

# 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, September 8, 2022**

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the attached meeting minutes from June 21, 2022.

**Customer Issues:** The Board discussed the following customers issues with WBMLP staff.

- (2) tree related outages on Worcester Rd – WBMLP removed approx. (8) large unsafe and rotted trees along Worcester Road.
- S&S Farms power quality. Voltage-drop is in building. WBMLP replaced overhead conductors and transformer. The issue seems to be internal to building and older electrical services.

**Financials:** The Board and GM reviewed the income statement and bank balances to date. S&P completed its credit rating review of WBMLP and reaffirmed our stable “A” credit rating.

**New Garage Bids:** The Board and WBMP staff discussed the two bids for a new garage. Classic Construction was the low bidder for the new garage at \$3,792,700. This is approximately 14% higher than our most recent cost estimate of \$3,457,345. Some value engineer will be completed to reduce the price (i.e. Fire alarm amplifier, snow guards, etc.).

Commissioner Handy made a motion to award the bid to the qualified and low bidder for \$3,792,700. Commissioner Pedone seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0, awarding the bid for \$3,792,700 to Classic Construction.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** The Board and WBMLP staff discussed the (3) final offers from BESS developers. The offers were recently increased because of a new energy storage ITC included in the recently passed “Inflation Reduction Act”. MMWEC recommends the “Delorean Power” proposal which provides WBMLP \$4.3M in NPV over 20 years. Delorean and WBMLP will share 52/48% the transmission and capacity cost savings resulting from the projected. WBMLP does not have to spend any capital to fund this project.

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**Inflation reduction Act (IRA):** GM Fitch provided the Board an update on the IRA which includes various rebates, tax credits, and incentives for renewables, nuclear, heat-pumps, solar, EV's, etc. WBMLP attend an APPA webinar titled "Public Power and the Energy Tax Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act" on September 27<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the IRA incentives.

**MCAN Survey:** GM Fitch informed the Board that MCAN requested the MA MLPs to answer the questions in the attached survey. WBMLP participated previously and its takes significant time and effort to answer all the questions accurately and properly. The Board supported completing the survey.

**2015A Update:** GM Fitch provided the Board an update on WBMLP's part ownership in a 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource under construction in Peabody. It is expected to operate about 300 hours a year as a capacity and balancing resource operating only during peak load and when renewable resources are not operational.

- Main concrete pad was poured August 27th
- Gas turbine, generator, transformer, and all the other major components are in storage waiting for concrete pad in Peabody to cure.
- Plant is scheduled to be fully assembled this fall and commissioned throughout fall/winter 2022/2023

**New Billing Software:** GM Fitch requested the Board to consider approving the replacement of our billing and accounting software. WBMLP is reviewing a new billing and accounting software options. 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.

**WBMLP Office:** The Board and staff discussed the ongoing design project to renovate front entrance and install ADA ramp and parking space.

**Wachusett Causeway LED Lights:** WBMLP purchase a sample LED column to install on the utility poles along the Wachusett Causeway.

**Fast DC Level III Charger:** Board was updated on project status. The (2) chargers are in stock. Our architect and structural engineers are designing the layout and equipment pads. Pole top transformer and metering & circuit breaker pedestal are ordered.

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**Paul X. Tivnan Town Land:** The town DPW is still testing the 35-acre parcel along Paul X. Tivnan for a potential town cemetery.

**Small Cell Verizon Antennas:** Verizon is installing (2) small cell antennas in West Boylston. One near Ernie's Car Wash on West Boylston Street and one at the intersection of West Boylston and Franklin Street.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

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**Win handy**

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**Tony Meola**

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**Jim Pedone**