

**MINUTES OF THE  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING  
January 13, 2021**

**PURSUANT TO** notice given, the Merrimac Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met in the Municipal Light Department’s (“MLD” or “Department”) Administration Building, 10 W Main Street, at 4:00 PM.

**PRESENT**

Those present included Chair Paula Hamel, Vice Chair Larry Fisher, Secretary Norman Denault, MLD’s General Manager Kenneth Lamb, and Senior Clerk Renee Ward.

**MEETING START**

A motion was made and accepted to bring the meeting to order at 4:14 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioners voted 3-0 to accept the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes as written.

**GENERAL MANAGER’S ITEMS**

**November Financial Information:**

The General Manager (“Manager”) asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the financial information for the month of November 2020 or the financial forecast. The Department saw a net loss/gain of \$213,572 compared to a forecasted net loss of \$27,070.

**2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Reliability Report:**

There were eight outages in total consisting of three animals, four branch/trees and one for underground failure. The average outage time for customers waiting to get service back this quarter was 59 minutes.

**Kruger Battery Storage Proposal:**

Asier Ania virtually presented a PowerPoint showing a new proposal for battery storage at 20 Federal Way for a 20-year contract, which would be managed and operated by Kruger. Commissioner Hamel stated she would like to see an excel spreadsheet with all storage battery proposals side by side for comparison.

**Open Line Positions:**

Currently the Department has an opening for a first-class lineman. The Manager informed the Board that an Apprentice has been hired and will start January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Manager will keep the Board posted on any hiring of first-class lineman.

**Performance Evaluation-Manager:**

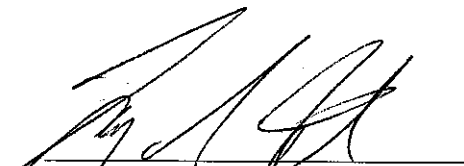
The Board performed an evaluation for the Manager and the Board expressed their concerns regarding the Manager's lack of communication with staff and Commissioners on many instances. Another concern the Board has is regarding two pending important tasks that have not been dealt with. The first task is the fence replacement that was first mentioned back in August of 2020, there has been no movement. The second task is related to the building renovation as the department has paid additional funds to Luna Design and now communications have stopped from Luna Design. The Manager has not reached out to follow up with Luna to address their costly absence.

Commissioner Denault mentioned that he did not like having the Manager work from home during the week, especially not without a fully staffed, capable crew. The Commissioners are still waiting on Commissioner specific emails that the Manager should have set up by now. Commissioner Fisher states that from what he has heard from other community members and departments does not sound like teamwork or collaboration.

The Board would like to see a detailed plan of action with timeline regarding The Board's expressed concerns. This agenda item will be visited at next Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chair

  
Secretary