

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
SEPTEMBER 24, 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, Ellen L. Korpi, Edward J. Stewart, III and Jeffrey P. Wechsler. Also in attendance were MLP Director Donald H. Newell, staff members David M. Allen, Kevin P. Bracken, Ann G. Collins, Terrance J. Connolly, Debra J. Healy, William H. Marsh and Joanne M. Scannell, Daniel J. Trant. In addition, Wellesley residents Fred Bunger, Marybeth Martello, Laura Olton and Phyllis Theermann attended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VOTED: To approve the July 29, 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. Theermann read a letter from Sustainable Wellesley to the Board of the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant in support of H-3983 and in opposition to H-2863.

Fred Bunger and Marybeth Martello provided an overview of the Sustainable Energy Committee’s Draft Sustainable Building Guidelines.

DIRECTOR’S ITEMS

Financial Statements. The Director referred to Page 2, Fiscal Year 2019 year-to-date Net Income Statement for the month of July and noted two items that stand out. The reduction in Purchased Power and FCM Charge of \$335,635 and \$303,939, respectively. The Five-Year Financial Forecast (“Forecast”) projected energy costs at \$52.64/MWH for July and the actual cost was \$51.42/MWH. What makes this especially important is we projected a \$1.8 million reduction in energy costs from FY19 to FY20 so it looks like we will realize those savings based on July’s results. Our Forecast projected FCM costs would be reduced from \$9,852,900 in FY19 to \$8,371,900 in FY20. As with energy costs, it looks like the MLP will realize these savings during the course of the year.

Mr. Newell referred to Page 15 and noted that FY20 Forecast projected Net Income before the PILOT of \$1,726,463. Short sample size but the MLP is now on track for \$1,913,462.

MLP Transition Plan. The Director introduced the new Business Manager, Joanne Scannell and informed the Board that job postings to fill a Supervisory Electrical Engineer position and a Fiber Splicer position would each be advertised in the month of October.

Bid Specification #20E-80-160, Recloser Award. On August 27, 2019, the MLP staff opened bids for Overhead Pole Mounted 15kV, 600 AMP, Three Phase Reclosers. Four bids were submitted with only the WESCO Distribution bid in compliance with the bid specification. The bid price of \$19,086 per unit was 2.7% more than the amount budgeted. Mr. Allen detailed the need to request specific requirements to allow the reclosers to operate in conformance with the MLP's distribution infrastructure. After a brief discussion and upon a motion made by Mr. Donohue and seconded by Mr. Criswell, it was unanimously

VOTED: In accordance with Bid Specification #20E-80-160 the Municipal Light Board authorized the purchase of six overhead pole-mounted 15kV 600 AMP three phase reclosers from Wesco Distribution in the amount of \$114,516.00 and ten power cables for SEL-651R controller from WESCO Distribution in the amount of \$1,100.00.

Bid Specification #20E-80-161, Tank Switch Award. On September 10, 2019, the MLP staff opened bids for five tank switch; 15KV; 3PH; 600AMP; load-break. Three substantially conforming bids were submitted. Mr. Allen recommended the award to WESCO Distribution for the Innovative Switchgear tank switches based on compatibility with the MLP's distribution infrastructure. After a brief discussion and upon a motion made by Mr. Criswell and seconded by Mr. Stewart it was unanimously

VOTED: In accordance with Bid Specification #20E-80-161 the Municipal Light Board authorized the purchase of five tank switch; 15KV; 3PH; 600AMP; load-break to WESCO Distribution in the amount of \$157,150.00.

MEAM Report and Legislative Update. The Director provided a brief summary of the Analysis Group Report prepared for MEAM. The report focuses on portfolio resource mix rather than ownership and retirement of renewable energy credits (RECs). The report also details the importance of longer-term contracts with credit-worthy counterparties (such as MLPs) in new renewable development. There was discussion that under the current tracking system, ownership and retirement of RECs is the only way an entity may claim the environmental attributes attached with energy purchases.

There was a brief discussion of the differences between two House Bills, H2863 and H3987. It was suggested by Mr. Donahue that the Director contact Representative Peisch to inform her that the Board is not comfortable with the present wording of the MEAM-backed H2863. No position was taken on H3987.

Update 900 Worcester Street. The Director notified the Board that he has re-engaged the property owner at 900 Worcester Street in an effort to finalize the roof lease agreement.

Executive Session. The Secretary, Mr. Weschler, polled each Board Member individually for authorization to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Wellesley College Peak Shaving Agreement and to provide an update on the proposals received in response to the Request for Proposal for Small Cell Wireless Attachments.. Each Board Member responded in the affirmative and the Board entered Executive Session at 6:50 PM.

Return to Public Session. The Board returned to Public Session at 7:35 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey P. Wechsler, Secretary