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FINAL

Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting held on November 6, 2019
Belmont Light Conference Room
7:30am

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

Belmont Light (BL) attending: General Manager Christopher Roy, Aidan Leary, Ben Thivierge
Select Board member Roy Epstein was present

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Convened at 7:37am
- Roy provided an update on work related to tree damage from a recent storm.

II. DISCUSSION ON EXISTING RATE SCHEDULE LANGUAGE REVISIONS (ALL RATES)

- Roy was proposing changes related to the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA; formerly referred to as Purchased Power Transmission Adjustment), to the effect that the revenue streams used to calculate a PCA also include distribution charges, in addition to the standard generation and transmission charges. The idea was to clarify that all potential revenue streams could be utilized to implement a PCA, and thereby avoid situations where a rate increase would otherwise be necessary.
 - Changing the language from PPTA to PCA brought the terminology more in alignment with industry standards.
 - The Committee was not comfortable with the changes as proposed, and requested that Roy revise the language prior to approval. There was confusion about the rationale and potential impacts of the changes: Franck suggested to include a formula showing exactly how a PCA would be calculated; Klionsky was unclear why change was necessary; unclear when contributions to / use of the Rate Stabilization Fund would apply versus implementation of a PCA.
- Other more minor changes to the rate schedule, supported by the Committee: update related to NYPA contracts; removing reference to specific DPU numbers (unnecessary and required revision to the Rate Schedule whenever the DPU numbers changed); changes to low income rates to remove reference to specific programs.

III. DISCUSSION ON UPDATED APPROACH TO LOW INCOME RATES

- Roy elaborated on proposed changes to low income rates. First, removing reference to specific low income programs in the Rate Schedule was facilitated by transition to use of an application that would be used to establish whether low income criteria had been met; Klionsky proposed

added language to the Rate Schedule to clarify that the application would be used to demonstrate economic need.

- Second, Roy was proposing to adopt a rider approach for low income customers. This meant that instead of having a separate low income rate class, low income customers would now receive a credit of a certain value applied to the residential rate class. The Committee was supportive of this simplified approach, however it was noted this change would impact those with a medical exemption, as well as high tier users (a separate category in the current low income rate class).
 - Prior to bringing the matter to the Light Board for final approval, Roy would finalize the new application for demonstrating economic need, coordinate notifications for low income customers with a medical exemption / high usage customers, and resolve any implementation issues in the billing system.

IV. UPDATE ON ENERGY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- Franck provided an update from the work of the Zoning Bylaw Working Group of the Energy Committee, which was drafting two energy related bylaws for potential adoption by the Town: 1) 'Home Energy Discovery Bylaw' would require sellers to obtain a home energy audit for potential buyers; 2) 'Emissions Free New Construction Standards Bylaw' would set standards for new construction projects – trying to get out in front of potential new developments, e.g. McLean.
 - Energy Committee has circulated drafts to get feedback. Klionsky requested that LBAC be kept in the loop.
 - Epstein encouraged the Energy Committee to work closely with the Planning Board, and requested the Select Board also be brought up to speed on these projects.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 16, 2019: Forrester proposed a minor wording change. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

- December 4, 2019 @ 7:30am.
- January 8, 2020 @ 7:30am.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Adjourned at 9:34am.