

WEST BOYLSTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

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Board of Light Commission, Regular Session Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2016

Present: Board members, Win Handy (approx. 5:30pm), Anthony Meola, William Smith, GM Jonathan Fitch, and Dave Eckhardt PE, were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Commissioner Smith.

Agenda: The Board reviewed and approved the agenda.

Meeting Minutes: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes of November 3, 2015 and December 1, 2015.

Financial Statements: FY2015 financial statement and bank balances to date.

Emerald Ash Borer: Mr. Eckhardt introduced the Board to the facts regarding a new beetle infestation in ash trees in MA. The Town will develop a risk management plan to deal with the issue. Inventorying trees along the roads and electrical distribution system is the first step. Ash trees make up 5% of forest. No federal assistance with this beetle. The Board discussed the risk, the cost of removing trees, and responsibility for the cost. More information will follow once a task force is developed and meets.

MA Green Communities Designation: Mr. Fitch gave the Board an update on how a community can be designated a “Green Community” if it meets (5) criteria. Most of the criteria is dependent upon the Town implementing the (5) criteria. Attached is an executive summary of the program and criteria. MA DOER states there is 6th criteria for MLP’s and that is to charge each customer a “renewable energy charge” and give the funds to the state’s renewable energy trust which funds grants and rebates issued by MassCEC.

MassCEC Grants and Rebates: Mr. Fitch gave the Board an update on how the renewable energy charge is used. Communities and individual customers can request grants from the state administered, MassCEC, if the community’s ratepayers, pay through their electricity bill, a renewable energy charge of \$0.0005/kWh. All investor owned utility ratepayers pay

this charge. The following MLP's have opted in 2009 to contribute; Ashburnham, Holden, Holyoke, Russell, and Templeton. No other MLP has joined since 2009.

Sidewalk Reconstruction Project: The Board discussed the town project to reconstruct the sidewalks along Crescent, Prospect, Goodale, and Central Streets. Approximately (40) poles should be replaced and some may need to be relocated for sidewalk clearance and ADA compliance.

Solar Project: (Did not discuss)

911/Dispatch Fiber: (Did not discuss)

Trucks: (Did not discuss)

Other: The Board discussed the flag and lights on the Old Stone Church. The Board would like to see the overhead wires installed underground along the RT 140 causeway, which will be repaved this year. The Board also discussed and liked the idea of causeway LED lighting, similar to the type used on new bridges, like Shrewsbury's.

The next meeting is February 2, 2016. The Board meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Anthony Meola Jr,

Winthrop Handy

William Smith