

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
OPEN MEETING
Hybrid Meeting via Zoom &
BMLD Conference Room
January 13, 2026**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: February 10, 2026
TIME: 2:17 PM

CALL TO ORDER. Vice Chair David Beavers called the Municipal Light Board meeting to order at 7:30pm.

- **Present for the Municipal Light Board (MLB, Board)** were Vice Chair Beavers, and Members Jessica Harrison and Steve Klionsky. Member Michael Macrae was absent. Chair Andrew Machado was initially absent but then later joined the meeting at 8:08pm.
- **Present for Belmont Municipal Light Department (BMLD)** were General Manager Craig Spinale, Assistant GM Sam Osmancevic, Finance Manager Maria Makar-Limanov, Energy Resource Manager Kevin Bleau, and Executive Assistant Erin Lenzing.
- **Documents/exhibits used:** Rate hearing presentation slides

RATE HEARING: INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Board and BMLD briefly introduced themselves and outlined the procedure for the benefit of the public.

Mr. Beavers moved to suspend the Regular Session of the Municipal Light Board and open a public rate hearing to discuss possible rate revisions. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, and Ms. Harrison all voted aye.

Mr. Bleau presented the proposed rate changes, highlighting that of the three main cost components (generation, transmission, and distribution) the primary driver for the recommended changes is transmission expenses, which have been rising due to factors like electrification, deferred maintenance, and the need to deliver power from more distant generation sources. Belmont Light's transmission costs have increased 106% in the last 10 years from 2016 to 2026 and 50% just since 2023. Conservation program costs have also grown, nearly doubling over recent years.

To address these increases, BMLD proposed an overall rate increase of ~5.3% to cover higher transmission costs along with a doubling of the conservation charge to roughly \$0.0048/kWh to support energy efficiency programs. The changes would affect residential, commercial, and municipal customers, with bill impacts varying by usage. Mr. Bleau walked through the expected monthly bill impacts for each rate class based on average use, including residential Rate A (\$8.88 for 550 kWh per month) and Rate LI (\$6.06, also based on 550 kWh per month). In response to a previous Board request, he confirmed that Rate LI would maintain the same proportion to Rate A as it does currently. He also confirmed that the proposed changes would not apply to streetlight rates (no transmission component) or the municipal time-of-use (TOU) pilot (still in first year). Residential TOU would only have the conservation charge increase at this time because the overall rate increase had been previously enacted.

There was some discussion about the context of the proposed rate adjustment, which a consultant, Daymark Energy Advisors, had originally recommended in 2024, but it was deferred due to strong financial performance in 2024 that covered 2025. The current adjustment reflects accumulated costs over two years and aligns with broader economic trends, including inflation and increased grid demands.

Also discussed was Belmont Light's residential TOU pilot, which encourages customers to shift electricity use to off-peak hours. TOU participants can reduce bills, support grid stability, and benefit from higher solar buyback rates during peak periods. BMLD plans to expand participation beyond the pilot in the near term.

Mr. Machado joined the meeting at 8:08pm. He stated he did not have any questions on the presentation, which he had previously reviewed.

RATE HEARING: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Beavers opened the floor for public comment. There was none. After calling for comment more than once, the Board moved to return to Regular Session for a vote.

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.

VOTE ON RATES

Hearing no objection or comments, the Board decided to move forward with a vote. There was a brief conversation about the effective date for the new rates.

Mr. Machado moved to approve the proposed 2026 rates as presented, including the 5.3% overall rate adjustment and the conservation charge adjustment, effective as of March 1, 2026. 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

Mr. Machado 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 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Erin Lenzing, Executive Assistant