

# 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, 5:00pm, April 4, 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 5:11pm.

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

**Meeting Minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the attached meeting minutes from January 20, 2023.

**Customer Issues:** WBMLP posted online and through social media the attached flyer regarding WBMLP's low electricity rates.

**29 Prospect Street Garage Project:** WBMLP staff provided the Board with a project update. Construction started April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue throughout the year. Commissioner Meola requested WBMLP staff to take as many pictures as possible of the project.

**Fast DC Level III Charger:** WBMLP staff provided the Board with an update on construction and installation of the chargers which started March 27<sup>th</sup>. WBMLP is waiting on one delayed item: the metering and distribution panel. The Board requested WBMLP to design charging rates that are as low as possible for Town of West Boylston residents and comparable to surrounding area IOU rates for non-residents.

**2022/2023 Financials and Budget:** GM Fitch let the Board know the annual financial audit was underway and should be completed by the next meeting. GM Fitch requested the Board to consider approving a write-off of the PPA under-collection of \$62,673.20 for FY2022. Commissioner Meola made a motion to approve the write-off of the PPA under-collection of \$62,673.20 for FY2022. Commissioner Handy seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0, approving the write-off of the PPA under-collection of \$62,673.20 for FY2022.

**Power Supply Hedges:** The Board and staff discussed WBMLPs 2023 energy hedges. MMWEC confirmed our 2023 energy hedges which locked in.

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WBMLP's energy supply is hedged to 90%, leaving only 10% open to market prices. 2023 hedge prices were on average approx. \$57.16 On-Peak, and \$47.11 off-peak. WBMLP expects to lock in 2024 hedge prices at approx. \$66.50/MWh, ATC, in early June 2023.

**Special Project 2023A:** The Board and staff discussed a potential Seabrook energy hedge for 2030-2050. The board reviewed and discussed the attached "certificate of vote" authorizing WBMLP to participate up to 2MW, or 17,520,000 kWh's, in Special Project 2023A. Commissioner Handy made a motion to approve WBMLPs participation in Special Project 2023A. Commissioner Pedone seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0, approving WBMLPs participation in Special Project 2023A.

**MWRA Oakdale Hydro:** GM Fitch updated the Board on WBMLPs efforts to negotiate with MWRA on a potential PPA for energy and environmental attribute from Oakdale and/or Cogsdale Hydro.

**Demand Response:** GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP is continuing the summer demand response generator rental this year. The estimated net savings are approx. \$75,410 this year.

**NISC Enterprise Software:** WBMLP staff provide the Board with a project update. WBMLP is beginning the transition to our new NISC hosted enterprise system. Staff are focusing on replacing our accounting and billing software. The hosted solution also includes work order management, document management, and other solitons and that will automate many of our processes.

## 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

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**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** Staff let the Board know that contract documents between Delorean Power and WBMLP are almost finished. 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.

**2015A Project Update:** The Board discussed the project status of the 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource under construction in Peabody. Major components are installed. A few smaller critical components will arrive shortly. Internal construction, wiring, and commissioning will continue through May 2023. There may be a delay in the delivery and installation of some electrical apparatus for interconnection.

**WBMLP Office Accessibility:** GM Fitch told the Board the architect is finishing design to renovate front entrance, ADA ramp, and parking space. WBMLP will implement the corrective recommendations found in the ADA evaluation and transition plan.

**MMWEC Annual Conference:** See attached flyer and invite to attend the MMWEC 2023 Annual Conference May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Fiber and Internet Service:** Commissioner Pedone and GM Fitch updated the Board on their visit to SHELD to discuss fiber in West Boylston. SHELD offered assistance and services. WBMLP contacted Precision Valley Communications, LLC to discuss network design and mapping.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.** The next meeting is May 2, 2023.

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**Winthrop Handy, Chairman**

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**Anthony Meola Jr,**

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**Jim Pedone**