

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
Remote Meeting via Zoom
February 15, 2023**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 4, 2023
TIME: 1:33 PM

CALL TO ORDER. Chair Stephen Klionsky called a meeting of the Municipal Light Board to order at 7:31am.

Present for MLB was Chair Klionsky, Vice-Chair David Beavers, and Members Travis Franck, Andrew Machado, and Michael Macrae.

Present for Belmont Light was General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant General Manager Sam Osmanovic, Energy Specialist Ben Thivierge, Finance Manager Maria Makar-Limanov, and Communications Coordinator Aidan Leary.

Others Present: Mike Stanley, TransitX; Tommasina Olson, Resident; Roy Epstein, Select Board Liaison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 14, 2022 Executive Session: These will be discussed during the Executive Session.

January 17, 2023 Regular Session:

***Motion:** Mr. Klionsky moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 Regular Session of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

TRANSITX PRESENTATION

Mr. Spinale reviewed the history of the TransitX project.

Mr. Stanley explained that they have created a proposal and feasibility study of a 16-mile elevated Podway for Belmont that will serve the whole Town, potentially connect to Alewife Station, and produce renewable electricity. He then outlined the Podway concept, how it works, and the benefits of the system.

Ms. Olson expressed her support of the system.

There was a discussion of the proposal and system with wide-ranging questions which Mr. Stanley answered.

There was a discussion of next steps.

Mr. Spinale discussed several issues related to overhead facilities, having access to the wires, the solar PPA being attractive, and the approval process.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

- Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) Discussion: Mr. Spinale explained that MEAM has adjusted their bylaws so that all communication will flow through Municipal Light Plant General Managers. He explained why this was done and then shared some communications from MEAM. There was a discussion by the Board about this change.
- January Solar Credit: Mr. Spinale explained that the buyback rate had been entered into the system incorrectly, resulting in an error that was less than \$21.00 total across all solar customers, with the largest amount per customer of \$0.17. The incident highlighted that there is a discrepancy between the EFR tariff and the EFR policy that was created prior to the tariff. The policy said they should round to the nearest penny, but the tariff does not. They follow the tariff, but Mr. Spinale suggested the Board review this and align the policy and tariff.

Mr. Machado asked if this would be a good opportunity to address the top-down vs bottom-up calculation for solar rebates. Mr. Spinale agreed that this issue should be resolved.

POWER SUPPLY DISCUSSION

Mr. Spinale reviewed the suggested changes to the Power Supply Policy and what process was used to do that. There was a discussion of the policy adjustments, what components need more discussion, and how to proceed.

Mr. Beavers suggested that a joint meeting with the Energy Committee might provide clarity and influence some of the things that go into the policy.

Mr. Franck left the meeting at this point, 8:26am.

Hedging: The Board discussed the hedging portion of the policy, with Mr. Spinale outlining ENE's recommendations.

Mr. Spinale agreed to share the model from ENE that Belmont Light is working with.

Capacity Hedge: Mr. Spinale stated that ENE doesn't believe it makes sense to do this right now and explained why.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard: Mr. Klionsky asked if they should obligate themselves to the IOU requirement. Mr. Beavers said this should be discussed with the Energy Committee. This is a major area to reconsider.

Portfolio Planning: Mr. Spinale said this will be important to discuss even though there are no proposed changes and explained why.

Periodic Review: Mr. Spinale said there was a question of how often the policy should be reviewed. The Board discussed reviewing (rather than revising) annually.

Next steps were discussed, including meeting with the Energy Committee, maintaining continuity between meetings, and including Mr. Beaver's straw proposal. Mr. Macrae suggested using the straw proposal to generate questions to discuss with the Energy Committee. How to prepare for that meeting was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Wrubel said the Energy Committee would be happy to meet with the Light Board on the topic of the Power Supply Policy. Also, they would like to discuss to Town Meeting Warrant Items at the Light Board's next meeting.

Mr. Macrae asked that each agenda includes time to talk about annual schedule planning. Mr. Spinale said this will be added.

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 15, 2023 - Remote

April 12, 2023 – Mr. Spinale advised that because the Governor's order is expiring, this meeting may take place in-person.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Klionsky moved that the Municipal Light Board go into Executive Session to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information (Power supply). The Board will not return to open session and will adjourn in Executive Session. Mr. Machado seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The Municipal Light Board went into Executive Session at 9:14 am.

The Board adjourned in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny, Recording Secretary