

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, January 14, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the previous meeting minutes from May 7, 2024 and June 18, 2024. The August 13, 2024 meeting minutes were not reviewed.

Customer Issues: The Board discussed with staff the following customer issues.

- Customer request for municipal fiber service
- Customer reported payment scam
- EV Charger issues with vehicle lights, use late at night, etc. The Board requested staff to install etiquette signage and implement two levels of pricing for residents and non-residents.

New Development: The Board and staff discussed the following developments in town that will require new electric services.

- Century Dr: Site work is currently underway. Site cleared for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings
- 235 West Boylston St: Project is seeking Comprehensive Permit thru ZBA. Hearings are scheduled.
- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street. Project is seeking Site Plan Review through Planning Board. Potential for 2-3 commercial bldgs.
- 180 Beaman St: Multiple level II EV chargers at DCR parking lot. Project is under construction.
- Hartwell St and Beaman Rd. Project to raise the height of railroad bridges.

Financials: The Board reviewed the income statement to date.

2025 Rebates: The Board reviewed the types and amounts of WBMLP's energy efficiency, decarbonization, and electrification rebates.

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CBA Renewal: Staff let the Board know it is beginning negotiations for a new 3-year CBA with our line-workers effective July 1, 2025.

Municipal Fiber Network: Staff provided the Board with an update on the municipal building fiber project. WBMLP ordered all the fiber and associated equipment to interconnect the municipal buildings. WBMLP will begin coordinating the fiber installation and headend equipment for each municipal building.

Staff informed the Board that Ripple Fiber will attend next month's Board meeting to discuss their proposal to provide Internet service in Town as an attachment on our utility poles.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: The Board and staff reviewed and discussed the following state regulatory and legislative issues WBMLP is working on. See attached document summarizing each issue.

- **Large Building Energy Reporting:** MA DOER regulation to mandate reporting of large customers' annual energy use
- **EEA GHG Clearinghouse Proposal:** EEA proposes to manage the Mass-Save rebate program and include MLPs in 2028.
- **ACT Regulation:** MassDEP ACT regulation goes into effect January 1, 2025 and phases out the sale of diesel medium- and heavy-duty trucks.
- **Clean Heat Standard (CHS):** Require WBMLP to fully electrify or convert oil, natural gas, and propane HVAC systems in an increasing number of residential buildings annually.

Off-Shore Wind: Staff provided the Board with an update on the 791MW New England Wind I proposal by Avangrid which was selected in the Massachusetts offshore wind procurement RFP. Prices will not be made public until early 2025. MMWEC may purchase up to 50MW for MLP members if they choose to do so. This project could become operational in 2029. The Board discussed how wind energy could be purchased and applied to certain rate classes as a lead by example program.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Staff gave the Board an update on the project to install a 3MW/9MWh BESS project that is under construction.

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DPW Joint-Use Mower: The Board and staff discussed the DPW proposal to purchase and share (50/50) the cost of a tractor with rotary mower head for approx. \$260,000. The DPW would mow underneath our overhead distribution system and the rights-of-ways going forward. This could reduce the scope of work we subcontract annually and therefore lower our line maintenance expenses. The Board did not make any decision, and staff will continue to discuss with DPW.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola