

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, 5:00pm, May 6, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioners Jim Pedone, Tony Meola, and James Kingsley. WBMLP staff Jonathna Fitch and Chris Trudeau. Mark Ayacht from Ayacht technologies.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from December 3, 2024 and January 14, 2025.

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

- Discussed low-cost option for trees/bushes for 8 Temple Street (Maple St).
- Discussed customer concerns about fires related to other BESS Projects compared to our BESS project.

Ripple Fiber: The GM attended Ripple Fiber's Groundbreaking Ceremony today. WBMLP also met with Ripple to discuss receiving ISP quality internet service to WBMLP and leasing of our conduits under RT190 and WB's existing aerial fiber.

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

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

Financials: The Board and staff briefly discussed the attached Standard & Poor rating report which reaffirmed WBMLP's "A" rating.

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

Pole Replacement Project: WBMLP plans to replace approximately 50-60 utility poles along West Boylston Street, Worcester Street, and Newton Street.

Municipal Fiber Network: WBMLP and Ayacht Technology are working on headend design, service, and equipment for WBMLP to become an ISP for municipal buildings. Mark Ayacht from Ayacht Technologies presented and discussed with the board the conceptual design of our ISP headend equipment. The

goal is to provide a secure and redundant ISP service to town buildings at a lower overall cost for all town departments. The headend design could include BGP pairing. The Board agrees BGP pairing is unnecessary. The Board, staff, and Ayacht discussed SELCO's monthly 1GB ISP service cost of \$2,900. WBMLP is considering other service alternatives through Spectrum and Ripple.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: The Board and staff briefly discussed the following state regulatory and legislative issues:

- **Large Building Energy Reporting:** MA DOER is mandating MLPs report large customer annual energy use. Approx (51) buildings on draft list in West Boylston. Potential settlement to make this a customer requirement with our assistance.
- **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 delayed until January 1, 2027. Phase out the sale of diesel medium- and heavy-duty trucks.
- **Clean Heat Standard (CHS):** Requires WBMLP to fully electrify or convert a required amount of residential oil, natural gas, and propane HVAC systems annually.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Construction activities started April 21, 2025. We anticipate a commercial operation date of September 2025.

Temp Generator: Staff let the Board know the temporary summer generator will be delivered and connected on May 22nd.

Banners versus Flags: Board and staff discussed using US flag banners instead and traditional flags. The Board prefers hanging the traditional flags.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola