

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, 4:30pm, October 3, 2023

Present: Commissioners: Tony Meola, Win Handy, and Jim Pedone. WBMLP staff: Jonathan Fitch and Brian Allen

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

Executive Session: Commissioner Pedone voted to enter executive session at approximately 4:30pm. Commissioner Meola seconded the motion. The Board voted, by roll call vote, 3-0, to enter executive session, to discuss personnel issues related to the general manager's performance review. WBMLP staff and visitors left the Board meeting during executive session. The Board exited executive session at approximately 5:00pm and returned to regular session.

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from July 11, 2023.

Customer Issues: GM Fitch told the Board WBMLP will replace 3-4 arborvitae trees at 18 Crescent Street.

ADA Improvements: The Board and staff reviewed the attached preliminary ADA ramp and parking space design.

Financials: Did not discuss.

Energy Supply: The Board and staff reviewed and discussed WBMLP's energy supply. WBMLP purchased a small 0.1MW hydroelectricity energy plus REC contract starting in 2025 through 2029 for approx., \$0.079/kWh. By 2024/2025, WBMLP should approach a 60% clean and renewable energy power supply. By 2030, WBMLP should achieve an >80% clean and renewable energy supply. The Board and staff discussed the attached 2024 energy and transmission budget and annual energy supply with GGES goals.

Fast DC Level III Charger: Staff provided the Board with a project update. The last component shipping was delayed again but should arrive shortly and allow us to complete the project.

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NISC Enterprise Software: Staff told the Board the transition to the new NISC hosted enterprise system was underway. Training and project status calls take place 3-4 times a week and take up a significant amount of time for the entire staff. The accounting module is live. WBMLP will switch to the new billing module in the January/February 2024 timeframe.

2015A Project Update: The Board and staff discussed the MMWEC 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource project. The project is completing startup and commissioning work. The plant is expected to be commercially operational by November 1, 2023.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The Board and staff discussed the ongoing 3MW/9MWh BESS that is under construction.

29 Prospect Street Garage Construction Project: Staff provided the Board with a project update.

Fiber to the Premise: The Board and staff reviewed the high-level design and cost estimate from Sertex. The draft cost estimate for building a fiber network throughout the entire town is approx. \$9.5M. WBMLP must add customer networking gear (ONT and Router) which could cost approx. \$250 per customer for materials and \$750 for installation cost for each subscribing customer. The draft design breaks the town into (16) hubs or sections. WBMLP must confirm and update the customer counts in each hub. WBMLP will meet with Sertex and South Hadley to review the design, cost estimate, and the different options for service, tech support, phased in hubs, etc.

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.

General Manager Review: The Board asked the GM to prepare an amendment to the original GM employment agreement for consideration at the next meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Win Handy

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola