

# WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Telephone (508) 835-3681

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## **Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, August 3, 2021**

Commissioner Handy called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

**Present:** Commissioner's Tony Meola and Win Handy were present. GM Jonathan Fitch and Assistant GM Brian Allen were present.

**Agenda:** The Board approved the agenda without any changes or corrections.

**Customer Questions or Concerns:** None discussed.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Board did not review or approve any meeting minutes.

**Employee Retirement:** GM Fitch provided the Board an update on Darryn Goodnow who is retiring from WBMLP on September 1, 2021, after 32 years of public power service. WBMLP will fill the working general foreman's position covered under the CBA instead of refilling the salaried/non-union superintendent's position.

**Special Project 2015A:** The Board discussed the status of Special project 2015A. 2015A is pending DPU financing approval which should be issued August 12<sup>th</sup>. There is an appeals process. MMWEC completed local community outreach to explain why this resource is necessary, even with our plans to decarbonize by 2050. Project 2015A is a 55MW Peaker Plant located in Peabody and West Boylston's share is 1.6 MW (2.9% of total). 2015A will replace Peabody's older GT1 generator.

Project is a capacity resource and not expected to operate more than 239 hours a year. Plant emissions in CO2-lbs/MWH is less than 94% of the existing peaker plants in MA.

WBMLP paid approximately \$231,973.30 in development and permitting costs to date. We expect to be billed up to approximately \$802,193.50 for the project to cover equipment down payments with the contractor. The total project cost is approximately \$85M, including a 10% contingency.

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**29 Prospect Street Property:** GM Fitch told the Board that WBMLP's architect/designer prepared draft plans to review. WBMLP will discuss our plans at a Planning Board "round-table" meeting on August 11, 2021.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** The Board and GM discussed a potential 3MW/9.8MWh BESS at the solar site located at 225 Shrewsbury St. WBMLP could share the cost savings 30/70% with a private firm if the Board approves. In the meantime, WBMLP petitioned the ZBA for a "special permit". The hearing is 7:05pm, August 19, on zoom.

**Temporary Generator for Peak Reduction:** GM Fitch provided the Board an update on WBMLP's rented 2MW diesel generator. The generator continues to operate as planned for load reduction this summer. This tests our interconnection and financial model before considering the purchase of a own generator and/or battery storage system. The generator is connected to our substation.

Our summer peak occurs in June, July or August and is usually preceded by 2-3 days of high temperatures. The peak hour usually occurs late afternoon or early evening between 5-7:00pm. This summer's net savings after rental expenses and load reduction savings is approximately \$130,000. Gross savings to date are approximately:

**Overhead line Trimming:** GM and Assistant outlined for the Board the second phase/year of overhead line trimming that will start September 13th.

**Solar Rebate Program Update:** The Board and GM discussed the WBMLP and MA DOER co-sponsored MLP Solar Rebate Program that ended June 30, 2021. (7) residential customers took advantage of the rebates worth approximately \$66,066 which is shared 50/50% by WBMLP and MA DOER. This resulted in approximately 45.535 kW of additional solar installed in town. WBMLP receives 100% of the environmental attributes generated from these new solar systems, so all ratepayers benefit from this renewable energy generated in West Boylston.

Renewable Value:

$45.535\text{kW} \times 13\% \text{ CF} = 51,855 \text{ kWh's} = 52 \text{ MA Class 1 REC's} \times \$40/\text{REC} = \$2,080 \text{ annually.}$

Energy Value:

$51,855 \text{ kWh's} \times \$0.05/\text{kWh} = \$2,593 \text{ annually.}$

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Simple Payback =  $\$33,033 / \$4,673 = 7.1$  years

**NEPPA Annual Conference:** The GM asked the Board to consider attending the NEPPA annual conference on August 22-25<sup>th</sup> in Portland Maine. See attached agenda.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm.

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Win Handy

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Tony Meola