

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, 5:00pm, August 13, 2024

Present: Commissioners Jim Pedone, Win handy, and Tony Meola. WBMLP Staff, Jon Fitch and Brian Allen.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from March 12, 2024 and April 2, 2024.

Customer Issues: GM Fitch informed the Board that Angell Brook Village (ABV) is researching rooftop solar. ABV roofs are reaching end-of-life and need replacement. There are (132) units in ABV. ABV wanted to know what the solar incentives are:

- Federal income tax credit of 30% of installed cost
- State income tax credit of 15% up to \$1,000

New Development: The Board and staff discussed new customers and potential development in the town including:

- Century Drive: 45-acre lot is now cleared. Potential for 7-9 commercial buildings
- 235 West Boylston Street: Demolition should start soon. Potential for both commercial and apartment space.

Customer On-line Flyer: The Board reviewed and approved the attached draft flyer on past, present, and future electricity rates and GHG emissions. WBMLP will post this graphic online and on Facebook.

Induction Stove Demo: GM Fitch informed the Board that WBMLP is sponsoring an induction stove demo this fall at the library. The cost is \$500 for up to 20 attendees, including samples of food that will be cooked during the event. WBMLP will attend and discuss our rebates and incentives for induction stoves.

Old and New Garage Update: Assistant GM Allen updated the Board on how the old and new garages are being used. The line crews were able to fit almost 100%

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of our transformers, conductors, and underground inventory inside the old garage space. The line crews were also able to fit our one-reel and three-reel wire trailers in our old garage space.

Financials: The Board and GM Fitch discussed the ongoing FY2023 financial audit. The audit is almost complete. The Board discussed writing off approximately \$473,378.51 in uncollected PPA charges that WBMLP could have charged all customers. Commissioner Pedone made a motion to approve the write-off of approximately \$473,378.51 in uncollected PPA charges. Commissioner Meola seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of writing off the uncollected PPA amount.

Commissioner Meola wants to know what the management fees are for Bartholomew and Company. GM Fitch will provide the Board with the actual management fee at the next meeting. The Commissioner's also discussed changing current investment policy to a "prudent investment policy".

New Peaking Plant: WBMLP staff provided the Board an update on how our new Northeast Reliability Center, 60-megawatt (MW) capacity and reliability balancing resource, responded and ran during the heat wave in July and scarcity condition in the ISO-NE market on August 1st.

Light Up Navajo VI: Staff updated the Board on the 2025 Light Up Navajo schedule. WBMLP line crews will participate in the open weekly slots in mid-June 2025. WBMLP plans to send (3) 2-man crews for one week each. Participating in the planned Light Up Navajo is practice for unplanned mutual aid events.

Cybersecurity Grant: WBMLP, MMWEC, and the Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) applied for a Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC) Program, sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE). If awarded, STCC will receive grant funding and shoulder the burden of the grant management/reporting and MMWEC municipals will get the benefit of cybersecurity services and training. WBMLP is waiting on the results of the grant application.

Off-Shore Wind: The Board and staff discussed offshore wind and a potential PPA for WBMLP Board to consider at a future date. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management granted New England Wind its final federal approval. Avangrid announced back in March 2024 that it submitted multiple proposals for approx.

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1,900 megawatts of offshore wind, including a firm 50 MW for MMWEC members (at our option) as part of New England Wind 1. Per Avangrid's announcement, they are committed to working with MMWEC members if the project is selected by the state RFP on or about September 6, 2024.

Clean Heat Standard: GM Fitch let the Board know that MA MLP's are still discussing the MassDEP proposed regulation called the Clean Heat Standard (CHS) applicable on all utilities, delivered fuel companies, and MLPs.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Assistant GM Allen provided the Board a project update for the 3MW/9MWh BESS project under construction.

Municipal Fiber Network: GM Fitch provided the Board with an update on the municipal building fiber project. WBMLP and SELCO met to finalize the fiber design. SELCO will provide a cost estimate to interconnect the municipal buildings. LAMB installed fiber between the garage and main office. Ayacht Technologies is getting the garage interconnected to our existing network to provide internet in the garage as a backup to the main office. WBMLP will meet with the town's IT consultant and Administrator to coordinate the fiber installation and headend equipment for each municipal building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Win Handy

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola