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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
TOWN HALL
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, September 17, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dash called to order a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board (MLB) at 6:08 P.M.

Present:

Light Board – Chair Adam Dash, Vice Chair Mark Paolillo, Member Tom Caputo

Belmont Light (BMLD) – General Manager Chris Roy, Staff Aidan Leary

Light Board Advisory Committee (LBAC) – Chair Steve Klionsky, Members David Beavers, Travis Franck, and Ralph Jones

II. DISCUSSION ON LBAC CHARGE

Dash said there had been discussion on making the LBAC charge clearer and defining the purviews of the Energy Committee, LBAC, and the Light Board. Klionsky said he had redrafted the charge and presented it to LBAC at its meeting on September 13, 2018. He said he wanted to make it clear that LBAC can provide advice not only to the Light Board, but to Belmont Light as well. He said the charge now listed the areas where LBAC could help and noted that everything will be done in coordination with the Light Board, which has the ultimate authority over Belmont Light. LBAC had reviewed the charge and a few tweaks were made.

Dash asked Roy if there were any omissions from the new version of the charge. Roy said that the new charge covered everything that had been discussed. He said that he and LBAC had also looked at moving the monthly LBAC meetings up one week so that discussion at the LBAC meetings can inform the Light Board agenda. Roy also raised the question of how to incorporate discussions and feedback that span multiple meetings. The Board agreed with the idea of moving up the LBAC meetings.

Caputo asked how much strategic planning goes on at Belmont Light, whether LBAC enters into that process, and whether Roy would want advice on it. Roy said, a tribute to the Belmont community, the strategic planning is already underway at the committee level. Caputo said the term “strategic planning” could be added to the LBAC charge. No objections were raised. Caputo said he would like to push the Board to focus more on strategic actions, although it has

already done so in the past. Franck added that if there is strategic thinking that the Light Board wants LBAC to consider, it should feel free to raise that issue.

Klionsky said there were two other matters. The first was that Roy and LBAC had worked through a draft update to Belmont Light's Power Supply Policy, that LBAC had agreed on the new draft, and that it would now go to the Energy Committee for review. It was discussed that the Energy Committee might review the draft in October and have a final version to present to the Light Board that same month. The second thing raised by Klionsky was that there would be a Cost of Service Study presentation joint meeting on September 26, 2018.

Paolillo moved to approve the Light Board Advisory Committee charge as amended above. Caputo seconded the motion and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to go into executive session at 6:19 P.M. (Caputo aye, Paolillo aye, Dash aye).

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

The Board moved to return to open session at 6:34 P.M. (Caputo aye, Paolillo aye, Dash aye).

IV. DISCUSSION ON LIGHT BOARD CHAIRMANSHIP

Dash said this was a continuation of a discussion from the previous April. Back then, the Board agreed to bring the issue back up in six months. Dash said former Light Board Chair Jim Williams had bifurcated the Chairmanship of the Light Board and the Board of Selectmen midyear, so that a newly elected Selectman/Light Board Member was named Chair of the Light Board after serving for their first six months. He said this was in keeping with the new rules for cycling the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Therefore, Dash said he was suggesting that Caputo should become Chair of the Light Board.

The Board discussed the specifics of cycling Chairs of the Light Board and Board of Selectmen. Six months from the September 2018 meeting, after the April 2019 Town election, Caputo would become Chair and Dash would become Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Dash said you don't want the Chair to be in the third year of their term to prevent manipulation of agendas politically. Caputo said he liked the model, because it allowed the future Chair of the Board of Selectmen to transition into the Chairship with experience. Dash added that the Vice Chair would remain, so there would be continuity.

Paolillo moved to name Tom Caputo as the Municipal Light Board Chair. Dash seconded the motion and the motion was approved with a vote of all in favor (3-0).

V. GENERAL MANAGER'S UPDATE

Roy stated that, back in July 2018, the Light Board had authorized the General Manager to make certain power purchases to hedge for the years 2019 and 2020. He said the prices were found to be quite competitive, so he would be coming back to the Board in October or November to ask to make more purchases, to bring the total hedge amount to 80% for 2019 and 65% for 2020. He said this was about price surety and that these are short term measures while Belmont Light worked on a procurement plan to give it a road map for future purchases.

Roy said that, since taking over Belmont Light, he had noticed problems with how online payments were processed. He said there have been a few online payment outages and other issues. He believed that Belmont Light's enterprise management system, which includes a payment processor, was underutilized and would like to change that. NISC covers a large part of the country and Belmont Light is a member-owner of the company, giving it certain voting power. Roy said he has a pending meeting with Town Treasurer Floyd Carman to discuss the payment options and that if customers see any future payment outages, that is something that is being worked on.

Roy stated that he had met with Steve Dorrance, Director of Facilities, about taking over Belmont's Green Communities status. He said Belmont Light already does much work related to the status, so it made sense to take over ownership. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin stated that she agreed with Belmont Light taking over ownership.

Roy said there was another bushing flashover at Station 3 on Hittinger Street, similar to the previous summer, but the station was out for maintenance, so no customers were affected. He said this demonstrated the sense of urgency for Project C, though. Caputo asked if Project C create a redundancy for the station. Roy responded that it would eliminate the station completely. Paolillo asked Roy to present an update of the overall project at a future meeting.

Roy said that work would be complete on Project B by the end of Fall but that paving may not be complete until Spring of 2019. He confirmed that roads would be patched in the meantime. Roy also reported that work on Project C was beginning, as there was a service upgrade being performed at Belmont Savings Banks, which would allow for work to begin on Belmont Center.

Roy reported that a grant application for the HeatSmart air-sourced heat pump program had been completed and submitted to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). He thanked the Belmont Energy Committee, Belmont Light Energy Resources Analyst, Becca Keane (not present) and Leary for their work on the application.

Roy said that Belmont Light had attended an electric vehicle event at Walden Pond in Concord the past weekend, which was a big success. He said Leary reported that many visitors were asking how they could get Belmont Light to serve them in neighboring towns.

Dash asked Roy if there were any plans to send line workers down to North Carolina to help with recover following Hurricane Florence. Roy said that two trucks had been prepared to go as part of the mutual aid response, but he had been notified that they were not needed after all.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED AUGUST 27, 2018

Dash noted minor grammatical errors in both sets of minutes presented. Paolillo stated that he was absent from the meeting, so he would abstain from voting.

Dash moved to approve the regular session and executive session minutes dated August 27, 2018, as amended. Caputo seconded the motion and the motion was approved with a vote of two in favor, one abstention (2-0-1).

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

The future meetings of the Light Board were stated as follows: September 26th (Cost of Service Study presentation); October 15th; November 19th; and December 17th. All meetings would be at 6:00 P.M.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board moved to adjourn at 6:54 P.M.