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**Minutes**

**Town of Belmont**

**Belmont Municipal Light Board**

**Selectmen's Meeting Room**

**Monday, January 28, 2019**

**6:00pm**

**I-CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Light Board was called to order at 6:12pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Mark Paolillo was present. Board Member Adam Dash was present. General Manger Chris Roy was present.

**II-SUSPEND REGULAR SESSION AND OPEN RATE HEARING**

*Motion: To suspend the regular session of the Municipal Light Board meeting and open a public rate hearing to discussion proposed rate adjustments. (Roll call vote: Tom Caputo, Mark Paolillo, Adam Dash)*

C. Roy provided a high level recap of the proposed rate increase, which was based on previous discussions with the Light Board and Light Board Advisory Committee (LBAC). Of the 7 scenarios previously discussed, he was recommending implementation of Scenario Six. This scenario represented a 2% aggregate increase overall, with each rate class impacted in a way that aligned with the Cost of Service Study, and with no impact to low income rates. The approach would also reset the RSF givebacks and PPTA to zero, allowing for a more 'standard' usage of these tools moving forward. Fixed/customer charges would remain unchanged, and would be reviewed as part of the strategic plan/rate modernization over the next several years. The average impact on a residential bill would amount to ~\$3/month.

Notices would be sent to the public and the increase would go into effect as of March 1, 2019.

Steve Klionsky (Chair, LBAC) expressed support for the necessary rate increase that would put Belmont Light on solid financial footing for the next several years.

[Open for public comment.]

Phil Thayer expressed support for the rate increase.

**III-CLOSE RATE HEARING AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*Motion: To close the public rate hearing and return to open session. (Roll call vote: Tom Caputo, Mark Paolillo, Adam Dash)*

**IV-VOTE ON PROPOSED ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENTS**

*Motion: To adopt the rate design as outline in Scenario Six to be effective March 1, 2019. (Vote passed 3-0)*

## V-UPDATE ON STORAGE AT INCINERATOR SITE

C. Roy presented and discussed a diagram showing how potential costs/benefits would flow to the community, depending on the ownership model chosen. A storage project was projected to bring anywhere from \$100k-\$350k per year. The low end projection reflected a private developer that would negotiate a revenue sharing agreement with Belmont Light; the high end projection was if Belmont Light were to build and operate the storage facility.

Other discussion items concerning a potential storage project included:

- The projections that assumed Belmont Light ownership were based on a 10 year investment time horizon.
- The batteries would occupy roughly 2-3 storage containers and require a concrete pad; can be placed anywhere there is space, including Parcel C at the incinerator site, which would not require DCAMM approval.
- Storage would contribute towards rate stability, and can be thought of as a type of generation source.
- There was no fire risk associated with the storage units, and no noise pollution.

Depending on the choice of ownership model, the process to move forward would involve issuance of an RFP and some minor upgrades to the nearby infrastructure; could be up and running within a year.

## VI-FILING OF MUNICIPAL GREEN HOUSE GAS LEGISLATION

The legislation would bring municipal light plants into compliance with the Clean Energy Standard, from which they were previously exempt. In many cases municipalities exceeded these standards (including Belmont due to its Power Supply Policy), but some did not. The fact that municipal light plants throughout the State were unanimously supportive of filing the bill reflected a shift, as some municipalities were previously opposed.

C. Roy was requesting the Light Board send a letter of support for the legislation to Senator Brownsberger and Representative Rogers.

*Motion: To send a letter in support of bill HD3054 to State legislators, and designate Chair Tom Caputo to sign on behalf of the Light Board. (Vote passed 3-0)*

## VII-GENERAL MANAGE UPDATE

1. *Strategic plan:* Continuing work through February on a draft of the strategic plan; aim to present for discussion with the Light Board at the upcoming February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ideally, a public forum would be held in the spring to get feedback from residents. C. Roy had initiated discussions with a consultant who would help to develop a strategy for implementing the strategic plan once finished.
2. *Chenery solar:* Helping to move forward with the installation of solar panels at Chenery Middle School; would be complete by end-of-year at the latest.

3. *Enterprise management software:* Recently ramping up the use of this software, which can coordinate many aspects of operation such as online payment, work order management, cost accounting, outage management, and smart meter integration.
4. *LED lighting project:* Waiting to evaluate potential funding from DOER as part of the Green Communities program. A neighborhood would be chosen to test out the lights, which can be remotely turned on/off and even dimmed.

VIII-APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 17, 2018

*Motion: To approve the December 17, 2018 minutes. (Vote passed 3-0)*

IX-FUTURE MEETING DATES

[Not discussed.]

X-ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: To adjourn. (Vote passed 3-0)*