension and OPED
- What happen to pension, OPED, contracts,
- Eversource is owned by UK

General Managers report:

- Discussion on warrants and payments to vendors from the Town and reviewed Chapter 164 law that governs the Light Department.

Minutes: On a motion by Commissioner Denault seconded Commissioner Hamel the Commissioners vote to approve the March 22, 2023, minutes as written, Vote 2-0

The Secretary polled each Board Member individually for authorization to enter Executive Session. All Board Members responded in the affirmative and entered Executive Session at 6:30 PM for the purpose of the items listed below: I, Commissioner Denault, and I Commissioner Hamel. Vote 2-0