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Minutes

Town of Belmont

Belmont Municipal Light Board

Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall

Monday, July 15, 2019

6:00pm

I-CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Light Board was called to order at 6:02pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Board Member Roy Epstein were present. Belmont Light General Manager Chris Roy was present.

A *'Heat Pump and Electric Vehicle Showcase'* will be held July 31, 2019, 4-8pm at the Chenery Middle School.

A meeting of the Light Board Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Steve Klionsky. Members David Beavers, Ralph Jones, Bob Forrester and Shirley Wang were present.

II-PRESENTATION OF NEW BUDGET BOOK

Roy walked through some of the main components of the new budget book. The purpose was to familiarize the Board with how the document was put together and would be used - Roy noted the actual numbers were still from FY19.

- *Section 1:* Showed accounts, which were organized to better tie in with DPU definitions. Roy saw this section as a tool for the GM to use for decision making. It included projections using 5 year averages (with concrete numbers used where applicable and space for comment/explanation). Sales revenue projections came from ENE and Roy noted these were generally quite reliable.
- *Section 2:* Presented sales data which could be used for analysis of trends, organizational resilience, and target funding for resiliency programs. Roy noted reclassification of certain activities (e.g. overhead line replacement) from ordinary expenses to capital expenses, which would help to give a more accurate picture of expenditures going forward.
- *Section 6:* Showed sources of funding and what each funding source could be used for.
- *Section 7:* Renewable energy programming. Roy said this section was worthy of additional work in the future, as the increased success of these programs would eventually impact Belmont Light's bottom line.

Roy explained that the document was essentially finalized in terms of the format, but that the team would continue to make improvements going forward. Caputo said that starting in 2020 the book would be used to present the quarterly financials – the new format would allow the Board to compare projected versus actual numbers. Klionsky mentioned that LBAC would take up a detailed review of the budget book at its next meeting.

III-GRANT OF LOCATION REGULATIONS UPDATE

Caputo recalled discussion from the previous week regarding the possible need to split the existing Grant of Location regulations into two policies, one which covered small cell providers and a separate one that would apply to Belmont Light.

Roy had received a legal opinion (under a 1937 case in Chickopee) that Belmont Light was exempt from the Grant of Location process as a Municipal Light Plant (MLP); hence, there was no need to separate the policy into two. Dash suggested that the regulations be updated to state explicitly that they do not apply to Belmont Light.

IV-CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION LETTER

At the previous meeting the Board had discussed a draft letter from Roy concerning legislation that proposed regulation of MLPs with respect to climate change/renewable energy targets. Roy had updated the letter based on feedback, changing the wording and altering the tone. Roy was requesting the Board to sign off on the letter, as he anticipated action on the legislation as early as tomorrow.

Klionsky pointed out that the legislation made MLPs subject to the authority of the State, which would be a big change and could potentially lead to State mandates for MLPs down the road.

Dash was supportive of the letter with the recent changes proposed by Roy and encouraged the Board to sign off. Epstein said he had just seen the letter very recently and was agnostic about the piece of legislation, as he was not yet familiar with the contents. He was not prepared to sign the letter tonight but encouraged Roy (if possible) to testify at the State House on Belmont's experience and perspective on the legislation. Caputo echoed Epstein's concern about signing off on the letter without being fully up to speed on the implications of the legislation.

Caputo suggested to table the discussion until the August 12 Light Board meeting and that LBAC should take up the matter at its next meeting as well.

V-ADJOURNMENT

LBAC adjourned its meeting.

Motion: To adjourn the Light Board meeting at 7:05pm. (Vote passed 3-0)