

**Minutes**

**Town of Belmont**

2019 NOV 26 PM 2:45

**Belmont Municipal Light Board**

**Joint with Light Board Advisory Committee**

**Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall**

**Monday, September 23, 2019**

**6:00pm**

**I-CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Light Board was called to order at 6:01pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Board Member Roy Epstein were present. Belmont Light General Manager Chris Roy was present.

The meeting was joint with the Light Board Advisory Committee (LBAC), which called itself to order at 6:02pm. Chair Steve Klionsky and members Bob Forrester, David Beavers, Michael Macrae, and Shirley Wong were present.

**II-EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information.

*Motion: To enter executive session as described above. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)*

*Motion: To leave executive session. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll-call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, Roy Epstein)*

**III-DISCUSSION ON BROADBAND PRO FORMA FINANCIALS**

Roy had tasked a consultant with preparing financial projections for a hypothetical project involving the provision of broadband services by Belmont Light. Roy argued there was a compelling case for public utilities to provide such data services (i.e. internet and possibly VOIP phone) to its customers, including providing superior service, no throttling, and maintaining net neutrality. Much of the work to build out a fiber network was already being undertaken in work to support School and Municipal services – the only trade-off was to add greater capacity to the fiber strands being pulled.

Roy was presenting the projections to demonstrate the financial viability of providing broadband and to gauge the sense of the Light Board on whether it would be supportive of pursuing such a project. He envisioned a slow roll-out, starting by piloting service in a small area and relying on word-of-mouth marketing. The Board expressed interest but thought the matter required more discussion, particularly around potential financing and details around the implementation. Caputo requested to have the item come up again on a future agenda.

[LBAC adjourned.]

**IV-UPDATE ON SECOND QUARTER 2019 FINANCIALS**

[Item was deferred due to time.]

#### V-APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

*Motion: To approve the Belmont Municipal Light Board minutes of March 18, 2019, regular and executive session. (Vote passed 2-0; Epstein abstained)*

*Motion: To approve the Belmont Municipal Light Board minutes of July 8, 2019, regular session. (Vote passed 3-0)*

#### VI-DESIGNATION OF LIGHT BOARD CHAIRSHIP

As per the operational rules adopted by the Select Board / Light Board, the Chair of the Light Board was scheduled to transfer at the September meeting to the most recently elected Select Board member, in this case Roy Epstein. Epstein and Dash thanked Caputo for his service as Chair.

*Motion: That Roy Epstein be designated as Chair of the Belmont Municipal Light Board. (Vote passed 3-0)*

#### NUM-ADJOURNMENT

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