

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 of February 4, 2020.

Present: Board members Tony Meola, Denny Smith, and, GM Jonathan Fitch, were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:07pm by Commissioner Smith.

Agenda: The Board reviewed and approved the agenda as posted.

Meeting Minutes: None reviewed or approved.

Customer Questions or Concerns: Did not discuss.

Lunch at Senior Center: The Board and GM discussed the senior lunch scheduled for 11:30am April 7, 2020. WBMLP plans to discuss energy supply and customer energy efficiency incentives, plus provide lunch and LED light bulbs.

Financial Statements: The Board and GM discussed and reviewed the attached income statement and bank balances through December 31, 2019. The Board also reviewed the OPEB trust fund balance and asked for the list of OPEB fund investments.

2020 Budget: The Board reviewed the attached summary of 2020 Energy Efficiency Incentives. WBMLP will mail and post online.

Electrical Distribution Projects: The GM provided the Board with updates on the attached project list.

New Fire and Security Alarm System: GM Fitch told the Board that WBMLP is replacing the old substation security and camera system with a new system, including fire detection, security, and high definition cameras. WBMLP is also installing a new fire and security alarm in the electrical enclosure for the 370kW solar and FESS systems. Both were recommended by our property insurance policy.

WBMLP Staffing: GM Fitch told the Boar that WBMLP is rehiring an “assistant manager & engineer” in preparation for new OSHA requirements and the

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electrification of heat/cooling systems and vehicles. WBMLP will have to prepare and upgrade portions of its electrical distribution system for this significant new load and to ensure we maintain a highly reliable electrical distribution system.

Digger Derrick: WBMLP is preparing a specification for new 4x4 digger derrick to replace our 2008, International DuraStar, Terex digger derrick. To be discuss at future meetings.

LUN-II: WBMLP plans to send (4) line-workers to the Navajo Nation this year to train on rural utility standards, different utility work practices, different safety practices, and new construction techniques while providing electricity to unserved customers. WBMLP plans to send (2) line-workers for two weeks, then swap out with (2) other line-workers the next two weeks from, April 4th through May 1st.

Another MLP asked the state retirement board (PERAC) about death and disability retirement benefits for line-workers while performing this duty as non-emergency mutual aid. WBMLP did not send our line-workers last year, or plan to this year, as volunteers or under a mutual aid agreement. This is training and professional development of our line-workers for WBMLPs benefit, as stated previously.

The Board instructed the GM to ask PERAC for an opinion regarding death and disability retirement benefits while conducting this type of training and professional development.

Fiber Backbone: Boylston, West Boylston, and Sterling are installing the fiber backbone thru each MLP territory and interconnecting to SELCO. GM Fitch told the Board the project should be completed within 1-2 months.

FESS: WBMLP is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony with EEOA and DOER for the FESS project on March 23, 2020.

MLP GGES Standard: The MLPs created a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction standard, known as the “Municipal Lighting Plant GGES.” It set a minimum percentage of non-carbon emitting energy sold to all retail customers as follows:

7% by 2021

40% by 2030

60% by 2040

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80% by 2050

WBMLPs existing large-scale hydro and nuclear energy complied with the GGES standard. This GGES, which WBMLP approved and adopted last year, provides WBMLP the time to change its energy portfolio and help the Commonwealth reach its long term GHG emission reductions goal of 80% by 2050.

The MLPs are improving the MLP GGES Legislation by removing “double counting” of RECs, which didn’t significantly impact WBMLP. The MLPs are also increasing the minimum percentage of non-carbon emitting energy sold to all retail customers as follows:

50% by 2030

75% by 2040

Net zero by 2050

The Board and GM discussed the GGES and how it would impact WBMLP’s power supply. GM Fitch told the Board that WBMLP’s power supply was already approximately 50% non-GHG emitting already and that WBMLP could meet the 2050 goal. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and adopt the MLP GGES. Commissioner Meola seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0 in favor of approving and adopting the MLP GGES for West Boylston.

GWSA legislation: GM Fitch told the Board that House Bill 832/3983 is proposed legislation that requires MLPs to comply with the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). This would allow EEOA, DEP, and DOER to regulate MLPs, most likely through the RPS and CES standards. By adopting the MLP GGES above, WBMLP is maintaining local control and reaches the same statewide GHG reduction goals in the GWSA.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. The next meeting is 5:00pm, March 3, 2020.

Denny Smith

Tony Meola