

# WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

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## **Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, 5:00pm, March 7, 2023**

**Present:** Commissioners Win Handy, Tony Meola, and Jim Pedone were present. GM Fitch and Assistant GM Brian Allen were present.

The meeting began at 5:10pm.

**Agenda:** The Board approved the following agenda items.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the attached meeting minutes from December 6, 2022, and January 3, 2023.

**Customer Issues:** None discussed.

**2022/2023 Financials and Budget:** GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP's annual financial audit for FY2022 is underway. The Board reviewed the FY2023 income statement to date.

**Power Supply Hedges:** GM Fitch told the Board that WBMLP is waiting on MMWEC to confirm our additional 2023 and 2024 energy hedges which should lock in WBMLP's energy supply to 90%, leaving only 10% open to market prices. WBMLP expects 2023 hedge prices at approx. \$50.79, ATC, April – December 2023. WBMLP expects 2024 hedge prices at approx. \$66.50/MWh, ATC, all year.

**Special Project 2023A:** The Board and staff discussed a potential non-GHG emitting energy hedge for 2030-2050.

**Electricity Rates:** GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP could justify changing some of our electricity rates. For example, our state and federal government customer rates haven't changed since 2014. WBMLP provides additional administrative, accounting, and reporting activities related to these accounts which could justify a rate increase. The Board discussed these rates and agreed that a 10% rate increase was justified. The Board voted 3-0 approving a 10% rate increase to the small and large government electricity rates, effective as soon as posted and filed.

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**NISC Enterprise Software:** GM Fitch provided the Board a project update to transition to a new NISC hosted enterprise system. Initially WBMLP will focus on replacing our accounting and billing software. The new hosted solution also includes work order management, document management, and other solitons and that will automate many of our processes. The Board and GM reviewed the following implementation schedule:

## Financials

Business Analysis - (On-site)	03/27/23	03/31/23
Configuration/Administration Training	07/10/23	07/14/23
Process Training (On-Site)	08/14/23	08/17/23
Live Data Cut	09/12/23	09/12/23
Live Week	09/18/23	09/22/23
Post Live Consultation and Review	10/16/23	10/20/23

## Service & Billing

Service - Business Analysis (On-Site)	May 22, 2023
Training (Remote)	TBD
Live Prep (Onsite)	5-6 weeks prior to live week
Live week (On-Site)	12/4/2023 or 12/18/2023

**29 Prospect Street Garage Project:** Assistant GM Allen let the Board know that construction should start April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Board and staff discussed the project to build a new garage.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** The Board and staff discussed the BESS project and contract documents between Delorean Power and WBMLP. Delorean will install a 3MW/9MWh BESS, worth \$4.3M in NPV to WBMLP over 20 years. Delorean and WBMLP share 52/48% the transmission and capacity cost savings generated from projected.

**GIS Mapping:** Assistant GM Allen updated the Board on WBMLP efforts to use ArcGIS to map and inventory WBMLP's assets and electrical apparatus throughout West Boylston.

**2015A Project Update:** The Board and staff discussed WBMLP's participation in a joint MLP owned 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource under construction in Peabody. All major components are fully installed. A few small components will arrive shortly. Internal construction, wiring, and commissioning

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will continue through April 2023, and WBMLP expects the project to be fully operational by June 2023.

**WBMLP Office Accessibility:** The Board and staff discussed the office ADA improvement project. WBMLP's architect is finishing design to renovate front entrance and install ADA ramp and parking space.

**Fast DC Level III Charger:** GM Fitch let the Board know that installation of the new chargers will start in April.

**MMWEC Voting Representatives:** The Board discussed MMWEC's voting representatives from WBMLP that may vote on matters at MMWEC meetings. The Board voted and approved, 3-0, the attached Certificate assigning voting representatives.

**Fiber and Internet Service:** The Board and staff discussed potential internet service from WBMLP. WBMLP met with GoNetSpeed to discuss providing fiber-based internet service in West Boylston. GoNetSpeed is concerned that Verizon may deploy FIOS in Worcester which could affect their business model which includes West Boylston.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.**

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**Winthrop Handy, Chairman**

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**Anthony Meola Jr,**

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**Jim Pedone**