

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
April 6, 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, Vice Chair Larry Fisher, 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 4:00 PM. Vote 3-0

GM Usovicz gave an overview of the Board of Selectmen 3/27/ 23 vote 3-0 in favor of placing a warrant on tm on 4/24 to begin the sale of the light department. GM Usovicz note there is very little information out there and the public is confused. MLD attorney said the MLD Chair can send a letter to rate payers explaining what happened and how it affects them.

MLD Chair reviewed his public records request for Board of Selectmen’s executive and regular session agendas and minutes from the BOS. MLD Chair noted that the sale of assets was not on any regular BOS agendas, waiting for the executive agendas and minutes will file emergency with secretary of state of open meeting law violation.

No communication with commissioners

The Commissioners discussed the BOS disrespect for the Commissioners role as commissioners and feels it is irresponsible that selling an asset creates a greater burden to community and rate payers.

On motion by Commissioner Denault seconded by Commissioner Hamel the Commissioners voted to oppose the sale of the light plant, its equipment and any and all action of an investigation of a sale. Vote 3-0

GM Usovicz reviewed a discussion with other MLD and NEEPA regarding the proposed warrant article to sell the light department and the process of such a sale.

GM Usovicz also suggested MLD do a cost analysis study and she reviewed some proposals.

On a motion by Commissioner Denault seconded by Commissioner Fisher the Commissioners voted to have a cost analysis done by Stoneturn a cost verse an IIU invested owned utility vote 3:0

GM Usovicz reviewed ENE report on other communities’ pilot in lieu of taxes. GM Usovicz noted in 1994 the pilot t the Town 1% of KW sales = 5K Merrimac.

2016 solar pilot was 18K finance director said cannot charge a pilot to solar

Commissioners also discussed tht GM Usovicz request in writing the total taxes collected for the CONED solar array. Generator pilot \$36K and 100K for life of the project.

ENE study types of ways to come up with pilot % of sales KW revenue best approach.

A+ rating standard and poor’s proactive instead of reactive MLD overall health in comparison of other MLP ranked MLD is number 7.

The chair of the MLD was told by the chair of BOS the sale of asset in executive session.

On a motion by Commissioner Denault seconded by Commissioner Hamel the Commissioners voted to refund the town the 15% of the increase of transmission cost the MLD incurred when transmission increased. The 15% cost will be on the forecast usage for fiscal year 2023 for municipal buildings only for the pilot to the Town in lieu of taxes. vote 3-0

GM updated the commissioners on an ad we will be putting in the senior center newsletter on cost savings measurers for electrical usage the cost will be \$1,200 a year.

On a motion by Commissioner Denault seconded Commissioner Fisher by the Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM Vote 3-0