

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, 5:00pm, April 8, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioner's Meola, Pedone, and Kingsley. WBMLP Staff Jonathan Fitch and Chris Trudeau. Goulet, Salvidio & Associates, P.C.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board did not review or approve any meeting minutes.

Customer Issues:

- Tree trimming along 8 Temple Street on the Maple Street side. Staff will meet with customer again in spring.

Ripple Fiber: Staff provided a brief project update to the Board.

New Development: Did not discuss.

- Century Dr: Site cleared for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings
- 235 West Boylston St: Seeking Comprehensive Permit thru ZBA
- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street. Under construction
- Hartwell St and Beaman Rd. Raise the height of railroad bridges
- 165 Pierce Street: House demolished.
- Marsh Hawk Way: New house requires new underground feeder.

Financials: The auditors presented and reviewed the attached FY2024 audit with the Board. The Board, staff, and external auditor discussed the FY2024 financial statements.

MMWEC: The Board reviewed and discussed the attached certificate of vote to appoint MMWEC voting representative and alternates. Commissioner Pedone made a motion to approve the certificate of vote as presented. Commissioner Meola seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0 approving and appointing MMWEC voting representative and alternates.

CBA Renewal: WBMLP is negotiating a new 3-year CBA with our line-workers effective July 1, 2025. Did not discuss.

Municipal Fiber Network: Staff gave the Board a project update. WBMLP coordinated and scheduled all the fiber installations. Working on headend

equipment for WBMLP and each municipal building. Commissioners discussed and had concerns about static IP addresses, DSN service, firewalls, VOIP services, and using Ripple Fiber Internet service instead of SELCO in the future.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: Did not discuss.

- **Large Building Energy Reporting:** MA DOER is mandating MLPs report large customer annual energy use. Approx (51) buildings on draft list in West Boylston.
- **EEA GHG Clearinghouse Proposal:** EEA proposes to manage the Mass-Save rebate program and include MLPs in 2028. MMWEC reports that EEA will not include MLP's in Mass-Save.
- **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): Did not discuss. Project update for the 3MW/9MWh BESS project under construction. Convergent submitted a building permit application and scheduled a meeting with the Fire Chief.

Canadian Tariffs/ISO-NE Imports: Did not discuss. In 2024, 9% of electricity demand in New England was met through imports from our neighbors in Canada and New York. We are still waiting to see if this impact energy purchases.

DPW Request: Staff and Board discussed sharing the capital cost of a new mower attachment that works on the DPW's existing front-end loader for clearing the roadside ROW's. The Board did not approve this purchase at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola