

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, June 10, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioners Jim Pedone, Tony Meola, and James Kingsley. WBMLP staff, Jonathan Fitch and Chris Trudeau. Resident David Ashwell.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the attached meeting minutes from February 4, 2025, and March 4, 2025.

Customer Issues: Staff provided the Board an update. WBMLP completed the installation of replacement shrubs at 8 Temple Street (Maple St).

Ripple Fiber: The Board and staff discussed the Ripple Fiber project. Ripple representatives will attend the next Board meeting on July 1st to provide a project update. WBMLP is working with Ripple Fiber to receive ISP quality internet service in exchange for conduit access under two highway bridges in town. WBMLP is repairing manhole under Route 190 bridge crossing Woodland Street.

New Development: GM Fitch provided the Board a brief update on the following new developments in town.

- Century Dr: Site work began again for the 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings.
- 235 West Boylston St: Seeking Comprehensive Permit thru ZBA
- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street. Under construction
- Marsh Hawk Way: Will complete this week

Financials: The Board and staff review and discussed the attached income statement through March 2025.

CBA Renewal: GM Fitch told the Board that negotiations are still underway for new 3-year CBA with the line-workers effective July 1, 2025. Union employees will meet again on June 18th to discuss and potentially vote on CBA.

Pole Replacement Project: Staff and Board discussed this year's capital project to replace approximately 50-60 utility poles along West Boylston Street, Worcester

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Street, Newton Street, and Pierce Street. Project will start June 16th and continue through summer.

Municipal Fiber Network: Staff and Board discussed the design of the ISP headend. GM Fitch approved the PO to purchase headend equipment and service for WBMLP to become the ISP for municipal buildings. Once headend equipment is installed, we will connect and provide service to WBMLP's substation, library, senior center, and DPW first. GM Fitch let the Board know that providing ISP service to school will take coordination with the schools IT manager and the state's E-Rate program.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: Staff updated the Board on the following state regulatory and legislative issues WBMLP is working on. See attached document summarizing each issue.

- **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 oil, natural gas, and propane HVAC systems in an increasing number of residential buildings annually.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): Staff provided the Board a project update. Project is under construction and anticipate a commercial operation date of September 2025.

Temp Generator: GM Fitch let the Board know the temporary summer generator was connected at the end of May and is operational for summer peaks.

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Also the Board and staff briefly discussed the ongoing rate study, electricity rates, discount rates and new rate structures. The Board also inquired about AMI meters. WBMLP will convert to AMI in the future now that we have a new billing system.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:10pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone

Tony Meola