

2018 DEC 13 AM 9:05

**FINAL**

**Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of Meeting held on October 11, 2018  
Belmont Light Conference Room  
7:15 pm

Attending LBAC members: Chair Steve Klionsky, Ralph Jones, David Beavers, Travis Franck, Bob Forrester, Roy Epstein

Non-attending LBAC members: Mark McVay

Belmont Light (BL) attending: General Manager Christopher Roy, Aidan Leary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Convened 7:18 pm

**II. FOLLOW UP RATE DISCUSSION TO COST OF SERVICE STUDY**

- LBAC members reviewed the Cost of Service (COS) presentation ('Belmont Light Electric Rate Study Results') presented by Mark Beauchamp of Utility Financial Solutions at the 9/26/18 Light Board meeting.
- Discussion topics included:
  - The impact of BL's relative low load factor (40%) due to the high proportion of residential load served on costs.
  - Is the debt coverage ratio the driving factor, and possibly only factor, behind the recommendation for a rate increase?
  - A big point in the presentation was that the use of revenue bonds versus general obligation bonds is generally preferred for a utility. But the presenter may not be fully aware of BL's position and how it might be different from other utilities. Was analysis fully informed – i.e. considered Belmont's experience?
  - Have the results and calculations in the COS been scrutinized?
  - Per the proposed increase in the monthly fixed-rate customer charge, the committee discussed customer charges in other MLP and IOU compared to the proposed charges and noted that other MLP/IOU charges are lower than the proposed BL charges.
  - Per the potential for a residential demand charge discussed raised at the presentation: it was noted that as new distribution equipment has, or will soon to be, installed in the BL system, the BL system should be able to handle local peak use for a number of years to come.

- Next steps discussed:
  - Ask the Town's Treasurer for his opinion on what a good debt coverage ratio for BL would be.
  - Locate and review a copy of the previous COS study.
  - Follow up with Mark Beauchamp: (1) ask for electronic copies of the calculations behind the COS results and review them, (2) question: why do we need a 1% increase given cash reserves, and (3) what strategic goal would the implementation of residential demand charges serve?

### **III. DISCUSSION OF GRANDFATHERED NET METERING RATE**

- A proposal to extend the end date of retail net metering for grandfathered PV systems was discussed. No action was taken.

### **IV. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF UPDATES TO POWER SUPPLY POLICY**

- Additional edits to the draft power supply policy made by General Manager Roy were discussed. In particular, the policy pertaining to green power now explicitly lists green power targets (as % of total load) for future years that were pulled from the Massachusetts' Clean Energy Plan (CEP).
- Committee members suggested additional edits to clarify the intent of the policy.

### **V. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON LBAC ENDORSEMENT OF THE CITIZENS' PETITION ON ZERO NET ENERGY FOR THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL**

- LBAC voted unanimously "to endorse the idea of exploring efforts to achieve a net zero energy building, Class D, at the new school, with a 30-year net present savings of over \$5 million." Put forward in an October 15, 2018 citizen's petition.

### **VI. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- November 8, 2018
- December 6, 2018

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 9:10 pm