

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL
Monday, August 18, 2014
8:00 A.M.**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andres Rojas called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board (BMLB) to order at 8:06 AM.

Present:

BMLB- Chair Rojas, Vice Chair Baghdady, Member Paollilo

Belmont Light- General Manager Palmer, Staff Klubnichkina and Keane, Legal Counsel Lawrence

Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board- Members Klionsky and McClain (no quorum)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED 5/14/2014

Baghdady made a motion to approve the May 14, 2014 minutes. Chair Rojas seconded the motion, which was approved with a vote of three in favor (3-0).

III. SUBSTATION AND TRANSMISSION PROJECT UPDATE

General Manager Palmer provided a progress update on Belmont Light's ongoing substation and transmission project. He stated that all abatement work at 20 Flanders Road was recently completed. Additionally, the demolition phase of the project is expected to be complete by the end of September. Baghdady asked if any of the building plans had changed since Belmont Light originally presented them to the Planning Board, and Palmer confirmed that nothing had changed.

Palmer continued that the project's scheduled energization date of May 2016 remains achievable. The substation and transmission project is now being managed as a program separated into four defined project areas: 1) demolition; 2) substation building; 3) transmission line; and 4) distribution line. Since the new owners' project manager has taken over project management duties, there is increased logic and confidence in the project schedule and an overall sense of improvement by the project teams. The engineering aspect of the substation and transmission

projects, which is currently behind schedule, should finish on time due to the changes in project management. The next phase entails procurement of construction contracts and major equipment. Bid packages for substation, power transformers, and switchgear will be advertised in September, with awards expected in late fall. Though there will be some challenges going forward, namely continuing to control engineering resources, all construction phases for the project are expected to finish by 2016.

Palmer stated that along with the improved schedule, he expects that the project will not exceed the capital bonding limit. He concluded his update by explaining that on July 8th, officials from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities were given a tour of the project sites and later held a hearing on the transmission line route. Klionsky added that the hearing went very well and no further public concern was raised.

Paolillo said that it is important to keep the public informed of project happenings, so BMLB and the Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board (BMLAB) should hold a public presentation on the project. This presentation will be scheduled for late September. Rojas ended the discussion about the project by stating that it is important to have on record that the project is currently on schedule and on budget.

Next, the discussion turned briefly to the subject of net metering and solar distributed generation (DG). Baghdady and Rojas expressed concern that Belmont Light, BMLB, and BMLAB are being portrayed as “anti-green” because of public debates over Belmont Light’s solar tariff. Rojas said that this just isn’t true—Belmont Light is not anti-green or rear-thinking. In fact, Belmont Light buys power that is even greener than solar DG. Klionsky concurred that the attention on the proposed third phase of the tariff is unfortunate because it is distracting the board members and Belmont Light’s staff from more pressing issues like the substation project.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved: into Executive Session at 9:02 AM:

To protect trade secrets, confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of proceedings when a municipal lighting plant board determines that such disclosure will adversely affect its ability to conduct business in relation to other entities making, selling, or distributing electric power and energy pursuant to section 47D of chapter 164.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Board re-entered open session at 9:57 AM to adjourn.