

Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board Meeting
BMLD Conference Room, 40 Prince Street
Monday, July 23, 2012
7:15 PM

Attendees:

James Palmer, BMLD General Manager/CEO
Ashley Brown, Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) Chair
Bob Forrester, Municipal Light Advisory Board Vice Chair
Patricia DiOrio, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Gretchen McClain, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Timothy McCarthy, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Ralph Jones, Municipal Light Board Chair
Mark McVay, Municipal Light Board

Call To Order:

The meeting of the Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board was called to order at 7:24 PM by Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) Chair, Ashley Brown.

General Manager's Report:

Palmer stated that the substation project team has been focusing on the Independent System Operator – New England (ISO – NE), Transmission Cost Allocation (TCA) Approval, and BMLD/NSTAR ownership and voltage supply decision. Palmer stated the project public outreach continues with the BMLD issuing its quarterly newsletter in July, which is also posted on the website. The team has been working on the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) easement and development of the baseline integrated project schedule. Palmer also stated that access has been gained through the MBTA to do soil testing on the railway. A target date of mid October for executing the MBTA easement is hopeful. There is an encroachment on the railway of approximately 25 feet by Mobardy, Inc. and the MBTA is working with them to move their debris and construction material. That work should be done by the end of August.

Palmer then moved on to budget and cost items. He stated that they are still tracking the cost of the project based on the original work breakdown structure. Most of the cost to date is due to the testing going on with the railway and also the integrated project schedule. Palmer stated that the project is on schedule and moving along nicely. There will be another monthly report distributed in a few days.

Palmer stated that the reorganization project within the BMLD is still ongoing and currently in Phase II. Palmer is meeting with Human Resources to post an IT Position which will be out in September. The Director of Operations position has been posted and resulted in not many candidates; however that position will be filled by September as well. Palmer also stated that a

Junior Engineer Position and a Meter Position will also be posted within a few months. The cost of service study will be addressed at a meeting with LaCapra & Associates at the end of August.

Town Pilot Payment Discussion

Palmer stated that with the new solar panels placed on the schools, the school department may be approaching the BMLD for suggested ideas about net metering. Palmer stated that the Pilot Payment is the second highest in the state and with municipal subsidizes we are paying close to 1 million a year to the town. Forrester stated that there are only two other municipalities whose pilots are higher and those are Merrimac and Braintree.

Governance Structure:

Selgrade presented his report addressing the issues of the governance structure and where the duties should fall. He stated that a new Light Board member can be appointed every year and the selection would be done by the Selectmen. Given the process of getting expertise on board, it would then relieve some of those duties. Such a special legislation would have to be drafted and approved (if removing the Selectmen from the Light Board the legislation has to be re-written and the Selectmen need to approve it, which will go to Town Meeting.) Brown stated that there should be between 5-7 members. It was agreed that legislation will be drafted and sent to Paul Solomon, Government Structure Review Committee Chair.

Adjournment:

The meeting of the Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board was adjourned at 8:45 PM by Belmont Light Advisory Chair, Ashley Brown.