

# WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Telephone (508) 835-3681

Fax (508) 835-2952

## **Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes from, April 2, 2024.**

Meeting Commenced at 5:00 PM

**Present:** Commissioner's Tony Meola, Win Handy, and Jim Pedone were present. WBMLP Assistant General Manager Brian Allen was present.

**Agenda:** Agenda was approved with no changes or additions.

**Customer Issues:** No customer issues were discussed.

**Financials:** The Board was informed that the 2023 financial audit is underway. There will be a delay to the audit this year due to the transition to our billing and accounting platform. No discussion.

**Investment Accounts:** The Board was informed that Bartholomew & Company, Inc. will review with the Board the financial performance of the operating reserve and depreciation accounts on May 7, 2024. No discussion.

**New Billing and Accounting Software:** WBMLP is live and there are no major issues to date. The Board discussed the challenges of switching over an entire billing and accounting system.

**Energy Supply:** The Board reviewed the GGES and AQ31 summaries based on WBMLP actual and forecasted energy supply.

**Off-Shore Wind:** The Board was provided copies of the press release explaining Avangrid's offshore wind proposal that includes an MOU with MMWEC to potentially purchase energy on behalf of MLP members.

**Demand Reduction Gen-Set Project:** The Board was informed that WBMLP will participate in the MMWEC generator rental program this year. The 2 MW diesel generator will be used to reduce our summer peak coincident demands. The Board had previously given approval for Management to move forward with this project.

**Clean Heat Standard:** The Board was informed the MA MLP's, through MEAM, are meeting with MassDEP to discuss their proposed

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framework/regulation called the Clean Heat Standard (CHS) applicable on all utilities, delivered fuel companies, and MLPs.

The CHS would require MLPs to fully electrify an annual number of residential HVAC systems and lower annual GHG emissions or pay a significant \$6-12k compliance payment. The Board requested that they be kept up to date on this proposal.

**Large Building Energy Reporting:** The Board was informed MA DOER is proposing regulations that would require WBMLP to report energy consumption for large buildings over 20,000 square-feet. The board discussed this proposed regulation.

**Project 2015A:** The Board was informed that commissioning on natural gas is expected to start April 1, 2024. The tentative commercial operation date is April 26, 2024. The Board asked to be kept up to date on the schedule and if there were any delays.

**New Garage:** The Board was given a Project Update. The project is on schedule and currently only 1% over budget. Suggestions were made by Commission Handy regarding internet service at the new building as well as a back-up computer system for the billing and accounting systems. Commissioner Meola asked that both 29 Prospect Street and 4 Crescent Street have adequate signage so the public could easily distinguish between the Customer Service center and the Operations Center. Commissioner Meola also asked that a plaque be purchased that would indicate the year the new building was constructed as well as the names of the Commissioners, Architectural Firm, and General Contracting Firm. This could be displayed in the new Training Center.

**Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** The Board was updated on the project for the 3MW/9MWh BESS project under construction. Expected completion date Q4 2024 – Q1 2025

**Municipal Fiber Network:** The Board was informed that WBMLP and the Town prepared an inventory of existing data/communications equipment in each public building. WBMLP and Town prepared a design and cost estimate to interconnect the (9) public buildings to our municipal fiber network. The design and cost estimate were submitted to the state's Municipal Fiber Grant program. This grant program supports building municipal networks. We expect the grant to assist in the provision of fiber and equipment to each municipal building with headend

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equipment at WBMLP. The Board members were provided with a copy of the grant material for their review.

**WBMLP motor vehicle accident on Century Drive:** Brian reviewed a motor vehicle accident involving a Fed Ex van and two of the WBMLP bucket trucks on March 13, 2024. WBMLP vehicles were parked and not at fault as determined by the West Boylston Police Department. WBMLP insurance carrier (PURMA) was provided with all required documentation and the 2023 Freightliner was sent to Tri-State Truck in Shrewsbury for repairs. The 2020 Freightliner is still operational and will be sent for repairs once the first truck repairs are complete. Commissioner Handy asked if dashcams on the trucks would be useful.

**EV Chargers March Revenue:** The Board was provided with the latest figures regarding the use of EV chargers at Goodale Park. Commissioner Handy asked about installing cameras at that location for security purposes. Commissioner Pedone explained that it would be difficult due to the lack of Wi-Fi in the area. WBMLP will install a streetlight at that location for added security. Commissioner Handy also asked if a spotlight could be installed at the Vietnam Memorial on Worcester Street. WMLP will install a 90-watt LED floodlight at that location.

**MMWEC Annual Conference information:** Board members were provided with information for the MMWEC 2024 Annual Conference May 1-2, 2024 in Pittsfield, MA. Commissioners are invited to attend and need to contact Jon Fitch if they are interested.

No additional topics were discussed. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

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Win Handy

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Jim Pedone

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Tony Meola