

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, November 7, 2023

Present: Commissioners Win Handy, Jim Pedone, and Tony Meola.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board do not review and approve the meeting minutes from August 1, 2023.

Customer Issues: No issues reported to Board. WBMLP is currently trimming around overhead power lines along 45-50 roadways in the south-center area of town bordering Worcester. See attached list of roads being trimmed this fall.

Flags, Banners, and Wreaths: Staff let the Board know that WBMLP will remove all the utility pole banners, flags, and old Stone Church flag the week of November 13th. The week of November 27th, WBMLP will install utility pole wreaths, Old Stone Church wreath, and holiday tree lights on common. WBMLP will purchase a few holiday trees from French Hill Farm for the Old Stone Church wreath.

ADA Improvements: The Board and staff reviewed and discussed the attached draft ADA ramp and parking space design. The Board asked staff to consider alternative entry points and designs.

Fast DC Level III Charger: Staff told the Board the metering cabinet and distribution panel were installed and energized today. ChargePoint will commission and activate for customer use shortly.

NISC Enterprise Software: GM Fitch gave the Board a project update. The transition to the new NISC hosted enterprise system is still 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. The tentative schedule for using the new billing module is attached.

MassCEC RFI : The Board and staff discussed Neighborhood Electrification, the strategic electrification of buildings and decommissioning of the natural gas system in defined geographic areas —such as street segments, neighborhoods, or

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zones. Electrification should leverage opportunities where electrification could be more cost-effective than reinvestment in the gas system (e.g., pipeline repair). WBMLP will respond to this RFI explaining how in West Boylston our low electricity rates and low GHG emission rate makes electrification beneficial to neighborhoods (i.e. Angell Brook, Hillside). This may lead to grant money for electrification.

MELD Grant Application: GM Fitch told the Board that WBMLP and other MLP's are applying for the "Municipal Electrification and Load Management for Decarbonization (MELD)" grant through the DOE Energy Futures Grant Concept Paper Phase 1. The MELD project will focus on planning to support electrification and clean energy utilization through grid upgrades. As a planning grant, the funds would be used to convene stakeholders to identify needs and prepare a proposal to request implementation funding from grant sources. Each MLP will be responsible for providing some planning input and participation in implementation funding proposals we wanted to be a part of.

2015A Project Update: The Board was updated on the project status. The 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource is still completing startup and commissioning work. The plant should be commercially operational by mid-December.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The Board was updated on the project status. The 3MW/9MWh BESS project is under construction.

29 Prospect Street Garage Project: The Board was updated on the project status. Interior rough work is complete, Insulation is underway. Interior sheetrock should start next week.

Fiber to the Premise: GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP plans to meet with Sertex and South Hadley to review the design, cost estimate, and the different options for service, tech support, phased in hubs, etc.

Municipal Fiber Network: Staff let the Board know that WBMLP is working with SELCO, SMLD and outsourced providers (CM Geeks and Ayacht Tech.) to prepare a design and cost estimate to apply in early 2024 for the Municipal Fiber Grant program. This is a competitive grant program that supports municipal networks. This grant will assist in the provision of fiber, equipment, and internet

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service in public buildings allowing for centralized management of IT infrastructure.

General Manager Review: Board discussed the attached amendment 1 to the original GM employment agreement. The Board discussed the GM's performance over the last (2) years and voted 3-0, approving addendum 1, to the GM's employment agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Win Handy

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola