

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, July 8, 2025, 29 Prospect Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Present: Commissioner's James Kingsley and Jim Pedone. BOS David Ashwell, Ripple Fiber Stephen Maher. WBMLP Staff Jonathan Fitch and Chris Trudeau.

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

Meeting Minutes: The Board did not review or approve meeting minutes.

Customer Issues:

- GM Fitch let the Board know WBMLP was working on removing the double poles on Laurel Street.

Ripple Fiber: Ripple Fiber provided the Board an FTTH project update. Ripple decided to install fiber underground along 75% of the town's ROW and 25% as overhead pole attachments. Underground work will start in September pending town licensing and permitting. WBMLP is working with Ripple Fiber to receive ISP quality internet service in exchange for conduit access under two highway bridges in town. WBMLP repaired the manhole under the Route 190 bridge crossing Woodland Street.

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

- Century Dr: Site work is underway for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings.
- 235 West Boylston St: Seeking comprehensive Permit thru ZBA
- Hartwell & Shrewsbury Street: Under construction

Financials: The Board reviewed and discussed the attached income statement through April 2025.

Pole Replacement Project: The Board and GM discussed the project to replace approximately 60 utility poles along West Boylston Street, Worcester Street, Newton Street, and Pierce Street. Pole sets should be completed by the end of this week. WBMLP will begin line construction and transfer to new poles throughout the summer.

Municipal ISP and Fiber Network: GM Fitch let the Board know that headend equipment was in stock and scheduled for installation. Once headend equipment is

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installed, we will connect and provide service to WBMLP's substation, library, senior center, and DPW first. Ripple's ISP service should be available within 60 days.

Regulatory and Legislative Issues: Did not discuss.

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS): GM Fitch provided the Board a project update. The project is currently under construction. Underground conduit work is complete. Foundation pads are under construction. Concrete foundations should be poured at the end of this week or next, pending any outcomes of the fire permit and fire department meeting this Thursday. BESS equipment will be delivered in the week of July 21st. WBMLP anticipates a commercial operation date of September 2025.

Temp Generator: The Board and GM discussed the temporary summer generator which is connected and operational for reducing summer peaks.

- The month of June peak was June 24th, hour ending 1900hrs.
- The month of July peak to date is July 1st, hour ending 1900hrs.

CBA and Other Employee Wages: GM Fitch provided the Board the attached strategy outline for negotiating all WBMLP's wages. GM Fitch let the Board know that he had negotiated a new 3-year CBA with the line-workers and reviewed and adjusted the office staff wages to remain competitive compared to the surrounding MLP's.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

James Kingsley

Jim Pedone