

MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
JULY 29, 2019

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 David A. T. Donohue, and Commissioners Paul L. Criswell, Edward J. Stewart, III and Jeffrey P. Wechsler. Also in attendance were MLP Director Richard F. Joyce, staff members David M. Allen, Kevin P. Bracken, Terrance J. Connolly, Debra J. Healy, Cynthia R. Lowe, William H. Marsh, Donald H. Newell, Daniel J. Trant and Candyce M. Wright. In addition, Advisory Representative William Maynard and Wellesley resident Mary Gard attended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: To approve the June 24, 2019 Public Session Minutes as written.

CITIZEN SPEAK

The Chair provided everyone in attendance with an opportunity to speak on matters regarding the MLP. Ms. Gard spoke on the negative environmental health impact of the proposed Palmer Bio-Mass Plant and asked the Board not to purchase power from this facility.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Fiscal Year 2019 ("FY19") Director's Objectives. Mr. Joyce reviewed the progress made in each of the thirteen FY19 Objectives. The staff placed a priority on the completion of the sustainability Objectives. Analysis Group Phase I and II studies were completed which included obtaining input from residents at a televised public meeting in September. The Board voted to adopt six major sustainable principles and restructure the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program. The Director informed the Board that MEAM ("Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts") had retained Analysis Group to complete a sustainable study of all 40 municipal electric utilities similar to the Wellesley studies. Other Objectives that were fully completed included major projects such as: commercial internet; Human Resources Guidebook; Standard & Poor's credit rating and distributed antenna system successor plan. Progress was made on the three Objectives not fully completed:

- Wellesley College peak shaving agreement;
- 900 Worcester Street solar; and
- Non-Operating financial statements.

Fiscal Year 2020 ("FY20") Director's Objectives. Mr. Newell proposed fourteen Objectives for FY20. Of these Objectives the following five have been incorporated within the Management Team Bonus goals. These are:

- Expansion of commercial internet service;
- Cost-benefit evaluation of advanced metering infrastructure;
- Completion of a comprehensive compensation analysis;
- Installation of a small cell wireless network for Town-wide coverage; and
- Completion of a multi-family energy assessment.

Mr. Donohue and other Board Members complimented Mr. Newell for proposing such challenging Objectives. Upon a motion made by Mr. Criswell and seconded by Mr. Stewart, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the fourteen Fiscal Year 2020 Director's Objectives as proposed by Mr. Donald H. Newell.

Distributed Antenna System ("DAS"). Mr. Joyce informed the Board that seven companies have requested copies of the MLP's "Small Cell Wireless Attachment" Request for Proposal ("RFP"). To date three addendums have been issued and distributed to everyone requesting a RFP. In order to allow cellular carriers time to prepare a comprehensive response to the "Town-wide coverage" requirement the deadline for submitting proposals has been extended from July 19th to August 9th. The RFP clearly identifies Town-wide coverage as the number one priority followed by the financial impact on the MLP. The Board and Director discussed the limitations of the existing DAS network as a result of the implementation of 5-G technology. The one drawback of replacing DAS with a small cell proprietary network is each carrier will require their own antennas and electronics. All Board Members were in agreement that the MLP's primary goal is to expand cellular service to all areas within Wellesley and the conversion to proprietary networks was the best method available to accomplish this.

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program ("VREP"). Office Manager Terrance J. Connolly provided an update on the VREP participation. Both Wellesley College and Babson College increased their participation by more than 1,000,000 kilowatt-hours ("kWh"). Only six participants elected to opt out of the program due to the purchase of Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates and limiting participation levels to 50% and 100%. Mr. Connolly informed the Board all participants agreed to increase their percentage from 10% and 25% to 50% with only one exception. Everyone at 50% agreed to increase their purchase to 100%. Based on information available the MLP estimates annual VREP purchases will increase from 8,000,000 kWhs to 12,300,000 kWhs.

Representative Peisch. Massachusetts State Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch joined the meeting at 6:15 PM. Representative Peisch presented Mr. Joyce with a Resolution from the Massachusetts House of Representatives recognizing his 24 years of dedicated service to the Town of Wellesley with specific recognition to the importance Mr. Joyce placed on sustainability and reliability.

Quarterly Reliability. Mr. Allen reviewed fourth quarter and year-to-date FY19 reliability results. The MLP's System Average Interruption Duration Index ("SAIDI") was five minutes and twenty-nine minutes for the fourth quarter and FY19, respectively. Both SAIDI measures are reflective of very reliable electric service. Mr. Allen and Mr. Newell went into detail on the problems encountered on the 1512 circuit as a result of squirrel contacts and equipment failures. The MLP measures reliability based on criteria provided by American Public Power Association in comparison to industry averages. By any measure the MLP provides very reliable electric service.

Communications Policy. Mr. Joyce recommended the implementation of a six month, informal communications policy between the Board, Director and staff. This policy would require all Board Members to communicate through the Chair to schedule meetings and/or projects with the Director or staff. Mr. Joyce was of the opinion this temporary policy would be beneficial given the transition to a new Director and the number of time-consuming projects requiring staff time. All Board Members were in agreement this policy would be beneficial for the next six months.

Internet Advertisement. Assistant Director, Debra J. Healy reviewed the draft advertisement the MLP was preparing as a “thank you” to the first 50 Wellesley businesses that signed-up for the MLP’s internet service. This ad would be placed in The Wellesley Townsman with a smaller version included as an insert with commercial bills. The Board provided feedback as to the design with more emphasis on “internet”.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey P. Wechsler, Secretary