

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes

5:00pm, January 6, 2026, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioners Jim Pedone, James Kingsley, and Tony Meola. 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 October 7, 2025.

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

- December 2025 was extremely cold compared to previous December's. This resulted in very high energy consumption and bills for all customers last month.
- Customer concerns regarding radio frequency emissions from Itron Advanced Meters.

Financials: The Board reviewed the attached income statement through October 2025. The Board reviewed and discussed WBMLP's attached 2026 budget. The budget includes rate increases in the small commercial, large commercial, industrial, small gov, and large gov. rates. The Board requested Bartholomew to attend the next meeting to review the performance of our depreciation and operating reserve accounts. Commissioner Meola wanted to know what the investment management fees are. Staff will provide the management fees to the Board at the next meeting.

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

- 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. Site and demo work has started.
- 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.

Landfill Well Monitoring: Staff and the Board discussed the WBMLP meeting with the interim town administrator to discuss MassDEP's 12/15/2025 letter. The letter is in response to the quarterly groundwater inspections at the Town's Temple Street

landfill showing water quality parameters that exceed standards. MassDEP may require additional and more frequent testing. The Board agrees with staff's assessment that WBMLP's responsibility is to perform and pay for general O&M and monitoring of the cap, not for the additional testing. Any additional testing should be the Town's responsibility.

Ripple Fiber: The Board was provided a project update by staff. Ripple Fiber is working throughout town installing fiber.

Municipal ISP and Fiber Network: Staff let the Board know that WBMLP received a 2-month extension to finish the project and submit grant close-out paperwork. All headend equipment and town department equipment is installed and connected to WBMLP's fiber. The holidays caused a delay in the final provisioning of Ripple's ISP service. WBMLP still needs to coordinate with the town and school IT managers to schedule the change over from the various Spectrum accounts to WBMLP ISP service.

Bucket Truck: The Board and staff discussed the status of WBMLP's 20-year-old material handler that was taken to the shop because it wouldn't start. Ricky's Towing is attempting to repair, but it may need to be replaced. WBMLP could replace it with a much smaller material handler like the attached specification. A smaller truck could cost approximately \$290K compared to full size truck costing approx. \$400k. Commissioner Meola wanted to know the PM schedule for our trucks. Staff will provide an answer at the next meeting. The Board prefers that we repair the old bucket truck.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): The Board and staff discussed the BESS project status. Staff let the Board know the BESS did not reduce the December peak and it is not officially operating yet. Commissioning activities are still underway. The Board approves a press release when appropriate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola