

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
OPEN MEETING  
Hybrid Meeting via Zoom &  
BMLD Conference Room  
April 10, 2025**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 16, 2025  
TIME: 11:16 AM

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Michael Macrae called the Municipal Light Board meeting to order at 7:30am.

- **Present for the Municipal Light Board (MLB, Board)** were Chair Macrae, Vice Chair Andrew Machado, Members David Beavers and Steve Klionsky, and Member-Elect Jessica Harrison. No member was absent.
- **Present for Belmont Municipal Light Department (BMLD)** were General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant General Manager Sam Osmanecvic, Finance Manager Maria Makar-Limanov, and Executive Assistant Erin Lenzing. Also present was Kelli King, Human Resources Manager for Town of Belmont.
- **Documents/exhibits used:** Draft minutes as outlined below, GM's review summary, APPA award certificate, reliability report, and proposed streetlight tariff MDPU 184.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION & POTENTIAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Macrae welcomed Jessica Harrison as Member-Elect, and the Board took turns introducing themselves. There was a brief conversation about officer rotation and which members would be interested in the Chair or Vice-Chair roles. Mr. Macrae then opened the floor for nominations.

*Mr. Beavers nominated Mr. Machado for Chair, and Mr. Klionsky seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Macrae all voted aye. Mr. Machado abstained.*

*Mr. Klionsky nominated Mr. Beavers for Vice Chair, and Mr. Machado seconded. There were no other nominations. The motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Ms. Harrison, Mr. Machado, and Mr. Macrae all voted aye. Mr. Beavers abstained.*

Mr. Macrae then turned over the running of the meeting to Chair Machado.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular and Executive Sessions for March 12, 2025

*Mr. Klionsky moved to approve the minutes from the March 13th, 2025 Regular and Executive Sessions of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, Mr. Machado, and Mr. Macrae all voted aye.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss strategy for collective bargaining/negotiations with non-union staff**

*Mr. Machado moved to enter Executive Session to:*

- 1. discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with IBEW Local 104, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of this body, and*
- 2. to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, i.e. the General Manager.*

*and then return to Regular Session. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, Mr. Machado, and Mr. Macrae all voted aye.*

The Light Board entered Executive Session at 7:45am and returned to Regular Session at 8:52am.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

After a quick overview of the rating scale, Mr. Machado delivered Mr. Spinale's performance review by reading the Board's average rating and comments for each of his 2024 goals. The average overall rating was a 4 out of 5 (consistently above expectations). The Board thanked Mr. Spinale for his work, highlighting his respectful and collaborative approach, and briefly spoke about awarding him a merit increase.

*Mr. Beavers moved to approve a 1.5% merit increase for Mr. Spinale, backdated to January 1, 2025. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, Mr. Machado, and Mr. Macrae all voted aye.*

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Spinale updated the Board on the following:

- **Incident update:** There had an arc flash incident on 4/8 in a manhole while two employees were working on equipment. Both employees were injured but are expected to recover. Mr. Spinale walked through the safety procedures for jobs with switching, gave some insight on safety training in general, and confirmed the personal protective equipment (PPE) had held up. He thanked the community for their support and the Board asked for their best wishes to be passed on to the employees.
- **March 18-19 system event:** He gave a short overview of a large outage that resulted from a failed cable joint and what steps were being taken as a result.

Mr. Macrae left the meeting at 9:30am.

- **American Public Power Association (APPA) award:** Mr. Spinale announced that for the 3rd year in a row BMLD was awarded a certificate of excellence in reliability from the APPA.
- **MA DOER discussion/MEAM letters:** He highlighted a recent trend of state agencies like the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) of issuing mandates that include municipal light plants (MLPs) like Belmont Light despite not having jurisdiction. Other members of the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) have been sending letters to the relevant departments; Mr. Spinale asked if the Board would like to do the same on BMLD's behalf. As an example, BMLD staff presented some information on the Clean Heat Standard and its impact on BMLD. After some discussion and few questions, the Board agreed to send a letter on the Clean Heat Standard similar to the ones sent by other MEAM members.
- **Miscellaneous updates:** The remote meeting law, which allows meetings of public bodies to have a quorum attend remotely, has been extended to June of 2027. The final audit of BMLD's 2024 financials is scheduled for 4/30 at 9am. S&P Global has maintained BMLD's A+ credit rating. Mr. Spinale is seeking a second legal opinion on the Power Supply Policy. He proposed moving the planned evening forum on 2026 rates from May 2025 to fall of 2025, possibly September; the Board agreed.

## RATE HEARING ON STREETLIGHT RATE

Mr. Spinale confirmed that he had met with the Town on the proposed streetlight rate, which they agreed to.

*Mr. Machado moved to suspend the Regular Session of the Municipal Light Board and open a public rate hearing to discuss possible rate revisions. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Machado all voted aye. Regular Session was suspended at 9:58am.*

Mr. Machado read the proposed streetlight tariff and opened the floor for any public comment; there was none.

*Mr. Machado moved to close the rate hearing and return to the Regular Session of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Machado all voted aye. The Board returned to regular session at 10am.*

## VOTE ON PROPOSED ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENTS TO STREETLIGHT RATE

*Mr. Beavers moved to approve the proposed streetlight rate. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Machado all voted aye.*

## ADJOURNMENT

There was a reminder about future meetings and the standing schedule.

*Mr. Beavers moved to adjourn the meeting of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Machado all voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01am.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Erin Lenzing  
Executive Assistant