

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes (Draft - To Be Approved), 5:00pm, March 12, 2024.

Present: Commissioners Win Handy, Jim Pedone, and Tony Meola were present. WBMLP GM Fitch and Assistant GM Allen were present. (2) Customer/residents were present.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from November 7, 2023 and December 5, 2023.

Customer Issues: GM Fitch informed the Board that WBMLP received a public record request dated March 5, 2024 (See attached letter). It requested all residential customer information with debt over 60 days. WBMLP's attorney reviewed the request and provided an opinion that recommended withholding the information on privacy grounds. WBMLP sent the requestor a letter on March 8, 2024, denying the public records request.

Financials: The Board was informed the 2023 financial audit was underway but there will be a delay due to the transition to the billing and accounting platform. The Board reviewed the attached draft 2023 income statement to date.

Investment Accounts: GM Fitch let the Board know that Bartholomew & Company, Inc. will review the financial performance of the operating reserve and depreciation accounts on May 7, 2024.

New Billing and Accounting Software: The Board was provided with an update on the new NISC billing and accounting software. WBMLP is in its second full month after go-live. There are no large-scale issues to date.

Energy Supply: GM Fitch let the Board know that WBMLP and ENE met with MWRA last week to discuss potentially purchasing the energy and attributes from Oakdale Hydro located in West Boylston. WBMLP, ENE, and MWRA will meet again in the future to discuss.

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Demand Reduction Gen-Set Project: The Board and staff discussed the costs and benefits, outlined in the attached chart, of renting a generator again this year to reduce our summer monthly and annual coincident peak demand.

Clean Heat Standard (CHS): The Board and staff discussed the CHS and that MLP's, through MEAM, will meet with MassDEP to discuss the proposed CHS framework/regulation impacting all utilities, delivered fuel companies, & MLPs. The CHS would require MLPs to fully electrify an annual number of residential HVAC systems and lower annual GHG emissions.

In 2026, the CHS would require WBMLP to electrify (21) homes, (4) of which (25%) must be low-income residences. The requirement increases to approx. 60-65 homes annually from 2034-2050. If we do not meet the CHS, compliance costs start at \$6k in 2026 and increase to \$10k in 2030. The compliance costs are double for not meeting the low-income requirements.

Electricity Rates: The Board reviewed and discussed the attached 2023 average residential and commercial rate comparisons. PLM and Utility Financial Solutions, LLC provided the attached cost of service (COS) study quotes. WBMLP expects a COS to provide guidance and options on how our electric rates should be designed over the next 3-5 years. The main goal of the COS is to review our existing rates and rate structure to ensure they achieve the appropriate rate of return (up to 8%). The rate study should also discuss options for early payment discounts, increasing fixed customer charges, consolidating bill line items, PPA, etc. The COS will cost approximately \$20,000 - \$27,000 and take (10-12) weeks to complete. No decision was made to select or approve a COS.

Project 2015A: Staff let the Board know the new tentative commercial operation date is April 5, 2024.

New Garage: Staff provided the Board with a brief project update on construction activities.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Staff provided the Board with a brief project update on construction activities.

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Municipal Fiber Network: GM Fitch updated the Board on WBMLP's efforts to apply to the state's Municipal Fiber Grant program. WBMLP and the Town are inventorying the existing data/communications equipment in each public building. The Board and staff reviewed the attached draft inventory of existing infrastructure and new infrastructure required to create a municipal building network. We are preparing a design and cost estimate to interconnect the (9) public buildings to our municipal fiber network. This grant program supports building municipal networks. We expect the grant to assist in the provision of fiber and equipment to each municipal building with headend equipment at WBMLP.

Commissioner Meola mentioned that pole 23-1 at the Middle/High School was leaning. This pole will be used for the municipal fiber project, so it needs to be guyed.

Other: Commissioner Pedone requested the Tennis Court and Basketball Court lighting be scheduled to turn on at dusk and off at 10pm, starting April 1st.

Meeting Adjourned 6:15pm