

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Telephone (508) 835-3681

Fax (508) 835-2952

Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Agenda, 5:00pm, March 12, 2024

Agenda: Please approve the agenda with any changes or corrections.

Meeting Minutes: Please review and approve the meeting minutes from November 7, 2023 and December 5, 2023.

Customer Issues: Public records request for all residential customer information with debt over 60 days.

Financials: The 2023 financial audit is underway. There will be a delay to the audit this year due to the transition to our billing and accounting platform. Attached is WBMLP's draft 2023 income statement.

Investment Accounts: Bartholomew & Company, Inc. is scheduled to review with the Board the financial performance of the operating reserve and depreciation accounts on May 7, 2024.

New Billing and Accounting Software: WBMLP is in its second full month after go-live. No large-scale issues to date.

Energy Supply: WBMLP and ENE met with MWRA last week to discuss potentially purchasing the energy and attributes from Oakdale Hydro located in West Boylston.

Demand Reduction Gen-Set Project: WBMLP is reviewing the costs and benefits to rent a generator again this year to reduce our summer peak coincident demand.

Clean Heat Standard: The MA MLP's, through MEAM, are meeting with MassDEP to discuss their proposed framework/regulation called the Clean Heat Standard (CHS) applicable on all utilities, delivered fuel companies, and MLPs.

The CHS would require MLPs to fully electrify an annual number of residential HVAC systems and lower annual GHG emissions. In 2026, the CHS would require WBMLP to electrify (21) homes, (4) of which (25%) must be low-income residences. This requirement increases to approx. 60-65 homes annually from 2034-2050. If we do not meet the CHS, it could cost WBMLP \$6k in 2026 and

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Telephone (508) 835-3681

Fax (508) 835-2952

increase to \$10k in 2030 in compliance payments, and double those amounts for the low-income requirement.

Electricity Rates: See attached 2023 average residential and commercial rates. PLM and Utility Financial Solutions, LLC provided cost of service (COS) study quotes. We expect a COS to provide guidance and options on how our electric rates should be designed over the next 3-5 years. The main goal of the COS is to review our existing rates and rate structure to ensure they achieve the appropriate rate of return (up to 8%). The rate study should also discuss options for early payment discounts, increasing fixed customer charges, consolidating bill line items, PPA, etc. The COS will cost approximately \$20,000 - \$27,000 and take (10-12) weeks to complete.

Project 2015A: Tentative commercial operation date is April 5, 2024.

New Garage: Project Update.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The 3MW/9MWh BESS project is under construction. Expected completion date in fall 2024.

Municipal Fiber Network: WBMLP and the Town are inventorying the existing data/communications equipment in each public building. We want to identify the existing infrastructure and new infrastructure required to create a municipal building network. WBMLP and Town are preparing a design and cost estimate to interconnect the (9) public buildings to our municipal fiber network. See attached draft survey. The design and cost estimate will be submitted to the state's Municipal Fiber Grant program. This grant program supports building municipal networks. We expect the grant to assist in the provision of fiber and equipment to each municipal building with headend equipment at WBMLP.