

**Joint meeting – Board of Selectmen and Norwood Light/ Broadband  
The Board of Selectmen acting in their capacity as Light Commissioners  
Norwood Light Department, 136 Access Road  
June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Meeting is recorded**

**Minutes**

Present: Chairman Matthew Lane, Vice Chair Robert Donnelly, Selectman William Plasko, Selectman Amanda Grow, Selectman Michael Saad, Town Manager Tony Mazzucco, Assistant Town Manager Michael Rosen, Superintendent of Norwood Light Kevin Shaughnessy, Chief Operating Officer Dan Morrissey, Assistant Superintendent, Broadband Division, Darryl Hanson, Assistant Superintendent Electric Division, Jason Haber, Broadband Manager Rich O'Reilly, Energy Manager Jay Tobin, Residential Sales and Marketing Ron Re and Assistant Christine Woodward

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lane at 12:50 PM.

Chairman Lane welcomed all to the meeting noting that it had been some time since the last meeting and that reconvening was a good idea in order to get updates and think about what is to be accomplished in the coming year. He then turned the meeting over to Kevin Shaughnessy. Mr. Shaughnessy opened with comments regarding topics for discussion.

- Station 495 Tour
- Introductions
- Electric Rates Update
- Purchase Power Portfolio and 'Roadmap 2050'
- Energy Incentives
- Project Updates
- Broadband FTTP Update
- Broadband Proposed Rate Increase

Mr. Shaughnessy directed his attention to a power point presentation, and of first mention was that the last time they spoke about the residential rate comparison – they always like to share where they're at with the Board – they were at about 700 in the yellow shaded area of the presentation. The 700 refers to monthly kWh usage with corresponding rates of both Norwood Light and Eversource. In Mr. Shaughnessy's opinion, they are still doing pretty well compared to other municipal light departments. They used to be in the top quarter but are now in the bottom half – even less than that. He believes that they will continue to go in that direction because a lot of municipalities are still having to raise their rates. Next, Mr. Shaughnessy spoke about what has to be done regarding purchase power by 2050. By 2030, 50 percent of the power sold to retail end customers has to be sourced from non-carbon emitting generation. They are already there. And by 2050 – achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Shaughnessy spoke of the conflict in the Ukraine and supply chain issues that have come into play causing natural gas

prices to skyrocket. The good news was that winter's temperatures weren't too bad – averaging 4.3 degrees above normal which was helpful in saving money. It was noted by Mr. Shaughnessy that they are doing a good job with renewables. Selectman Grow asked a question of Mr. Shaughnessy with regard to what she perceived as a step down with hydro. Mr. Shaughnessy replied that it's not really a step down – a couple of them have expired – the names Stevenson and Shephard were noted. They've been renegotiating to try and keep them going but it's just not quite there yet.

### **Project Updates:**

**Brookfield Hydro** – 12.37 share for Norwood. 14,600 MWh/year or 4.4% of NMLD load. \$60.00/MWh – Forward Mkt down saves over \$1.5 million over term. KP Law has reviewed – awaiting feedback on comments.

**Avangrid** – Wind – 7.63% share for Norwood. 14,700 MWh/year or 4.5% of NMLD load. Duncan and Allen reviewed Avangrid's mark up of PPA and there is still work to do.

**Town of Norwood Landfill Project 2023** – 1.2% - Potential Projects: Started reviewing three solar proposals: Expansion of Gravel Pit III Solar – 4,479 MWh per year. Greenbacker/Tenaska – Large solar project in NY. Swift Current – 100MW.

Mr. Shaughnessy made mention, and without any excuses – that the solar at the landfill has been a thorn in their side for a few years now. What happened was with Tangent, who the deal was made with – they were bought out by Milton Cad. They struggled to get their permit and NMLD helped them get that. They went to get their financing and the numbers that they came back with were not agreeable. It was understood that with inflation, etc. – that it would be a little bit different than it was but NMLD did push back quite a bit. As of the previous evening, June 28<sup>th</sup> – Milton Cad came back with a number that they were now comfortable with. The company is telling NMLD that they can get it done by the end of the year but Mr. Shaughnessy doubts that and figures that it might be early next year or early spring. Further discussion took place between members of the Board and Superintendent Shaughnessy.

Jason Haber opened a discussion regarding energy conservation and rebate programs making reference to the power point presentation and noting that there is continued growth with regard to these programs.

**CY 2022** - \$270,000 + direct to Norwood residents

\$56,580 on residential solar project rebates

\$60,332 on electric vehicles and home chargers

**FY 2022** - \$292,090; **FY 2023** - \$598,727

105% increase year over year

High demand for Home Energy Audits – Average 40 per month

\$62,000 – Town Administration Buildings and Schools – LED Upgrades

**Earth Day** – Cordless Electric Lawn Equipment

Rebates are available for Leaf Blowers, Chain Saws, Pressure Washers, Lawn Mowers, etc.

Find out more at [norwoodlight.com/rebates](http://norwoodlight.com/rebates)

Discussion ensued between members of the Board and Mr. Haber.

Next, Dan Morrissey – Chief Operating Officer for NMLD shared information regarding the projects update and opened with comments regarding some of their biggest customers and mentioned that they all decided to upgrade their services at the exact same time. There should be a significant load increase in the upcoming years. The main projects are as follows:

**Moderna** – Norwood Light will be coming before the Board soon with an ESA (Energy Services Agreement) that is being finalized by John Coyle of Duncan and Allen. Once that is agreed upon with Moderna, they will come before the Board to have it signed off on in order to move forward to request borrowing at Town Meeting. Discussion followed in response to a question from Selectmen Plasko.

**Hospital** – Ongoing - They are going to have outdoor switch gear as well as internal that needs to coordinate with Norwood Light's relay and substations.

**Coakley** – In the process of moving the transformer for the field lights that will need to be used in mid- August.

**FM Global** – They've moved their temporary quarters back to Analog Devices. NMLD is working with them to do some service work.

**Home Market Foods** – Ongoing expansion. They are adding more equipment. Jason Haber has been working closely with them.

**Station 31 Switchgear Decommissioning** – The former home of Norwood Light – 206 Central Street is known as Station 31. There is a switchgear room in the back that they still feed uptown with. The problem is that substation is very old now and there are two choices – to replace it or get rid of it. It makes more sense, at this point to get rid of it. Norwood Light is hoping to decommission that station within the next few years. Discussion followed.

Broadband Manager Rich O'Reilly opened with comments regarding the Outside Plant Upgrade. The following points were shown as part of the power point presentation.

The plant was built in 2001-2002. Mr. O'Reilly mentioned that it has performed very well over the past twenty years and that in his opinion it was designed ahead of its time. From a support perspective as well as structurally – it's at the end. What they have to think of now is what happens in the future. A feasibility study was completed in early 2022 for fiber to the premises. Funding was approved at Annual Town Meeting in 2022. They are now seeing some cost increases. And these increases have forced them to step back and try to identify cost savings and where they can make cuts with materials, fiber components, and technician labor. Mr. O'Reilly states that they're very close to figuring this out. Meanwhile network and plant design are underway so to know what the costs are going to be – they need to design the plant and take a look at it. That should be done in the next eight weeks. Once that is done – it will be sent out for bid. End of summer is their target. Once that is returned, they'll have a better vision of what the costs will be in order to make the right decisions. They will get back to the Board and let them know.

Mr. Hanson then greeted the Board and first addressed the proposed rate increase for cable.

The following are noted as being part of the power point presentation:

- During the past ten years, programming fees paid by NLB have increased 129 %.
- Operational expenses have increased due to inflation.
- The rates we charge to our customers have not kept pace with these programming and operational increases.
- The proposed increase will add \$10/month to video services only, along with small equipment fee increases. No increases for internet and telephone services, except equipment.
- The discount for residents who are 62 or older will increase from \$2.00 per month to \$5.00 per month.

Discussion followed with questions being asked by members of the Board. Mr. Hanson referred to the power point presentation with regard to a Broadband Residential Cost Comparison as well as a Cable TV Count Comparison.

Mr. O'Reilly then spoke about Norwood Broadband's Completed Projects. Noted as follows:

- Launch of New Help Desk with 24x7x365 Technical Support for television, internet and telephone; upgraded hosted email platform.
- MyBundle TV – Helps customers create personalized streaming TV Service.
- Tech Shield – Suite of security products for internet and device security; Two tiers – Tech Shield/Basic Support and Tech Shield Support – Enhanced Support.

Discussion followed.

Motion made by Selectman Donnelly to accept the residential package as listed, effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, as presented; seconded by Selectman Plasko. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to sign the DPU Report made by Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Saad. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn made by Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Grow. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board (as required) signed the DPU report as well as Town Manager, Tony Mazzucco.

**A true record**

ATTEST:

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Assistant