

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

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: May 22, 2023  
TIME: 2:39 PM

Present for MLB was Chair Stephen 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, and Communications Coordinator Aidan Leary.

Others Present: Roy Epstein, Select Board Representative

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Klionsky called a meeting of the Municipal Light Board to order at 7:30am.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 15, 2023 Regular Session:

**Motion**: *Mr. Franck moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 Regular Session of the Municipal Light Board meeting. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

February 15, 2023 Executive Session:

**Motion**: *Mr. Klionsky moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 Executive Session of the Municipal Light Board meeting. Mr. Macrae seconded, and the motion passed by roll call vote with Mr. Franck abstaining.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – there was no public comment.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. Leonard Street Outage: Mr. Spinale reported that there were a series of outages on Leonard Street, and explained how the problem was temporarily resolved until an appropriate transformer can be acquired. He pointed out that the manhole cover provides drainage for the area and the saltwater causes the transformer to deteriorate more quickly than it normally would. Mr. Spinale outlined what he is doing to try to resolve the transformer and drainage problems. There was a discussion of the problems and potential resolutions.
- b. Sen. Brownsberger/GM Conversation Recap: Mr. Spinale explained that Senator Brownsberger reached out to talk about what it would look like if every resident in Belmont installed a heat pump. An article based on the conversation was posted on the Senator's website. There was a discussion of the conversation and comments on the website.
- c. Energy Resources Manager Position: This position has been posted, and there has already been good response.

### **BOARD CHAIR ROTATION**

Ms. Klionsky recommended that there be some guidelines about the chair succession. He suggested that a newly elected member should not be the chair and asked the group to consider how to rotate the Chair. He reviewed the terms of the existing members. There was discussion of setting a rotation. Mr. Franck proposed the following guideline:

After an election:

- The Chair should have 2 years remaining on the Board.
- The Vice-Chair should be newly elected to a 3-year term so they have a year of "training", a year as Chair, and another year on the Board for continuity.

There was a discussion of the proposal and the issue. Because of the upcoming election, it was decided to wait until the next meeting before deciding on a succession plan.

## **GM CONTRACT PROCESS**

Mr. Klionsky provided an update of the contract renewal process for Mr. Spinale. He proposed that he and Mr. Machado sit down with Mr. Spinale to discuss an agreement. This would be brought to the Board in Executive Session for discussion and then Open Session for a vote. There was a discussion of how to proceed.

## **POWER SUPPLY DISCUSSION**

Mr. Macrae reviewed the history of the discussion about the policy, and provided some suggestions on what might be considered and included going forward. Mr. Beavers explained how he approached his Strawman proposal, and how to move forward. There was a discussion of the developing Power Supply Policy, especially around hedging.

Mr. Machado asked that a consultant be found to give some quantitative analysis to support the policy. Mr. Spinale provided a timeline for this effort.

Mr. Spinale told the Board that Class II RECs are increasing in price (although Class I RECs are stable). RECs and when to buy them was then discussed.

Mr. Klionsky said that the discussion on hedging, RECs, market dynamics, etc. reminds him of an integrated resource planning process. There was a discussion of this concept and other issues related to developing the policy and achieving community goals.

Mr. Spinale asked if there are other issues the Board would like addressed at the next meeting. Responses included revisiting the first quarter RECs, finding simple cost evaluation tools for PPA proposals, fiscally responsible hedging strategies, and discussing when Belmont Light will have too many PPAs locked in (right now it is about 20% of total supply),

There was a discussion of an integrated resource planning process and agreement that that was not the Board's objective right now.

There was a discussion of the current PPA level and how these purchases work.

## **TIME OF USE – 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2022 REVIEW**

Mr. Spinale introduced the Time of Use Pilot Program 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022 review and said 4<sup>th</sup> quarter numbers would be available soon. Mr. Thivierge provided an update of the TOU pilot from January – September 2022. There were several questions and discussion. Mr. Spinale explained that final numbers should be available in June since he would like the new Power Supply person to be involved in the analysis.

## **DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS PRESENTATION**

Mr. Thivierge provided a high level look at new offerings for residential and commercial customers: electric snowblower, room air purifier, EV charger rebate changed to Level 2 only, and adding an enrollment rebate for first time demand/response enrollments. He also reviewed the Budget vs. Actuals for 2022 for all programs. There was a discussion of the information presented, and the issue will be revisited at the next meeting.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Spinale asked for clarification of what the Board wants for this standing agenda item. This was discussed with the Board deciding to spend less than 5 minutes per meeting to review what is coming and to track what is on the table.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** April 12, 2023, and May 17, 2023.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Macrae moved to adjourn the meeting of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54am.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny  
Recording Secretary