

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,
March 4, 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 meeting minutes from Nov. 12, 2024.

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

- Tree trimming along 8 Temple Street on the Maple Street side. Will meet again in spring.
- A customer is interested in WBMLP considering the same FTTH project as Fort Collins CO.

Ripple Fiber: The Board discussed the Ripple Fiber proposal to provide Internet service in Town as an attachment on our utility poles. WBMLP and Ripple are currently reviewing the Pole Attachment Agreement and proposed changes to the Agreement by Ripple. Ripple met with DPW and Town administrator to review ROW permits and authorizations. Ripple will meet BOS on March 5th.

New Development: The Board and staff discussed the following projects in town.

- Century Dr: Site cleared for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings
- 235 West Boylston St: Seeking Comprehensive Permit thru ZBA
- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street. Seeking SPR at Planning Board
- Hartwell St and Beaman Rd. Raise the height of railroad bridges
- 165 Pierce Street: House being demolished.

Financials: GM Fitch requested the Board to consider writing off the FY2024 PPA undercharge of approximately \$102,724.71. Commissioner Meola made a motion approving the approx. \$103k PPA write-off, including any non-material changes. Commissioner Pedone seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0, approving the PPA write-off.

GM Fitch let the Board know the auditors should complete the FY2024 audit by the next April 8, 2025 meeting. The Board reviewed and discussed the top 30 customers in FY2024. GM Fitch handed out the draft "Prudent Investment Policy" to be consider at a future date.

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Energy Supply: The Board and staff reviewed the attached FY2024 energy supply components.

WRRS: The Board and GM Fitch discussed the Worcester Regional Retirement System assessment increase of 25% in 2025.

| Date | Year | Increase | Assessment | Increase (\$) |
|----------|------|----------|------------|---------------|
| 7/1/2019 | 2020 | 19% | \$ 222,338 | \$ 35,284 |
| 7/1/2020 | 2021 | 11% | \$ 247,444 | \$ 25,106 |
| 7/1/2021 | 2022 | 1% | \$ 248,869 | \$ 1,425 |
| 7/1/2022 | 2023 | 11% | \$ 275,526 | \$ 26,657 |
| 7/1/2023 | 2024 | 8% | \$ 297,633 | \$ 22,107 |
| 7/1/2024 | 2025 | 10% | \$ 328,555 | \$ 30,922 |
| 7/1/2025 | 2026 | 25% | \$ 411,073 | \$ 82,518 |

CBA Renewal: The Board was updated on the beginning of negotiations for a new 3-year CBA with our line-workers effective July 1, 2025.

Flywheel Energy Storage Proposal: GM Fitch presented the Board with an energy storage demonstration proposal from Qnetic. Qnetic is looking for a demonstration site for its 125kW/500kWh, 4-hour flywheel energy storage system. Flywheel only pricing is \$250/kWh, or \$125,000 per unit and includes the inverters, cables and enclosing capsule, but not the installation costs or associated project engineering costs. A 1,000kW/4,000kWh, 8-unit FESS, would cost \$1M, not including installation. The Board was not interested in pursuing this project at this time.

Municipal Fiber Network: The Board was provided with a project update. WBMLP coordinated and scheduled all the fiber installations. Working on headend equipment for WBMLP and each municipal building.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: The Board was updated on the following state regulatory and legislative issues WBMLP is concerned with. See attached document summarizing each issue.

- **Large Building Energy Reporting:** MA DOER is mandating MLPs report large customer annual energy use. Approx (51) buildings on draft list in West Boylston.

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- **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, 2026 (recently extended one year) and phases out the sale of diesel medium- and heavy-duty trucks.
- **Clean Heat Standard (CHS):** Requires WBMLP to fully electrify or convert oil, natural gas, and propane HVAC systems in an increasing number of residential buildings annually.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The Board was updated on the project to install a shared savings 3MW/9MWh BESS. Convergent submitted a building permit application and scheduled a meeting with the Fire Chief. Work should start in the late March/April timeframe. National Grid added gravel and compacted our driveway through BESS site.

Canadian Tariffs/ISO-NE Imports: The Board and staff briefly discussed potential tariffs on imported energy. In 2024, 9% of electricity demand in New England was met through imports from our neighbors in Canada and New York. ISO New England is reviewing the impact on tariffs.

Summer Generator Rental: WBMLP staff let the Board know it will schedule the summer generator rental this year and expects to save approximately \$61k after expenses.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola