

# WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

4 Crescent Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Telephone (508) 835-3681

Fax (508) 835-2952

## **Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes**

5:00pm, March 3, 2026, 29 Prospect Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room.

**Present:** Commissioners Jim Pedone, James Kingsley, and Tony Meola.  
WBMLP staff, Jon 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 December 9, 2025.

**Customer Issues:** None discussed.

**Financials:** The Board and staff reviewed the attached OPEB trust fund investments and performance. WBMLP's OPEB liability is 77% funded. WBMLP continues to make \$60,000 annual payments into the OPEB fund. The Board and staff discussed why we have an OPEB fund and how it works once it is fully funded.

**FY2025 Audit:** Staff let the Board know that our auditor will attend and present to the Board the FY2025 audit at the April 2026 meeting.

**WRRS:** The Board and staff discussed and reviewed the FY2027 Worcester Regional Retirement System assessments that are due July 1, 2026. The assessment increased approximately 10% from last year. Last July 2025 WBMLP paid \$411,073. The new amount due is \$453,460. The Board discussed the funding schedule and what happens if the pension liability is not funded by the current target date. GM Fitch believes the funding schedule will have to change and get extended well beyond the current target date.

**2025 NextZero Results:** The Board and staff discussed and reviewed the attached summary of residential rebates and incentives provided in 2025.

**2025 Rate Comparison:** The Board reviewed the attached rate summary for 2025. The Board and staff discussed reviewing the rates again the summer.

**Health Insurance:** Staff gave the Board an update on the new health insurance rates. The rates are expected to increase approximately 13.45% effective July 1, 2026. The annual cost to WBMLP will increase \$30,607.97 to \$258,208.13 for (6) employee family plans and (5) employee individual plans.

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**MassDEP and HDO Regulations:** The Board and staff discussed MassDEP's proposal to amend/delay the HDO start year in 310 CMR 7.40(1)(d)4. from model year 2026 to 2027. Truck manufacturers have indicated for model year 2026 they do not have HDO-compliant vehicles for many truck applications and would need to restrict sales to comply with HDO, reducing the availability of trucks to a wide range of MA users. GM Fitch is trying to determine if CA law exempts heavy duty emergency vehicles like material handlers and digger derricks. If so, MA law follows the CA law.

**New Development:** The Board and staff reviewed the following projects.

- Century Drive: Site work underway for 7-9 commercial/industrial buildings.
- 235-249 West Boylston Street: Site work started for one building off Pierce St. with 60 apartments, and two buildings off West Boylston St. with 10 apartments and (3) commercial spaces each.
- 244-264 West Boylston Street: New Dunkin Donuts between CVS and existing Dunkin Donuts. No work has started yet.
- 101R Hartwell St: Adding second 2,500kVA electric service.

**Landfill Well Monitoring:** Staff updated the Board. WBMLP is assisting Town with groundwater inspections at the capped landfill. Tests results show water quality parameters exceeding standards. MassDEP requires additional and more frequent testing. WBMLP will continue responsibility for general O&M and monitoring of the cap. The Board agrees with staff that the town is responsible for the cost of additional testing due to exceedances.

**Ripple Fiber:** The Board briefly discussed Ripple's work throughout town installing fiber.

**Municipal ISP and Fiber Network:** The Board and staff discussed the status of WBMLP's municipal building fiber network. Staff let the Board know it is operating on Ripple's ISP service. The town's IT provider connected all the departments/buildings except the library and schools. The two departments will take additional coordination since they utilize unique applications and existing contracts. Phoenix installed the backup fiber line between the high school and the elementary & middle school. The ends will be terminated by the end of the week.

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Meeting adjourned 5:45pm.

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James Kingsley

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Jim Pedone

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Tony Meola