

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BELMONT MUNICIPAL LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD  
CONFERENCE ROOM, BELMONT LIGHT  
40 PRINCE STREET, BELMONT  
Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
7:15 P.M.**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA

2015 JUL -1 PM 2:50

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

*Chair Brown called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) to order at 7:21 P.M.*

**Present:**

MLAB- Chair Brown, Vice Chair Forrester, Members DiOrio, Klionsky, McClain

Belmont Light- General Manager Palmer, Staff Keane and Mancinelli, Clerk Williams, Energy Consultant Myette

**Absent:**

Members Jones and McVay

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 2/5/15 & 3/10/15**

*Forrester made the motion to approve minutes from February 5, 2015. The motion was seconded by Klionsky and approved.*

*Forrester made a motion to approve minutes from March 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by Brown and approved.*

**III. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**a. Update on substation and transmission project**

Palmer stated that regarding the project schedule, the project's permitting is now 95% complete, engineering 90% complete, procurement 85% complete, and construction 10% complete. An RFP for the transmission line, which specifically solicits bids for construction work along the railway, went out on April 2nd. A walkthrough with prospective bidders is set up for Thursday. Palmer expects to have the bids back on June 4 and plans to award a contract before July. He expects vendor mobilization by August.

The vendor constructing the new substation building should be ready to mobilize by end of the month. The demolition project has been moving along and all issues have been cleared up. The demolition contractor should finish its work by the end of May.

Palmer met with the town treasurer on April 7 to discuss funding and a 26.4 million short-term bond. Bond assets will be transferred to Eversource at end of project.

McClain asked for more details about where the project team is on permitting. Palmer noted that the MWRA had finally signed off on a permit needed to being the construction along the railway. As for the DPU process, the project team is awaiting for permitting to be finalized. The ISO New England I.3.9 system impact study got approved, according to Eversource. All other permitting is in place to construct the substation building and extend the transmission line.

#### **IV. SUPPLY-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

Gil Myette, of Energy New England, updated the Board on recent occurrences in New England energy markets. He began the discussion by comparing energy prices from this winter to last winter, noting that pricing from December 2014 through March 2015 was notably lower than pricing from the same period in 2013 and 2014. However, the number of home heating days in the two winters was similar. This is because while the month of February was tough this year, December was mild. Last year, constraints along the Algonquin Gas Transmission lines caused price spikes between 70 and 80 dollars. This year, though, prices did not exceed 30 dollars even though constraint circumstances along the pipelines did not change much.

According to Myette, regional and global factors moderated energy prices this winter. For instance, dropping global prices for oil caused reductions in the cost of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD), an alternative to natural gas, also had much lower pricing in 2014/2015 because its pricing is tied to that of crude oil. New England's lower fuel cost can be attributed to these lower prices for LNG and USLD.

The Board and Myette discussed natural gas pricing and energy market trends further, with Myette highlighting that another outcome of lower global fuel prices was that New England became a more viable drop off spot for natural gas supplies than it has in past years, which also contributed to less volatile pricing.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*The Board moved into executive session at 8:19 P.M.:*

To protect trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of proceedings when a municipal lighting plant board determines that such disclosure will adversely affect its ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making, selling or distributing electric power and energy pursuant to section 47D of chapter 164.