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APPROVED
Municipal Light Board
DATE: 12/4/17

MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
TOWN HALL
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, October 16, 2017
5:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dash called to order a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board (MLB) at 5:32 P.M.

Present:

MLB – Chair Adam Dash, Vice Chair Mark Paolillo, Member Jim Williams

Light Board Advisory Committee (LBAC) – Chair Steve Klionsky

Belmont Light (BMLD) – Acting General Manager Craig Spinale, Staff Becca Keane and Aidan Leary

Town Human Resources (HR) Director Jessica Porter

Chair Dash began the meeting by notifying the public of a Belmont Drives Electric Ride & Drive event on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to enter Executive Session at 5:34 P.M. (Paolillo aye, Williams aye, Dash aye):

- a. To conduct strategy sessions in preparations for negotiations with non-union personnel**

The Board moved to return to Open Session at 6:07 P.M. (Paolillo aye, Williams aye, Dash aye).

III. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON BELMONT LIGHT GOVERNANCE

- a. Governance study**

Dash reviewed a proposal from the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management to do a study on the governance of BMLD. He noted that Walter Foskett, Counsel for BMLD, had provided an overview of Municipal Light Board configurations in other Massachusetts municipalities (see below). Dash said this overview aligned with Task 3 of the Collins Center proposal. 16 municipalities have Light Boards elected separately from the Board of Selectmen

(BOS). 4 municipalities, including Belmont, have the BOS serve as the Light Board. 5 municipalities have appointed Light Boards.

b. Municipal Light Board configuration

At the previous MLB meeting, Dash had proposed the idea of adding the Chairs of the LBAC and the Energy Committee to the MLB. Dash said that while the MLB appoints the members of LBAC and the Energy Committee, it does not choose the Chairs for the respective committees, so there is separation. Williams said that it was a lot of power to give to someone who was appointed, not elected. Dash said that his initial suggestion was that this idea should be explored only if the MLB was going to make a change to its configuration.

Williams said that there had been problems for the MLB in the past seven years. He said Dash's idea might be the best idea, but a third party should confirm that. He said that there is evidence that Belmont is in the minority in terms of Light Board configuration.

Paolillo agreed that there had been problems for the MLB in the past few years with the leadership of BMLD, as well as the net metering issue. He stated that he was in favor of an appointed MLB. He asked what the Collins Center study would do. Williams said the Collins Center study would be a stamp of approval. He said in the last ten years, there have been four General Managers of BMLD, which said to Williams that there was a problem. He said the Town of Belmont is a \$24 million business and the proposal is only \$18,000. Dash said that it would be more than \$18,000 because an additional task (#6) in the proposal was the actual action item in the proposal.

Dash said that the Collins Center has no experience dealing with municipal light departments. He said also that there had been turmoil recently, with a new MLB Chair and a new Acting General Manager of BMLD. He did not want to add to that and get in the way of the General Manager search process. Williams said that the benefits greatly outweighed the costs. He said that none of the Members had the time to do such a search. Dash said that he did not want the governance study to tie up the General Manager search and that the study could be performed at a later point.

Paolillo said that he was not in favor of the MFP proposal. He said that he would like to do a General Manager search first. He also said that he is in favor of Dash's proposal of adding the Chair of the LBAC and Energy Committee to the MLB. Dash said that things had gone smoother since Spinale took over and it would be a good idea to see if the problem had been the governance structure or the personnel. Williams said that the Board owed it to the community to have a third party determine what the right configuration would be.

The Board discussed whether a home rule petition would be necessary for the MLB change or whether the change would be done through a change to the bylaws.

Williams said that he would file this discussion in his "I told you so" folder. He said that other items in that folder were the restructured pension, a committee to look at the size of the Board of Selectmen, and actuaries are currently looking at the OPEB issue. Paolillo said that the Board was not in disagreement that the governance issue needed to be revisited, just that it needed to be tabled. Dash added that the answer was not "no" forever.

IV. GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH PROCESS

Dash reviewed a memo that Interim Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall (not present) had provided regarding senior management recruitment at other municipal light plants in Massachusetts. Two recruiting firms were named in the memo: Dacri & Associates of Maine, and Mycroff, Fry & Prouse (MFP) of Colorado. Dash noted that MFP seemed to be held in better esteem of the two firms. The cost of the contract for MFP would be \$50,000 or 15% of the General Manager's contract.

Jessica Porter, the Town's HR Director, said she believed that MFP could do a good job for Belmont and reviewed the process for conducting a search.

Spinale said that in discussions with other Massachusetts municipal light plant General Managers, it appeared MFP was the right choice. He said MFP has experience in searches for Ipswich, Hingham, Braintree, and South Hadley.

Williams asked about the cost of the MFP contract. He said that the \$50,000 would be four times the cost for the Town Administrator search. Porter said that the General Manager search would be much more of a specialized process. Klionsky said that there is value added by a firm who knows the particulars of the industry. Paolillo asked whether the Board could get a detailed breakdown of the cost of the MFP proposal.

Porter said that the cost difference could also come down to supply and demand. She said that the Town received several proposals for the Town Administrator search, whereas there appeared to only be one or two firms that could do the General Manager search.

Dash said that MFP has a database of 25,000 executives throughout the country and would perform a national search. Williams said that he would prefer local recruitment of a General Manager. Spinale said that there are two organizations, the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the Northeast Public Power Association (NEPPA), that could aid with the search on a local level. Williams asked Porter to follow up on Spinale's suggestion.

The group discussed the makeup of the General Manager Search Committee. Dash suggested the members of LBAC, plus the Chair of the Energy Committee and a retired Selectman or other person. Williams suggested mirroring the Town Administrator Search Committee, which included the Chair of the Warrant Committee and the Town Moderator. Paolillo suggested

voting on how to approach the search process and appointing a Search Committee during the next MLB meeting. Dash agreed.

V. DISCUSSION ON BELMONT'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Dash said that he had spoken with Klionsky, Energy Committee Chair Roger Colton (not present), and Spinale regarding how BMLD could work toward the Town's Climate Action Plan (CAP) goal of reducing its carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. He said there were several parts to combat that, including a cost of service study, a rate design plan, and an energy efficiency plan.

Keane, BMLD's Energy Resources Analyst, reviewed the energy efficiency plan, which took the form of a demand side management program matrix. She said that BMLD began the effort internally in 2014 by creating a list of potential demand side management programs and evaluating those programs based on their cost effectiveness and by their carbon reduction impact for the Town. A plan was created in 2015 and BMLD still operates off that plan. That plan was updated for 2017 and was presented to LBAC in February 2017 (see below).

Dash asked about the Integrated Resource Plan, which he said would map out the CAP timeline and track BMLD so that it meets the goals. Keane said the reason it is "integrated" is that brings in the energy efficiency efforts, the supply-side resources, and any alternative efforts such as energy storage.

Dash said that the final item was to make sure that all parties were coordinating so that there would be no doubling of efforts. He said Belmont is uniquely able to make inroads on the CAP because it owns the municipal light plant.

Williams asked about purchased power agreements. Klionsky said that LBAC was having a meeting that week with Energy New England (ENE), the group that puts together BMLD's energy portfolio, to look at options for whom BMLD could contract with in the market. Williams said there should be an opportunity to reduce BMLD's carbon footprint through the portfolio. He asked who would know about the makeup of BMLD's portfolio currently. Keane and Klionsky confirmed that ENE oversees the power portfolio for BMLD. Klionsky added that the General Manager oversees the contract with ENE for BMLD.

Paolillo said that there has not been consistent reporting out on BMLD's progress toward the CAP. He said it is a bit disjointed with all of the boards and committees. He suggested quarterly reports on the CAP progress that would show how BMLD was doing and what it needed to do. Klionsky pointed out that there were a lot of players besides BMLD. He said transportation is a big contributor, as well as gas, petroleum, and heating oil. He said he would look to the Energy Committee to get a handle on who is responsible for what.

Dash said it would be good to see BMLD's impact in a quarterly report.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dash said there was a backlog of meeting minutes to approve, including two meetings he would abstain from voting on because he was not on the MLB yet.

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board minutes dated January 23, 2017. Williams seconded, Dash abstained, and the motion was approved with a vote 2-0.

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board minutes dated March 27, 2017. Williams seconded, Dash abstained, and the motion was approved with a vote 2-0.

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board minutes dated April 24, 2017. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board minutes dated May 8, 2017. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board minutes dated June 16, 2017. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board minutes dated September 11, 2017. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

Paolillo moved to approve the Executive Session minutes dated July 31, 2017.

Williams stated that he was not sure if he had read the minutes in question. The Board agreed to defer a vote until the next meeting.

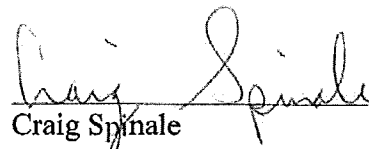
Paolillo moved to approve the Executive Session minutes dated September 11, 2017. Williams seconded and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Due to a busy schedule in the month of November, the Board decided to move the previously scheduled November 20, 2017 meeting to December 4, 2017. A meeting will also be held on December 18, 2017.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Board moved to adjourn at 6:59 P.M.


Craig Spinale
Acting General Manager,
Belmont Light