

# Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department

## Meeting Notice – Regular Meeting

### Board of Commissioners

Date 2/26/2026

4:30 Ludlow Town Hall, Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room

### Agenda

Commissioners: Shannon Barton Stark, Chair  
Logan Nicoll, Vice-Chair  
Jean Strong, Secretary

Staff: Chris Recchia, Department Manager  
Brett Sanderson, Outside Operations Manager

Public: Cathy Grant

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm. Present were Shannon Stark and Jean Strong. Logan Nicoll arrived at 4:35pm.

#### 2. Consideration of any Changes, Additions, or Removal to the Agenda

None

#### 3. Public Comments

None

#### 4. Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2026 (Regular Meeting) and February 12, 2026 (Special Meeting)

Jean Strong made a motion to approve the minutes of both January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Shannon Stark. Unanimously approved.

#### 5. Department Manager's Report

Chris Recchia reported the Audit was proceeding well, and that staff had completed all 70 of the tasks the auditors had requested. 18 were under evaluation still, with the rest completed by the auditors. Recchia relayed this audit process is extremely thorough, but as of this point, he is aware of no issues of concern.

He discussed the ISO New England i(3)(9) application process affecting Stonehouse solar and the delay it is causing. As a result, construction will not be able to occur until 2027. He relayed he was prepared to approve the requested price change from \$104/MWh to \$107/MWh, and after discussion it was agreed that this change did not require Board approval.

The Okemo agreement for their Air Compressors has been sent to Eb Kinney for his approval. The incentive of \$250,000 payable in 5 installments of \$50,000 beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year is the same as previously offered when they were considering 3 compressors, as the value to LELD of the RECs is the same.

Recchia explained that since our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, there has been a change in Department of Public Service (DPS) position about our rate design effort, with the Department saying we really needed to wait until next year when we had a full year's worth of data from the AMI meters to support a global rate re-design. However, DPS was supportive of us making limited changes to one or two tariffs under the "innovative rate" provisions of the rules. He would discuss this more when the Agenda item comes up later in the meeting.

Similarly, Recchia said he'd discuss the items of his report regarding the Charging Station and Flatland Solar when we reached those items on the Agenda.

The Section 248(j) application for the Howard Barton, Jr. Substation is underway. Recchia explained that apparently the substation has no CPG as it was in existence and grandfathered before Section 248 came into effect in 1968, and even though improvements had been made since then, no regulatory review occurred. He expects the PUC to look at the entire station as part of this upcoming review.

Recchia relayed that staff, joined by Jean Strong, had a briefing with VPPSA on the ACRE program, and that those households with income at or below 185% of the poverty limit would be eligible for a payment of \$29.55/month for 5 years. Applications are accepted beginning the end of March through the end of August.

Chris relayed that he and Brett did a site visit with Magris on Thursday morning to tour their facilities and continue discussions about their electricity demands and opportunities for them to reduce power costs.

## **6. Outside Operations Manager's Report**

Brett Sanderson stated his staff successfully completed safety training this month, and that they were in the process of reading meters now. He reviewed maintenance work conducted, response to an outage on Commonwealth Avenue due to a tree coming down, and other maintenance activities typical of winter – snow removal, plowing, etc.

Sanderson relayed our existing tree contractor is retiring, and he is seeking others to assist, including possibly Eustis Cable – who he said are able to work in the power space. He also discussed a grant Chris is working on to support additional

tree trimming to support a hydraulic skid steer and flail mower. Recchia said the grant application was on hold while DPS processes pending requests, but that he expected the grant application to be for approximately \$250,000 for 3 years.

Sanderson discussed the build of the bucket truck we expected last year is being built next month, and is expected to be delivered in the fall of this year. He also relayed the need to tee-up replacement of the other bucket truck. He proposes it be replaced with a smaller single-axle version, likely to cost approximately \$375,000. After discussion with Board members, he and Chris agreed that they would present a revised Capital Budget to the Board next month incorporating the additional bucket truck for consideration.

Sanderson reported we are now more than half-way done installing AMI meters, with about 2000 out in the field. He said they had one failure the other day, but that the project is going very well, and the one bad meter is well within the expected failure rate of 2%.

#### **7. Discussion and Action on Proposed Charging Station at 9 Pond Street**

Chris Recchia stated the project components of the Charger, interconnection and electrician work were all well-defined and all the pieces were ready to go, but asked that the Board table this item because the Town has not had an opportunity to agree to the grant match requirements or to understand ongoing maintenance responsibilities. Recchia said he's met with Town Manager Wu and is getting her the information for their consideration.

There was general consensus of the Board that the EVUnited analysis and proposal of charger options served as an adequate "bid" process for this project.

A motion was made by Jean Strong to Table action on the 9 Pond Street Charging Station Project. It was seconded by Logan Nicoll. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **8. Discussion and Action on Power Service Agreement with VPPSA for Flatland Solar Project, Swanton**

Chris Recchia discussed VPPSA's request that the Board relay whether or not it wishes to participate in the Swanton Flatland Solar Project. The price of the project would be \$122.40/MWh, and VPPSA is recommending a 30% share for Ludlow Electric. While more expensive than other solar projects we have, Recchia relayed his understanding that these projects are increasingly scarce due to the loss of the the investment tax credits, and the price is consistent with the few others pending around the region. He also stated the project would support our Tier II and Tier IV REC obligations. Jean Strong asked how the 30% share was determined, and Recchia relayed it was based on VPPSA analysis of REC needs going forward. He said the actual share may be less depending on what other members wish to do.

Logan Nicoll made the motion to authorize Chris to relay to VPPSA our commitment to up to a 30% share of the Flatland Solar project. Jean Strong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **9. Continue Discussion of Rate Design and Tariffs**

After summarizing discussions he had with DPS, Chris Recchia presented the Board with a sheet of “straw” rate design proposals to put some context into how rates might be affected if changes were made to the Residential Demand RES03 rate. He showed numbers for customers if the Demand Rate was eliminated entirely, what would happen if the trigger was changed to 15KW, and what could happen if it was shared with all residential customers in RES01 and RES03.

There was discussion about the fairness and impact of a rate re-design on the customers, as well as the appropriateness of the 15KW demand trigger. Logan Nicoll reiterated that in light of the state goals of electrification, Ludlow Electric should not have rate structures that punish customers with heat pumps and electric vehicles. The consensus of the Board was that Chris should work on proposals that try to keep changes within the existing Demand Rate customers. Recchia agreed to come back next month with refined proposals for consideration.

Cathy Grant asked how the rates could be restructured and still meet the obligations for adequate revenue. After some discussion, Chris Recchia agreed to schedule time to meet with her with Michael Gadway to discuss the matter in more detail.

#### **10. Executive Session if needed**

None needed

#### **11. Any Action from Executive Session**

None

#### **12. Other Business**

Shannon Stark relayed that she will not be able to attend the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

#### **13. Adjournment**

Jean Strong made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Logan Nicoll. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

**Zoom Meeting Info: Meeting ID: 943 9464 4692**

**Passcode: 570296**