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Minutes
Town of Belmont
Belmont Municipal Light Department
Municipal Light Advisory Board
Public Meeting
W.L. Chenery Middle School Auditorium
Monday, January 9, 2012
7:30 P.M.

I. 115kV PROJECT PRESENTATION: PROBLEMS, OPTIONS, SOLUTIONS

Present: BMLAB Chair Brown, Vice Chair Forrester; MLAB Members DiOrio, McClain; BMLD General Manager Palmer, BMLD Staff, Santoro; Site Selection member McLaughlin; Town Meeting members.

II.

Chair Brown presented to the Town Meeting members and to the public the 115kV project presentation. He noted that this is the opportunity to ask questions regarding the project and substation and inform the public with updated information. Since 2009 Belmont Light has made many changes and a new project team has been hired. This project team has much experience building such successful projects. All consultants hired to evaluate the system agree that it is in the best interest for the town to build a new substation and improve capacity. If an upgrade in transmission capabilities does not happen and an upgrade to the 115kV transmission line quality service problems will continue. Brown stated that going with the 115kV transmission line is the cheaper option and there is a memorandum of understanding with NSTAR to look at the project and get it started.

Brown stated that there are three fundamental problems Belmont Light faces. The first is the aging infrastructure which needs replacing. The second issue is problems with power quality and the final issue is the capacity problem, which the peak demand it at the maximum level. Brown stated that Belmont needs to replace both the substation and the lines that feed it since they are beyond their useful life. It is critical to bring the infrastructure up to date. When demand hits its peak the system has to be able to deliver power. Brown stated that the other option being considered is the 13.8kV option or the option to leave it alone and do nothing. If deferring a decision to act problems will occur. Difficulties with power of service will continue and Belmont Light would be giving up control of its own energy future.

Palmer stated that the lines in the current system are over sixty years old. These lines feed into the three substations located in town. These three substations are obsolete and hard to maintain. Palmer explained how the transmission lines work and the pros and cons of each option. The 115kV option solves all three problems Belmont Light it is facing. Palmer stated it is agreed that the transmission cable route will run along the MBTA route and tie into the 20 Flanders Road property.

McLaughlin was introduced to talk about the site selection. He stated that the committee looked at up to 20 sites for this project and agreed that 20 Flanders Road was the best property. It is an acre of land

that has the 26,000 square foot minimum for the new substation and there is 14,000 square feet for parking and equipment access. This property is the closest to the Cambridge line to bring in the transmission lines in along the MBTA route. Many factors were taken into consideration such as environmental, structural, neighborhood impact and town disruption during construction. Environmental testing has been done on the 20 Flanders Road property and found no concerns. Brown stated to summarize, this is a decision to save money and improve reliability for the town of Belmont.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The Board moved: into Executive Session at 8:20 PM.

Executive Session: to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other propriety information provided in the course of activities conducted by a governmental body as an energy supplier under a license granted by the department of public utilities pursuant to section 1F of chapter 164.