

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
LIGHT BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Remote Meeting via Zoom  
Wednesday, March 15, 2022  
7:30 A.M.**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 13, 2022  
TIME: 2:32 PM

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Travis Franck called a meeting of the Light Board Advisory Committee (LBAC) to order at 7:34am.

Present for LBAC was Chair Franck, Members Jonathan Abe, David Beavers, Steve Klionsky, Robert Forrester. Vice Chair Michael Macrae joined the meeting during the Executive Session. Absent was member Alexandra van Geel.

Present for Belmont Light was General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant General Manager Sam Osmanovic, Energy Resources Manager Becca Keane, and Communications Coordinator Aidan Leary.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee made two minor grammatical edits to the February 15, 2022 Regular Session Minutes.

**Motion:** *Mr. Franck moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Regular Session as amended. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.*

**Motion:** *Mr. Klionsky moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Executive Session. Mr. Beavers seconded. The motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information (Energy storage)**

**Motion:** *Mr. Beavers moved to enter Executive Session to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information (Energy storage). Mr. Abe seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved to executive session at 7:41am.

**Motion:** *Mr. Klionsky moved to leave Executive Session. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

The Board returned to open session at 8:49am.

### **DISCUSSION ON ELECTRIC RATES**

Mr. Spinale explained the reasons for the discussion and some of the issues related to rates. He asked for LBAC's views on rate design.

Mr. Klionsky said it's important to look at rate structure and design. It seems clear that rates need to be raised, but he suggested they look at individual rates to ensure they are covering the cost of service, rather than treat all rates the same. He said it could be play into the strategic plan as well as an economic requirement. There should be clear rationale for all rates. He said there was a question of how much to recover through fixed charges versus volumetric charges. He also asked how much Belmont Light should subsidize low income customers and how to persuade those customers to conserve energy.

Mr. Beavers suggested that distribution costs be considered regarding heat pumps. He also said the schools need to be looked at and that there should be a special rate for the new high school because of their high load and unusual demand timing.

Mr. Spinale said there is a small sense of urgency, so it might be necessary to implement a new rate and then work on looking deeper at the high school and specific rates.

Mr. Macrae said they should not encourage excess or waste and suggested rates that should reward lower or differently timed usage. He would like to see a more robust demand/response as well as municipal storage.

Mr. Franck said he would like to know if the number of different rates could be reduced and if there was some simplification possible.

Mr. Franck asked Mr. Spinale what the timing for rate changes look like. Mr. Spinale said the Cost of Service Study will be done in a short amount of time and will lead into rate design discussions. These discussions will probably begin in April and could be on the agenda of the new Municipal Light Board's first meeting. There was a discussion of the timing and the cost-of-service study.

#### **DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO RECOMMEND DISSOLUTION OF LBAC TO LIGHT BOARD**

Mr. Franck detailed a conversation he had with the Town Clerk regarding drawing down LBAC with the election of the new Light Board.

***Motion:** Mr. Klionsky moved to recommend that the Municipal Light Board dissolve the Light Board Advisory Committee. Mr. Franck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.*

#### **DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON DESIGNATING A MEMBER OF LBAC TO APPROVE FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

***Motion:** Mr. Klionsky moved to appoint Travis Franck to approve the final outstanding minutes of the Light Board Advisory Committee meeting and to communicate the results to the Town Clerk. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion:** Mr. Macrae moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Beaves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12am.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Peghiny