

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
OPEN MEETING  
Hybrid Meeting via Zoom &  
BMLD Conference Room  
April 16, 2026**

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: May 14, 2026  
TIME: 2:52 PM

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

- **Present for the Municipal Light Board (MLB, Board)** were Chair Machado, Vice Chair David Beavers, and Member Steve Klionsky.
- **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, Customer Care & Billing Manager Gina Smith, and Executive Assistant Erin Lenzing.
- **Documents/exhibits used:** Draft minutes as outlined below; S&P Global credit rating report; proposed MLP letter for support to MassCEC; and proclamation honoring Michael Macrae.

### **BOARD REORGANIZATION & ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Board briefly discussed the annual reorganization process, which typically includes the election of a new Chair and Vice Chair, but noted that one member, Ms. Harrison, was absent. They decided to defer the vote until the next meeting so she could be present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular Session for March 12, 2026

*Mr. Beavers moved to approve the minutes of the March 12th, 2026 Regular Session of the Municipal Light Board. Mr. Klionsky seconded, and the motion passed 3-0 by show of hands vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, and Mr. Machado all voted aye.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Chair Machado deferred public comment until later in the meeting to allow additional members of the public to join.

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

Mr. Spinale updated the Board on the following:

- **S&P credit rating:** Belmont Light maintained its A+ credit rating with S&P Global, with strong marks for a stable outlook. S&P noted both a potential downgrade risk if liquidity or coverage ratios weaken, or a potential upside if debt continues to be paid down. There was a brief discussion about S&P's preference for 100% hedged power purchases and the risks associated with that approach vs. BMLD's current approach of 65%-85% hedged (depending on the year).
- **Power Cost Adjustment (PCA):** Winter power costs (especially January–February) were high due to cold weather and increased purchasing needs. BMLD is monitoring and may need to implement a PCA later in the year, though current conditions are stable. Staff will update the Board as needed.
- **Staffing:** Recruitment is underway for an electrical mechanic and apprentice lineworker. The initial response was very strong, with 65+ applicants for the lineworker role.
- **Industry conference:** The American Public Power Association (APPA) annual conference will be held in Boston (June 26–July 1). Board members are invited to attend.
- **Awards and recognition:** Mr. Spinale highlighted two recent awards that BMLD won for reliability, the RP3 Diamond Member award and a Certificate of Excellence in Reliability, both from the APPA.

- **Audit:** The final audit for 2025 financials is scheduled for April 29th, with all materials prepared and expected to proceed without issues. Mr. Machado will attend as the Board representative.
- **Billing system changes:** Mr. Spinale reviewed that billing cycles are being standardized to align all customers to a first-of-the-month meter read date. Some bills will now be issued earlier so all billing cycles are completed by mid-month. The transition is underway, with customer notifications via inserts, social media, and local paper. Some customers will see a shorter bill during the transition, but this is a one-time occurrence. Changes support future time-of-use (TOU) rate design.
- **Board vacancy process:** Applications for an open Light Board seat are being received (at least 2–3 candidates identified). A joint meeting with the Select Board is planned in mid-to-late May to select a candidate, with a statutory requirement to fill the seat within 7 days after the joint meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

This item was continued from Item 4.

Mr. Beavers raised a proposal that was being developed for Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) funding focused on reducing energy costs for 1–4 family homes, with a particular emphasis on geothermal network systems (similar to an existing pilot in Framingham). The effort is looking for broader support from municipal light departments like BMLD, which has prior involvement in a related geothermal feasibility study. The Board expressed general support for signing a non-binding letter of support to MassCEC, as it represents interest only and no financial or operational commitment.

Mr. Machado read a proclamation honoring former member Michael Macrae for his service on both the Board and the Light Board Advisory Committee (LBAC). Mr. Macrae thanked the Board, and a brief recess was called so photos could be taken.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss trade secrets and conduct strategy session for non-union personnel**

*Mr. Klionsky moved to enter into Executive Session to 1. Discuss trade secrets, confidential, or other proprietary information provided in the course of this body's activities as an energy supplier, and 2. Conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (General Manager) and then adjourn in Executive Session. Mr. Beavers seconded, and the motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Klionsky, Mr. Beavers, and Mr. Machado all voted aye.*

The Municipal Light Board went into Executive Session at 8:13am and adjourned from Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Erin Lenzing, Executive Assistant