

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD
IN JOINT WITH MUNICIPAL LIGHT ADVISORY BOARD
CLASSROOM A, BEECH STREET CENTER
266 BEECH STREET, BELMONT
Monday, November 24, 2014
11:00 A.M.**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

2015 FEB 26 AM 8:56

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rojas called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board (MLB or Light Board) to order at 11:03 A.M.

Chair Brown called a regular meeting of the Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) to order at 11:03 A.M.

Present:

Light Board- Chair Rojas, Vice Chair Baghdady

MLAB- Chair Brown, Members DiOrio, Jones, Klionsky, and McClain

Belmont Light- General Manager Palmer, Staff Keane

Absent:

Light Board Member Paolillo, MLAB Vice Chair Forrester and Member McVay

II. DISCUSSION ON SOLAR DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

Chair Rojas stated that the boards were taking into consideration the plentiful public comment on Belmont Light's solar distributed generation (solar DG) policy they received from several open meetings, two public forums, and many emails. Brown next discussed MLAB's proposals for the updated policy and pricing structure, noting that an essential question for all board members to consider is "to what extent should Belmont's non-solar customers be subsidizing solar customers?" He also emphasized that the prices for solar technology have drastically decreased over recent years. After much consideration of these points, MLAB's latest recommendations were to: 1) go ahead with Phase 2 as proposed and approved in 2011; 2) impose a distribution charge that would recover the fixed expenses associated with transmitting and delivering electricity; and 3) grandfather, for some period of time, existing solar customers from the new fixed charge. MLAB and the Light Board are also committed to the reduction of carbon

emissions, so will come up with incentives that are non-price based to promote carbon-reducing activities.

Rojas thanked MLAB for a summary of their latest proposal and the audience for attending the meeting. He said that when discussing this matter, everyone in attendance should be careful because there has been a lot of mischaracterization of the issue. Rojas was concerned that misinformation creates harmful tension in the community. He wanted everyone to remember that the Light Board is committed to green energy and is doing a lot of work to get the solar policy right.

The boards then discussed MLAB's proposal in more detail. Topics covered include:

- that it is important or remember that even when a customer is generating his or her own electricity, he or she is still connected to the grid, thereby creating fixed costs for Belmont Light;
- that under MLAB's new proposal, the Fixed Production Limit included in the current pricing structure would be removed;
- it is worth considering that town residents might be willing to give a small subsidy to promote a growth of solar;
- both boards are committed to renewable energy, and are excited to explore other options for encouraging more people to install solar; and
- there are some remaining details to hash out, but the boards need to find and vote upon a mutually agreeable and clear policy.

Rojas moved, and Baghdady seconded, to adjourn the Light Board meeting at 12:23 PM.

MLAB continued in open session to further discuss their policy, ultimately deciding to postpone an official decision until more details are clarified.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MLAB moved: into Executive Session at 12:33 PM:

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.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MLAB re-entered open session at 1:12 PM to adjourn.