

Light Board Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting held on April 26, 2018
Belmont Light Conference Room
7:30 pm

2018 JUN -4 PM 2:02

Attending members: Chair Steve Klionsky, Bob Forrester, Sarah Jackson, Roy Epstein, Travis Franck

Non-attending members: Mark McVay, Ralph Jones

Belmont Light (BL) attending: Acting General Manager Craig Spinale, Aidan Leary, Incoming GM Chris Roy

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Called to order at 7:32pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- No minutes considered for approval.

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LIGHT DEPARTMENT GENERAL MANAGER

- TOPIC: Belmont has hired a new General Manager for Belmont Light — Chris Roy.
- Chris Roy briefly introduced himself to the Committee. The Committee also went around with brief introductions.
- Roy starts May 14, 2018.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

- TOPIC: Belmont has hired a new Town Administrator — Patrice Garvin.
- Garvin briefly introduced herself to the Committee.

V. SUBSTATION DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT (PHASE C)

- TOPIC: Spinale presented an update on the Substation Project, which will also be presented to Town Meeting.
- The project has three phases: A, B, C. Phase A (construction and energizing of the new substation) has been completed. Phase B — cutting over and utilizing the new substation voltage is mostly done.
- Phase B will need another line installed along Bright Road before final completion.

- Phase C — decommissioning the three older substations — started in 2018; currently in the planning phase.
- Epstein: Will the structures of the substations be removed after decommissioning?
Spinale: They won't be needed but there is no plan to demolish the buildings as part of the Phase C plan.
- What about the High School building project and the 3rd substation? The substation is expected to remain online during the high school construction period. There was some concern the new high school plans might have a roadway through the substation property. May need to coordinate more with those working on the high school.
- The current budget for Phase C is \$21mil; accelerating the project to decommission the substation near the high school would cost an extra \$6mil.

VI. BILLING ISSUE — PPTA MEMO

- TOPIC: Eversource didn't read a meter at the new substation, and therefore they didn't charge BL about \$370k for energy.
- There were two meters that needed to be read, and Eversource only recorded and billed one of them.
- No expected need to change the PPTA on BL bills for 2018. Currently expecting an over collection that should cover the yet-to-be-billed Eversource bill to correct for the mistake. The bill is expected to come late-Summer.

VII. BL RATE LEVEL ANALYSIS

- TOPIC: Discussion of how Belmont's electricity rates compare with the region.
- Epstein: Discussed Roy's rate analysis that he presented during his general manager interview. Roy's analysis was useful to highlight areas for rate structure comparisons, but only used publicly available data from 2016.
- Epstein: 2016 was a spike in the price of purchased power for BL -- seems to be an anomaly.
- Forrester: BL is correcting the categories to make purchased power price more standard. They are moving toward categories used by Concord MLP in its accounting. The previous method categorized capacity charges incorrectly.
- Epstein: Proposed maybe contacting other MLPS and starting a conversation to see if we could align the books more, which would hopefully make public records more useful.

VIII. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROGRAM — UPDATE ON INCENTIVE STRUCTURE

- TOPIC: Belmont announced changes to the electric vehicle incentive program
- Spinale: The pilot program had two different incentive structures: one that subsidized smart level-2 charges and that was "bring your own charger".

- After reviewing the costs of each, the data that was collected from all participants, and hearing community concerns about charging times, BL decided to simplify the program into a single incentive structure.
- Now all participants will follow the BYO Charger model. Participants will receive \$8/month as long as they only charge their EV on-peak two times a month. This \$8/month credit is calculated every month, but credited on a bill once per year.
- Additionally, the off-peak hours times include more weekday hours, and all weekend hours, reflecting the benefit to BL (peak isn't at noon) and concerns of solar panel owners (they could use their solar power until 1pm to charge their EVs).

IX. EPLI EMPLOYMENT POLICY

- TOPIC: BL didn't have an employment practice insurance policy (Directors and Officers insurance).
- They purchased one now, matching a similar policy that the Town had for the Board of Selectman.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

LBAC expects to meet on the following evenings:

- May 17th
- June 14th
- July 19th
- Aug 23rd

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (NOT ENTERED)

- The Committee did not enter executive session to discuss details of a potential wind energy contract; executive session may be invoked next meeting if more contract details become available.

Potential Wind Contract

- TOPIC: Energy New England (ENE) is putting together a wind contract, of which Belmont Light is being offered 1MW.
- ENE is organizing a new wind contract from the generator. The contract isn't finalized yet, so many details were not available for consideration.
- Spinale: The expected power contract will be sized at 1MW of wind (currently would be 3% of BL portfolio).
- Spinale: The cost floated by ENE is favorable to BL existing costs. RECs would be included. The contract would be with a New England wind generator, so likely much of the power would be generated at night. Term: 20-year contract.

- There was general interest in the Committee for the contract, but decision put off as no immediate action was needed. BL Chair Dash stated that if LBAC made a recommendation at its next meeting, the LB could discuss the issue at the next meeting following the LBAC meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- 9:29pm