

# 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, April 17, 2012**

**Present: Board members, Winthrop Handy, Anthony Meola Jr, and William Smith, and GM Jonathan Fitch.**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm by Chairman Winthrop Handy.**

**Agenda:** The Board approved the agenda without changes.

**Meeting Minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes dated March 13, 2012.

**Bank Balances:** The Board reviewed the bank balances as of March 31, 2012

**2012 Financial Statements:** The Board reviewed the financial summary of March 2012, the income statement as of the end of January 2012, and the draft budgets for FY2012 and 2013.

**2011 Financial Audit:** Mr. Fitch let the Board know the 2011 annual financial audit was still underway.

**115kV Substation Project:** The project to replace our substation will start in August/September. WBMLP's share of the project cost is approximately \$2M. We expect to finish the project by March 2013.

Mr. Fitch stated that he will prepare a presentation of the project for the annual Town Meeting on May 21, 2012, 7:00pm. The Commissioners discussed going to the annual town meeting to assist in the presentation.

WBMLP has a warrant article to finance the substation project. This is least costly method to finance the project but it does require 2/3 voter approval at Town Meeting. WBMLP will make its share of the \$450k down-payment for the transformer order within the next 1-2 months.

**Capital Project List:** See attached list of proposed capital projects.

- Computers and network equipment replacement
- Brick cleaning, pointing, and sealing
- Trim painting
- AC Units for main office

The board discussed the various projects related to the office and building. The board wants the GM to see about additional discounts for the office computers if we pay up-front. The board inspected the exterior of the facility and asked for options like vinyl, aluminum, and fypon type materials for the trim and finish work. Commissioners suggested WBMLP contact Orciani Welding for railings around the loading dock and Wellmark for a quote to cover all the trim.

**Retiree Health Insurance:** Currently, WBMLP provides health insurance to (15) retired employees. Based on the contributions from WBMLP this cost us approximately \$67,000 annually. Life insurance is provided to (10) retired employees and cost approximately \$400.00 annually. The board should discuss retiree health benefit's contribution. The percent contributed by WBMLP varies from 73% - 87%. Current employee contributions by the Town are 60/80/80%.

Mr. Fitch asked the board to consider the WBMLP contribution percentage at future meetings. He wanted the board to consider matching the town percentages and believe that the board wanted to accomplish this goal sometime in the future.

**Oakdale Hydro:** MWRA is still evaluating our demand.

**HB3896:** HB3896 mandates that existing MLP's charge its customers a renewable energy and conservation charge and require the MLP's to meet the states RPS standard. In order to meet the requirements of this proposed bill, WBMLP would have to increase rates 6% to collect the \$550k in new mandates. WBMLP continues to watch the progress of this bill.

Commission Smith asked if WBMLP contacted Senator Chandler and that she may be helpful as well. Mr. Fitch said he would contact Senator Chandler immediately and ask for her support to oppose HB3896

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**Other:** The next meeting will be May 15 to prepare for the annual town meeting presentation on May 21. Following that meeting the Board will like to schedule regular meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm**

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**Winthrop Handy, Chairman**

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**Anthony Meola Jr,**

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**William Smith**