

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD  
BMLD Board Room, 40 Prince Street  
Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
7:15 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 7:20 PM by Ashley Brown, Chair of the Municipal Light Advisory Board.

Present: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Forrester; Members McCarthy, McClain, DiOrio; Selectman Jones; BMLD General Manager Palmer; BMLD Staff Dunleavy, Mancinelli, Tillberg, Murphy; LaCapra & Associates Staff Faryniarz, Koehler; AECOM Staff Joseph.

Absent: Member McVay

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was no approval of meeting minutes.

**III. DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT:**

Palmer stated that there are currently 3,100 smart meters installed in the Town. The mesh network will be completely installed by April 2013. There have been problems with the Cogsdale billing system regarding time of use metering. Cogsdale has an updated billing version which will be tested and implemented within the next two weeks if problems are resolved.

Faryniarz from LaCapra & Associates presented the time-of-use pricing and critical peak pricing approaches. He completed a comparison with National Grid looking at the summer season when the demand is highest and the main purpose is to flatten the load during that time. He presented the many rate structures available and found that within critical peak pricing for residential customers there are more programs available during the summer peak seasons, therefore taking the winter season off.

Critical peak pricing is estimated to call 12 periods a year starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, if the temperature goes over 90 degrees. Over the course of the year if a customer does not change their usage there is no impacted effect. The total potential savings to the customer is estimated to be between \$4.00 – \$7.00 per year. Brown asked why they should restrict the program only to the summer months. Faryniarz stated that getting the transmission peak in the winter is much harder.

Faryniarz suggested introducing a pilot program to the public and stated that good informational flow to the customer will help make the program a success. Palmer stated that once the problems with the Cogsdale billing system have been resolved, BMLD can then make a decision by April regarding the critical peak pricing options.

Dunleavy presented concerns regarding the Cogsdale billing system. The first testing upgrade with Cogsdale failed and as a result could not bill time-of-use metering. The overall reputation of Cogsdale is good; however the company was bought out by Harris Company and that is when the problems started. To summarize, it has been a difficult process, but they are aiming for a resolution by April 2013.

#### **IV. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Palmer introduced Robin Tillberg as the new Information Technology Director hired at the BMLD. Tillberg stated that he went to Northeastern University and has a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering. He is looking forward to implementing new changes within the Department, especially when the substation project begins. The Board welcomed Tillberg to the team.

Palmer presented the substation project update stating that a design memo has been submitted by the owner engineer and has been approved by the BMLD. Thirty percent of the design drawings have been approved and they are moving forward. Palmer stated that nothing else can be discussed in open meeting since negotiations are still in progress.

Forrester noted the Board's high support of the BMLD's performance during the February blizzard.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM and went into executive session.