

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, December 5, 2023

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

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the attached meeting minutes from August 1, 2023, and September 12, 2023.

Customer Issues: There were no issues to report.

2023 Municipal Liens: GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP submitted liens on (19) customers to the Town Treasurer. The lien total is approximately \$23,346.02. The lien process is used to collect payments from property owners that haven't paid us or made payment arrangements.

Financials: Staff let the Board know the 2023 financial audit was underway.

Terms and Conditions: The Board and staff reviewed and discussed the attached terms and conditions. Staff would like to update the terms and conditions in the future.

Electricity Rates: GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP would conduct a rate study soon. WBMLP hasn't needed a significant rate adjustment since 2009.

Tree Trimming: Staff updated Board on the annual tree trimming project. Trimming around overhead power lines is in progress along 45-50 roadways in the south-center area of town bordering Worcester.

Flags, Banners, and Wreaths: Staff updated the Board on the installation of utility pole wreaths, Old Stone Church wreath, and the holiday tree lights on common.

Electrical Upgrades: The Board and staff discussed the ongoing Century Drive underground electrical distribution work that is underway and almost finished. This work completes the underground loop feed around Century Drive and

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prepares us for the 7-9 new commercial buildings under development on the last available lot.

New Garage: Staff provided the Board with a project update. The interior is getting sheet-rocked and plastered, concrete walkways and HVAC pads completed, driveway binder coat is installed, and replacement windows installed. The rest of the siding and doors to be installed shortly.

Light Up Navajo: GM Fitch let the Board know it was too late to participate in Light Up Navajo this spring/summer. WBMLP will be added to the 2025 schedule.

Fast DC Level III Charger: Staff provided the Board with a project update. The chargers are fully operational. WBMLP is receiving payments as of December 1, 2023. About (30) charging sessions have occurred since it was operational. Commissioner Pedone would like to know how much it costs to charge an EV with either level-II or level-III charger?

NISC Enterprise Software: Staff provided the Board with a project update. The transition to the new NISC hosted enterprise system is 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. Billing and customer service goes live January 3, 2024.

2015A Project Update: The Board and GM Fitch discussed the status of the project. The 55MW natural gas capacity and balancing resource is still completing startup and commissioning. The oil and natural gas supply are the last remaining issues to be resolved. These issues will not get resolved till February 2024.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Assistant GM Allen provided the Board with a project update. The 3MW/9MWh BESS project is under construction. The expected completion date is fall 2024.

Municipal Fiber Network: The Board and staff discussed the upcoming state grant program to fund municipal fiber/broadband network projects. 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 grant program supports municipal networks.

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We expect the grant to assist in the provision of fiber and equipment to each municipal building with headend equipment at WBMLP.

Sterling identified and spiced (12) fibers from Sterling's to WBMLP's headend rack. These fibers will provide a redundant Internet service from Sterling to WBMLP which will back up Internet service from SELCO. All our business processes are hosted over the Internet and therefore backup is prudent. Sterling will finish the interior fiber installation at WBMLP tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Win Handy

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola