

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
OPEN MEETING
October 17, 2023**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 16, 2023
TIME: 8:40 AM

CALL TO ORDER. Chair David Beavers called the Open Session of the Municipal Light Board meeting to order at 7:30am.

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

Present for Belmont Light was General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant General Manager Sam Osmanecvic, Finance Manager Maria Makar-Limanov, Energy Resource Manager Joana Abreu, and Customer Care, Marketing, & Communications Manager Aidan Leary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 20, 2023 Regular Session:

Mr. Klionsky moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 Regular Session of the Belmont Municipal Light Board. Mr. Machado seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

TIME OF USE RATE HEARING

Mr. Franck moved to Suspend Regular Session and Open Rate Hearing. Mr. Macrae seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

Mr. Spinale explained that they had updated the buyback scenario and developed a more formalized way to notify the public of the rate changes. Mr. Spinale explained how Belmont Light had reached out to the TOU participants.

There were some questions and discussion about the rate changes.

Mr. Beavers reviewed some of the written comments that had been received regarding the rate change. Mr. Franck suggested that those who sent comments receive an acknowledgement of their comments.

Ms. Spinale introduced Ms. Abreu and spoke about her value to Belmont Light.

Mr. Franck moved to Close Rate Hearing and Return to Open Session. Mr. Macrae seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by show of hands vote.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON TIME OF USE RATE UPDATES

Mr. Franck moved to approve the tariff sheet revisions for Residential Time-Of-Use Rate A TOU as previously outlined and as appear in the minutes, to be effective December 1, 2023. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by a show of hands vote.

DISCUSSION ON POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Spinale provided an update on the GGES goal of reducing emissions 50% by 2030, the penalty if this is missed, and what could follow. However, Belmont Light is already past this goal so there are no concerns about meeting it in 2030. This led him to think about the Power Supply charges, and he spoke with legal about this. He was told that the way the rates are structured, the money from Power Supply cannot be used to pay for DSM programs without some tariff adjustments to reflect this. He then spoke about how to approach this issue. He recommended that this could be part of the upcoming Cost of Service study.

There were questions and discussion about these issues related to insurance for batteries, incentivizing behind the meter technology, and power supply sources.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT. Mr. Spinale reported on:

- Leonard Street Transformer Relocation Discussion: Because of aesthetics the Select Board was not supportive of the recommended transformer design. He showed a plan revision that extends the sidewalk out beyond the manhole, which the Select Board requested. He will return to the Select Board on October 23rd to continue the discussion. There was a discussion of this issue and how to proceed.
- Permanent Audit Committee Meeting – November 2nd: The Committee asks that a Warrant Committee member attend these meetings. Mr. Beavers volunteered to participate.
- RFI for Cost of Service Study: The RFI process has been started, and Mr. Spinale provided an update on the efforts being done for this.
- Information Tech Advisory Committee Discussion: This group would like to meet with the Board about cyber security, and Mr. Spinale arranged for them to meet with the vendor who does Belmont Light's cyber security. After that, this Committee will be put on an MLB agenda. This was discussed.
- Personnel Update – Recording Secretary: Ms. Peghiny has resigned, and Mr. Spinale explained that a new administrative person is being hired, so minutes will fall to this role for the time being. Additionally, the screening process has begun for the Energy Specialist position, and Mr. Spinale reviewed this process.
- Legal Updates: Mr. Spinale provided an update on several legal issues, which were discussed.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There was a discussion of the challenges and opportunities of booking meetings so far into the future.

- a. November 15, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.
- b. December 20, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.
- c. January 17, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.
- d. February 21, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. To conduct strategy sessions for collective bargaining sessions (IBEW, Local 104) and b. To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information (power supply)**

Mr. Macrae moved that the Municipal Light Board go into Executive Session to a. To conduct strategy sessions for collective bargaining sessions (IBEW, Local 104) and b. To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information (power supply). Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The Municipal Light Board went into Executive Session at 9:38am.

The Board adjourned in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary