

**MINUTES OF THE  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
NOVEMBER 26, 2018**

**PURSUANT TO** notice given the Wellesley Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met in the Municipal Light Plant (“MLP”) Gordon F. Kingsley Board Room, 4 Municipal Way, at 5:30 PM.

**PRESENT**

Those present included Chair Edward J. Stewart, III and Commissioners Paul L. Criswell, David A. T. Donohue, Katharine Gibson and Jeffrey P. Wechsler. Also in attendance were MLP Director Richard F. Joyce and staff members David M. Allen, Kevin P. Bracken, Terrance J. Connolly, Debra J. Healy, Cynthia R. Lowe, William H. Marsh, Janet C. Maynard, Stephen G. Neshe, Donald H. Newell, Brenda F. Sullivan, Daniel J. Trant and Candyce M. Wright. Advisory Representative William Maynard and Wellesley residents Mary Gard, Fred Bunger, Scott Bender, Laura Olton, Ellen Korpi, James Gorman, Phyllis Theermann and Lise Olney were in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Donohue and seconded by Mr. Criswell, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the October 29, 2018 Public Session Minutes as written.

**CITIZEN SPEAK**

Mr. Stewart presented all of those in attendance with an opportunity to speak on matters pertaining to the MLP. No one wished to speak.

**DIRECTOR’S ITEMS**

**Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (“VREP”).** Office Manager Terrance J. Connolly updated the Board on the VREP campaign. As a result of this outreach thirty-two (32) new residents enrolled and sixteen (16) increased their VREP percentage. A total of 1,040 residents and businesses participate in this program ranking Wellesley fourth nationally based on the percentage of customers participating. The “Top 4” ranked utilities are listed below:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Utility</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Portland General Electric	19.4%
2	Sacramento Municipal Utility	11.6%
3	Farmers Electric Cooperative	10.8%
4	Wellesley Municipal Light Plant	10.6%

Mr. Joyce noted that the \$0.04/kilowatt-hour charge was based on the additional cost of renewable energy within the MLP’s power supply portfolio. The MLP was one of Massachusetts first electric utilities to make a 20-year commitment to purchase Massachusetts Renewable Energy Certificate, Class I wind generation. Since then the price of renewable energy has decreased resulting in an above market price for Wellesley’s VREP. The Board asked the Director to compare Wellesley’s voluntary price to current renewable market prices. The Board thanked Mr. Connolly and staff for a successful campaign.

**Analysis Group Study.** The Director informed the Board that steps have been taken to implement greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emission reduction measures identified in the Analysis Group Phase I, 2018 – 2030 Study. These measures included the four initiatives below.

- **Sustainable Energy Committee (“SEC”).** Given the MLP’s past campaigns with the SEC the Director identified nine potential GHG reduction initiatives the MLP could undertake within the next year to eighteen months. The SEC was asked to assign a priority for each initiative to assist the Board with the allocation of funds and staff resources.
- **Energy New England (“ENE”).** On behalf of a number of public power systems ENE has identified potential future opportunities to increase the amount of renewable energy available. ENE has identified four possible power suppliers:
  - Palmer Biomass
  - Firstlight Hydro;
  - Offshore Wind; and
  - NextEra Solar.
- **Municipal Solar Program.** The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) has established a solar rebate program for municipal electric utilities. The municipal program is similar to the DOER’s investor-owned SMART program. Through ENE the MLP has expressed an interest in participating subject to Board approval. Mr. Joyce said two approvals were required: 1) formal approval to participate; and 2) approval of a Wellesley-specific campaign. The Board unanimously approved the MLP’s participation in the DOER municipal program.
- **900 Worcester Street Solar.** Attorneys for the MLP and Wellesley Sports Center are finalizing a rooftop “Lease and Grant of Easement” agreement.
- **Principles for the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant to Address Greenhouse Gases and the Town of Wellesley Goal of Reducing Its Carbon Emissions (“Principles”).** Mr. Criswell reviewed the seven proposed steps he would like the Board to consider adopting in support of the Analysis Group Study. These seven proposed Principles were for the Board’s future consideration and discussion. All Board Members expressed overall support for the Principles with Mr. Donohue recommending a higher priority for energy conservation practices. Mr. Criswell would be unavailable for the December Board Meeting and asked that the January Board Agenda include further discussion on the Principles.

**Commercial Internet Service.** Assistant Director Donald H. Newell reviewed the steps the MLP has completed to begin offering commercial internet service to Wellesley businesses. The MLP is on schedule for a January 1, 2019 start date. A priority list of locations has been established that identifies those areas in Town where the MLP has existing connectivity to fiber. There are approximately 400 businesses in these locations in which the MLP could most cost-effectively provide internet service. Mr. Newell said the entire management team meets every Wednesday to discuss scheduling, policies, billing, fiber connectivity and marketing. Although still early in this effort the MLP’s progress is consistent with the internet business model presented to the Board in July. Mr. Stewart thanked Mr. Newell for his leadership and asked if the staff could prepare a summary of the expenses incurred to date.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

- **Mass Development-Devens.** The Director and Board discussed the need to evaluate the long term impact Devens has on the MLP's operations and staffing.
- **Wellesley College.** Appears the College has decided to operate one or two engines in the short-term instead of becoming an all requirements customer.
- **Distributed Antenna System ("DAS").** MLP met with American Tower representatives on November 15, 2018 and progress continues with a second carrier utilizing the DAS network.
- **Red Kettle Drive.** MLP staff will participate in the Kiwanis bell ringing on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **City of Tallahassee.** The Director reviewed the letter of gratitude the MLP received from Mayor Andrew Gillum in response to Hurricane Michael.

## **CITIZEN SPEAK**

Wellesley resident Phyllis Theermann asked Mr. Stewart if the Board would allow a second opportunity for "citizen speak". Mr. Stewart agreed and Ms. Theermann expressed Sustainable Wellesley's position that the MLP should transition to 100% renewable energy, the need to promote expanded electrification and full funding for the SMART rebate program. The Chair asked if anyone else would like to provide input. No one else wished to speak and the meeting was adjourned.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey P. Wechsler, Secretary