

2020 FEB 13 AM 9:03

**FINAL**

**Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of Meeting held on May 7, 2019  
Belmont Light Conference Room  
7:30 am

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

MLB Liaison: Roy Epstein

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Convened at 7:37 am

**II. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE REFINEMENT AND UPDATES TO THE POWER SUPPLY POLICY**

**a. Clarification of Qualifying Generation Sources**

- Chris Roy reported that Belmont Light had recently been presented with three power supply opportunities from Energy New England (ENE) for offshore wind, biomass, and solar/nuclear hybrid. He said, throughout the approval process for these contracts, it became evident that there was still some gray area in the Power Supply Policy (PSP) which needs to be refined.
- Klionsky said that the idea was always to update the PSP as needed and that it was difficult to proscribe decisions on different situations.
- Franck asked if, under the current PSP, Roy had the authority to sign the contracts in questions without Board approval. Roy said he did not because of the duration of the contracts. Roy wanted to clarify specifics, like whether renewable energy certificates (RECs) from another New England state would count toward the PSP or if only Massachusetts RECs counted. He said the point was not to make Belmont Light autonomous, rather it was to prepare Belmont Light for discussion with ENE and other organizations.
- Discussion ensued about the state's Clean Energy Standard (CES). Forrester asked whether LBAC should emphasize its own policy and discuss it frequently or leave it as a reference to the CES. Klionsky said that the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) proposal regarding the CES was a good first step but that it did not seem as rigorous as LBAC would want it to be. Beavers said there was a danger when signing 20-year contracts that the state can "muck" things up during the term of the contract.
- Roy said municipal light plants (MLPs) have received a lot of pressure to conform to CES but that MEAM is worried about stripping power from the local level and giving it to the state. He would prefer to say, CES is nice, but our version is better.
- The discussion turned to the PSP document. Franck said that the paragraph above the table on page 2 laid out that renewable and non-carbon emitting sources were acceptable. He said that eliminates landfill, biomass, and anaerobic digesters.

- Roy said that Belmont Light needs sources that aren't intermittent. He said that nuclear meets the definition of non-emitting. The MEAM proposed legislation calls for nuclear to be counted, so there is a need to determine what Belmont wants in terms of nuclear.
- From the audience, Mike Macrae, Belmont resident, stated that the Mass. Clean Energy Center had proposed updates to the CES, including the CESE but that there was no formalization of nuclear standards. He did not believe nuclear should be included in Belmont Light's portfolio.
- The discussion turned to how much intermittent power Belmont Light's system could handle. Storage options were also discussed.
- Klionsky said that the PSP is currently written towards the CES standards but Belmont wants to raise those standards higher.
- Klionsky asked Roy whether he had any proposed edits. Roy answered that he hoped to take the current meeting's discussion and make edits based on it for the following meeting.
- From the audience, Phil Thayer, Belmont resident, asked if there was a time sensitivity to a potential nuclear energy contract. Roy said no, that the decision was made the previous day based on the existing PSP, but the current discussion was meant to make those decisions easier. He said 2-week terms are generally acceptable in the utility world but that timeframe doesn't work with monthly meetings. Thayer suggested that LBAC and the Energy Committee hold a joint meeting to act as a public hearing on the subject.
- Franck said that there is now a better reading of the current PSP. Nuclear is in and biomass is not. The current language is ok. LBAC will study the penetration load to determine when Belmont Light will need to worry about signing intermittent source contracts.
- There was discussion on the format for a joint meeting or event. Roy said that Belmont Light was planning to hold public meetings as part of the development of a Strategic Plan, so these could be tied in.

**b. Updates to timelines based on Article 8 Town Meeting vote**

- Roy said, following the Town Meeting vote, it might be an appropriate time to revisit the Town's targets for renewable energy. Klionsky asked if the Strategic Plan already addresses getting to 100% renewable sources by 2022. Roy said that the language was that Belmont Light would "work toward 100%".
- Roy said that the options were to leave the targets in the table on page 2 as they were and just be ok with going over those targets, or change the targets to meet Belmont Light's plans. Klionsky agreed that, looking at the table, it was confusing based on the plans.
- Franck suggested changing the column regarding Belmont Light's percentage of renewables on its own.
- Forrester recommended that there should be flexibility in the table.
- Discussion ensued on the financing of increased renewable contracts in the portfolio.
- It was decided that the numbers of the tables would be changed or columns of the table would be combined. A new draft would be presented at the next meeting.

- Epstein said it would be useful to do a pro forma investigation of the impact of the aspirational goals of the PSP so there is some basis for the goals set in it. He said the rate impact would have to be considered.
- Roy said that Belmont Light Energy Resources Manager Becca Keane had already done a lot of work determining the rate impact already. If Belmont Light went to 100% renewable today, it would be roughly \$6 per month added to the average customer bill. Roy said Belmont Light was also concerned with the impact if it was to hit its aspirational goals but then the REC market were to explode.

### **III. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2019. Topics of discussion would include time of use rates.

In the meantime, LBAC members with expiring terms would issue letters to the Light Board to express their desire to be reappointed to the Committee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Adjourned at 9:40 am