

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
OPEN MEETING**

**Hybrid Meeting via Zoom & BMLD Conference Room  
June 3, 2024**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 17, 2024  
TIME: 6:19 PM

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Michael Macrae called the Municipal Light Board meeting to order at 7:32am.

- **Present for the Municipal Light Board (MLB, Board)** were Chair Macrae, Vice Chair Andrew Machado, and Members David Beavers, Travis Franck, and Steve Klionsky. No member was absent.
- **Present for Belmont Municipal Light Department (BMLD)** were General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant General Manager Sam Osmanecic, Finance Manager Maria Makar-Limanov, Marketing & Communications Manager Aidan Leary, Energy Specialist Kevin Bleau, and Executive Assistant Erin Lenzing.
- **Documents/exhibits used:** Presentation slides from Daymark Energy Advisors

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**PRESENTATION OF LOAD STUDY & DISCUSSION ON COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY BY DAYMARK ENERGY ADVISORS**

Stan Faryniarz and Doron Kroll from Daymark Energy Advisors presented the initial findings from the first phase of BMLD's cost-of-service study (COSS). This phase is a load study using 2023 data to identify and analyze patterns of electric use within Belmont by customer segment, season of the year, time of day, etc.

**Introduction & Overall Load**

Mr. Faryniarz began with an overview of Daymark, the scope of the project, and the customer segments used for the load study phase. Mr. Koll then reviewed the overall 2023 system load, noting that the peak demand in both summer and winter was due to weather events—a winter storm on 2/4 and an ongoing heatwave on 9/7. He also discussed the overall system peaks by month, date, and time of day; July had highest consumption overall, but the peak day in 2023 was 9/7 ending at 5pm. There were a couple questions by the Board on the data interval (by hour) and Belmont's load curve (comparable to other towns).

**Load Analysis by Customer Segment**

Mr. Koll then reviewed the initial findings for each customer segment studied.

- **Residential (rate A):** This is the largest group of customers with over 10K. Peak 2023 demand for this group was the same date as the overall system (9/7), but at ending at 7pm vs 5pm.
- **Emission-free renewable energy (EFR rate):** Customers with solar panels who may also have battery storage, air-source heat pumps (ASHP), and/or electric vehicle (EV) chargers. As expected, the analysis showed a dip in load during the middle of the day when solar production is at its highest. The EFR peak demand was 9/7 ending at 9pm. Mr. Koll then broke this group down further.
  - **Solar only:** They had the dip in the middle of the day but the same 9/7 peak date and time as rate A, meaning that another technology was driving the peak for the EFR group as a whole.
  - **Solar and EV chargers:** Peak demand occurred in June and December, suggesting that the key driver could be EV charging, possibly in conjunction with heating/cooling.
  - **Solar and battery storage:** This is a very small group—only 17 meters. Peak demand was in December, possibly due to charging the batteries from the grid during low solar production. There was discussion about the average peak hours for this group and the crossover between time of use (TOU) and battery storage.

- **Solar and air-sourced heat pumps (ASHP):** The peak demand occurred in February, probably due to using the ASHP for heating. Mr. Faryniarz pointed out this could be a result of low temperatures negatively impacting ASHP efficiency. There was discussion of seasonal results between spring and summer.
- **Low-income (LI rate):** Customers had a pattern of increasing consumption during the day and the same peak date in September as rate A, although two hours later in the day (ending at 9pm).
- **Time of Use (TOU rate):** The analysis was split into two seasons (October-May and June-September) to reflect the seasonal peak/non-peak hours that are built into the rate. For both seasons, the consumption was pushed down during peak hours, suggesting that the TOU rate is working as designed to reduce load during peak hours. There was a short conversation on transmission peaks and TOU rate differentials. Mr. Koll also broke out differences for TOU with and without solar.
- **Municipal:** Had an expected pattern of higher consumption during the workweek that flattened during the weekends. The peak was 9/7, but in the morning (ending at 11am) rather than the afternoon.
- **Commercial:** This group of almost 900 customers had some difference between the workweek and weekend, but not as sharp as the municipal group. Their peak was 9/7 ending at 4pm.

## Discussion

After the presentation, the Board gave their feedback and suggestions to Daymark.

Mr. Beavers suggested looking at distribution costs, specifically, if they are too high and what is the right amount. Mr. Machado stated that having the overlays from the Independent System Operator for New England (ISO-NE) on the graphs would be helpful. Mr. Franck asked about the value of storage and more generally about getting the type of information needed to make future decisions. There was a brief discussion on using pre-installation and post-installation data from BMLD incentive programs. Mr. Klionsky spoke about the commercial rates, specifically if a TOU program would work for commercial customers and if Daymark would review the existing rates and cutoffs. Mr. Macrae suggested investigating the impact of an easy-to-administer TOU program, which Mr. Spinale seconded.

Daymark left the meeting at 8:56am. Afterwards there was a brief conversation about the study costs and future meetings.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board will check their respective calendars regarding future meetings and circle back if there are conflicts. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- June 17, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.
- July 17, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.
- August 21, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.
- September 18, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.
- October 16, 2024 | 7:30 a.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Mr. Macrae moved to adjourn the meeting of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 5-0. Mr. Franck, Mr. Machado, Mr. Beavers, Mr. Klionsky, and Mr. Macrae all voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03am.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Erin Lenzing  
Executive Assistant