

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, September 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm.

Attendees: Commissioners Jim Pedone, Win handy, and Tony Meola attended. GM Fitch attended.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from May 2, 2023, and June 13, 2023.

Customer Issues: GM Fitch provided the Board an update on our customer located at 18 Crescent St, Brenda Bowman. WBMLP replaced the dead property line arborvitae trees.

Financials: The Board reviewed the attached income statement dated July 31, 2023.

Electricity Rates: GM Fitch proposed to the Board that WBMLP prepare a new rate study to determine if any adjustments are necessary in the next 2-3 years. The “Early Payment Discount” and “interest charges” are two components that should be reviewed and may need to be changed significantly.

Rebates: GM Fitch and the Board reviewed and discussed the attached list of energy efficiency and rebate programs WBMLP will offer in 2024. The Board did not have any additional questions or concerns with the rebates and incentives. WBMLP will prepare new marketing materials to promote the rebate program effective January 1, 2024.

Fast DC Level III Charger: GM Fitch gave the Board an update on the project to install (2) Fast DC EV chargers. The final component shipped last week and should arrive any day and get installed.

NISC Enterprise Software: The Board and GM discussed the transition to the new NISC hosted enterprise system. Training and project status calls take place 3-4 times a week and take up a significant amount of time for the entire staff.

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Accounting will switch to the new software next month and billing will switch in January/February 2024 timeframe.

2015A Project Update: The Board and GM discussed the ongoing project to install a 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource. Startup and commissioning work is ongoing. MMWEC expects the plant to be commercially operational by November 1, 2023.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The Board and GM discussed the start of construction on our 3MW/9MWh BESS project. The annual transmission and capacity cost savings over the first (10) years is approximately \$257,680.00 per year.

29 Prospect Street Garage Project: GM Fitch proposed to the Board the following project financing plan. The total construction cost to date is:

29 Prospect Street - Project Financing*				
Project Construction Cost	\$	3,792,700.00		Construction
Change Orders to date	\$	40,298.32		Construction
Source of Funds	Amounts		Construction Invoices to Date*	Balance
Depreciation	\$	2,000,000.00	\$ 1,030,825.17	\$ 969,174.83
Reserve Trust	\$	2,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000.00
Total	\$	4,000,000.00	\$ 1,030,825.17	\$ 2,969,174.83

Self-Financing	Amount	10-yr Annual Repayment	10-yr Annual BESS Savings
Reserve Repayment Plan	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 257,680.00

The Board discussed keeping the annual reserve repayment term at 10 years, which creates an annual repayment that is less than the annual BESS savings. The annual savings will off-set our annual repayment of the \$2M to self-finance the project.

Fiber to the Premise: Sertex is almost finished preparing our high-level cost estimate and design. WBMLP is meeting Sertex at 1pm, September 28, 2023 to review the design and cost estimate. The Town and WBMLP will apply in early 2024 to the Municipal Fiber Grant program, which is a competitive grant program that supports municipal networks. This grant will assist in the provision of fiber, equipment, and internet service in public buildings allowing for centralized management of IT infrastructure.

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General Manager Review: The Board discussed the GM current performance and past performance review from August 3, 2021. Commissioner Pedone requested the GM to prepare an amendment to the original employment agreement so the Board could consider at its next Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Win Handy

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola