

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD IN JOINT WITH
MUNICIPAL LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL
Monday, March 10, 2014
6:30 P.M.**

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I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Paolillo called a joint meeting of the Municipal Light Board (BMLB) and the Municipal Light Advisory Board (BMLAB) to order at 6:30 PM.

Present:

BMLB- Chair Paolillo, Selectmen Jones and Rojas

BMLAB- Vice Chair Forrester, Members DiOrio, Klionsky, and McClain

Belmont Light- General Manager Palmer, Staff Keane, Legal Counsel Foskett

Belmont Residents

Absent:

BMLAB Chair Brown and Member McVay

II. SUBSTATION AND TRANSMISSION PROJECT UPDATE

Paolillo stated that prior to discussing and voting on the renewal of General Manager Palmer's employment contract, it was important to provide a general update on the substation and transmission project. Paolillo and Jones said that despite the presence of misinformation regarding the project, namely content from a letter to the editor that appeared in the Citizen-Herald on March 6th titled "Substation Delay", BMLB sees the project as moving along very well. The project is on schedule and on budget.

III. DISCUSSION OF GENERAL MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT

The Board then discussed General Manager Palmer's employment contract, which expired on February 9, 2014. Members of BMLAB were present to share the results of a comprehensive evaluation they conducted of Palmer's performance. Forrester reported that, to date, Palmer's performance has been outstanding, and BMLAB therefore recommended that that Palmer's contract be extended for 3 more years. Forrester cited several examples of the department's notable accomplishments under Palmer's leadership over the past year, including:

- successful progress with the substation and transmission project;
- successful negotiations with NSTAR, which will save the town millions of dollars;
- a critical reorganization of the department's personnel;
- the introduction of new programs on energy efficiency and policies on distributed generation; and
- successful management of power procurement and department finances.

Jones, Rojas, and Paolillo all agreed that Palmer has done a great job in his role as general manager. Jones specified that Palmer exceeded standards set by previous management.

From the audience, two Belmont residents voiced that they had feedback to share. Paolillo responded that BMLB does not recognize audience comments or include citizen input while evaluating the performances of town personnel.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Boards moved: to enter Executive Session at 6:42 PM to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

V. CONSIDERATION OF AND VOTING ON GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTRACT

The Boards moved to re-enter open session at 6:54 PM.

Paolillo stated that the two Boards met to discuss Palmer's performance review, extending his contract for 3 years, and increasing his salary from increasing his salary from \$155,324 to \$160,500 plus \$10,000 on-call stipend, disability insurance, and a company vehicle. This salary change would mark a 3.3 percent increase, which is in line with what other town department heads receive.

BMLB moved to extend Palmer's contract by 3 years. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

BMLB moved to increase Palmer's salary by 3.3 percent. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting of BMLB and BMLAB was adjourned by BMLB Chair Paolillo at 6:56 PM.