

# 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 2, 2022**

The meeting started at approximately 5:05pm.

**Present:** Commissioner's Win Handy, Tony Meola, and Jim Pedone were present. GM Fitch and Assistant GM Allen were present.

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the attached meeting minutes from April 5, 2022, and April 28, 2022.

**Customer Issues:** The GM and Assistant GM updated the Board on the following issues related to customers.

- Cooling degree days. WBMLP tracks heating and cooling degree days to show how weather directly impacts energy consumption.
- (2) tree related outages on Worcester Rd – Effected entire Pierce St feeder. WBMLP had back-to-back outages caused by falling trees on Worcester Street. WBMLP will remove as many hazardous trees as possible along Worcester Street.
- Moving Walmart off Pierce St feeder. This will shift a larger load to a lightly loaded feeder and off the heavily treed section of Worcester Street.

**Financials:** The Board discussed and reviewed the income statement and bank balances thru June 30, 2022. The Board and GM discussed S&P credit rating review of WBMLP.

**2015A Update:** GM Fitch provide the Board an update on Special Project 2015. The project is a 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource under construction in Peabody MA. West Boylston and 13 other MLP's are co-owners. The generator is designed to operate about 300 hours a year as a capacity and balancing resource that will only run during times of peak load and when renewable resources are not operational.

- All major components are paid for and in storage awaiting installation

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- The gas turbine, generator, and all the other major components are in storage in NJ waiting for the concrete pad in Peabody to get poured and cured.
- The transformer is in storage in Shrewsbury waiting on the pad work to get completed
- The concrete pads will get poured in August 2022
- The plant is scheduled to be fully assembled by this fall and commissioned throughout this fall/winter 2022/2023

**New Billing Software:** GM Fitch informed the Board that WBMLP is reviewing new billing and accounting software. Our existing software has been in use for over 30 years. This upgrade is necessary to prepare for AMI, new electricity rates, TOU billing, e-billing, and to bill multiple new services in the future.

**29 Prospect Street Property:** The Board discussed the new garage at 29 Prospect Street. WBMLP issued the RFP for construction. GC bids are due in mid-August 2022.

**WBMLP Office:** GM Fitch told the Board that our architect is working on a design to renovate front entrance and install ADA ramp and parking stall.

**CBA/Human Resources Policy:** GM Fitch let the Board know that both the CBA and Human Resources Policy were updated. The CBA covered employees and office staff wages were increased approximately 4.4% on average, effective July 1, 2021.

**Fast DC Level III Charger:** The Board was updated by GM Fitch. The (2) chargers are in stock. Our architect and structural engineers are designing the payout and equipment pads. Pole top transformer is on order. Need to select and order metering & circuit breaker pedestal.

**Load/Demand Management:** GM Fitch told the Board that WBMLP used the temporary generator to reduce the monthly peak load in May, June, and July so far.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** The Board discussed with GM Fitch and Assistant GM Allen the BESS project. MMWEC received and analyzed various proposals and options to either; purchase outright, cost share the benefits, or pay a monthly service fee for a 3MW/6-9MWh BESS installed at 225 Shrewsbury St. (3) BESS developers visited our site on July 27<sup>th</sup> to review existing site conditions. See attached presentation from MMWEC. Our ZBA

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special permit is good thru August 25<sup>th</sup>. We can start construction activities or request an extension of the special permit.

**Offshore Wind PPA:** GM Fitch let the Board know that MMWEC is working on a wind energy PPA from one of the winners of the State's third procurement of offshore wind. MMWEC anticipates procuring, for its MLP members, 100MW of offshore wind energy to be developed in the 2027 timeframe. We should receive the draft PPA in August.

**Seabrook PPA/Hedge:** GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP could potentially acquire a PPA for firm nuclear energy with attributes from 2030 through 2049. MMWEC is negotiating price and escalator.

Meeting adjourned 6:40pm.

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**Win Handy**

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**Jim Pedone**

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**Tony Meola**