

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

5:00pm, November 4, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioners; Tony Meola, James Kingsley, and Jim Pedone. WBMLP Staff; Jonathan Fitch and Chris Trudeau.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from July 8, 2025.

Customer Issues:

- The Board and staff discussed the streetlight repair bill sent by the maintenance contractor for Hillside Village. The contractor did not call WBMLP to repair and paid an electrician to replace a photocell. The Board instructed the GM to contact the Hillside Village Condominium Association (HVCA) directly to get more information on what occurred and will discuss again at its next monthly meeting on December 2nd.

Financials: The Board and staff reviewed the attached income statement through September 2025.

Annual Financial Audit: Staff let the Board know the 2025 external financial audit was underway.

Banners and Holiday Wreaths: WBMLP staff updated the Board. WBMLP will remove the pole mounted flags and banners right after veterans' day. The holiday wreath material is being donated by the Beardsley family. WBMP will cut material on November 20th and install on Old Stone church on November 21st.

New Development: The Board and staff discussed the following upcoming projects in our service territory.

- Century Drive: Site work underway for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings.
- 235-249 West Boylston Street: Received ZBA Comprehensive Permit for three buildings. One building off Pierce Street will have 60 apartments. Two buildings off West Boylston Street with 10 apartments and (3) commercial spaces each.
- 244-264 West Boylston Street: Received ZBA Special Permit for a new Dunkin Donuts between CVS and existing Dunkin Donuts.

- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street: 3rd (8) unit commercial building is under construction.

Retiree Health Insurance: The Board and staff reviewed and discussed the 2026 retiree health insurance premiums that increased 16% and 12%. WBMLP pays 70% of the premium for the more expensive Medex 2 plan and 80% of the premium for the less expensive Managed Blue plan.

2026 NextZero Rebates: The Board and staff reviewed the attached 2026 rebates.

Tree Trimming RFP: Staff provide the Board a project update. Dillon Tree is still tree trimming cycle 1 (northeastern corner of town) of our overhead electrical distribution lines.

Ripple Fiber: The Board and staff discussed Ripple's FTTH project. Ripple is working in the southwestern portion of town adjacent to Holden. West Boylston residents are signing up and receiving service. Ripple began underground work in the neighborhoods behind Geraldo's and S&S Farms and Deli. Ripple has our draft conduit agreement to review to use our conduits under the (2) Mass Highway Route 190 bridges. Ripple will probably shift their design to aerial pole attachments on our utility poles during the winter.

Municipal ISP and Fiber Network: The Board was updated by WBMLP staff on the municipal fiber network project. Headend equipment is installed. Waiting on Ripple's ISP service which should activate and provisioned by the end of the week. The tie-in location is completed at pole-49 Woodland Street. WBMLP is exchanging conduit access and pole attachment fees for ISP quality internet service.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Staff let the Board know that Commissioning of the BESS is underway. Convergent is waiting on communication cards for metering, one more fire department inspection, and witness testing.

Rate Study: The Board and staff continued its review and discussion from last month, the attached Cost of Service (COS). WBMLP prepared the Cost of Service (COS) to review existing electricity rates that haven't significantly changed since 2009/2014. Rate components staff requested the Board to consider changing over time include:

- Do not adjust any municipal, residential, or senior residential variable rates.

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- Increase Monthly Customer Charge to recover increased fixed expenses independent of energy sales.
- Reduce, eliminate, or phase out over time the 10% Early Payment Discount on residential, commercial, and industrial customers (i.e. phase out and reduce by 5% per year).
- Reduce, eliminate or phase out over time the 15% Early Payment Discount on senior residential customers.
- Increase small commercial, large commercial, industrial, small government, and large government variable rates (\$/kWh) by approximately 4%.
- Increase private property security lights by recommended amount in COS
- Requires E-bill, paperless billing, and ACH enrollment for early payment discount. All rates or just some?

The Board discussed and approved implementing a 4% rate increase for the small commercial, large commercial, industrial, small government, and large government rates, effective January 1, 2026. The Board discussed revisiting the other rate change and options in 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola