

**MINUTES OF THE  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
NOVEMBER 18, 2015**

**PURSUANT TO** notice given the Wellesley Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met in the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (“MLP”) Gordon F. Kingsley Board Room, 4 Municipal Way, at 5:30 PM.

**PRESENT**

Those present included Chair Owen H. Dugan, Commissioners Paul L. Criswell, David A. T. Donohue, Katharine Gibson and Edward J. Stewart, III; MLP Director Richard F. Joyce and staff members Joseph A. Bisol, Kevin P. Bracken, Michael Coppellotti, Trevor P. Criswell, Joanna A. D’Orazio, Debra J. Healy, Cynthia R. Lowe, Kevin M. Sullivan, Daniel J. Trant and James W. Verner.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the October 8, 2015 Public Session Minutes as written.

**CITIZEN SPEAK**

The Chair presented all of those in attendance with the opportunity to speak on matters of interest with respect to the MLP. No one in attendance wished to speak.

**DIRECTOR’S ITEMS**

**Financial Statements.** Accounting Supervisor Joseph A. Bisol reviewed the August 2015 and Fiscal Year-To-Date (“YTD”) 2016 Income Statement. Through September the YTD Net Income was \$1,286,000 compared to \$847,000 through September 2014. Mr. Bisol attributed the additional profit to the 5% rate increase and a 3.7% increase in kilowatt-hour (“kWh”) sales. Mr. Bisol reviewed the “Total Cash and Equivalents” section of the Balance Sheet. The MLP’s cash balance as of September 30, 2015 was \$151,000 less than September 30, 2014. The decrease in cash was a result of timing differences between incurring expenses and billing revenue for two major projects:

- Town of Acton LED streetlight retrofit; and
- Distributed Antenna System (“DAS”).

**Reliability Report.** Supervisory Electrical Engineer Michael Coppellotti compared the power outages the MLP experienced during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2016 (“FY16”) to the prior year. During FY16 there were 13 outages affecting 600 customer locations compared to 7 outages and 283 during Fiscal Year 2015. Abnormally warmer temperatures overloaded distribution transformers and several lightning strikes were the primary factors contributing to the increase in electric service interruptions.

**Energy New England (“ENE”) Director.** Mr. Joyce discussed the qualities ENE desired in filling the vacant outside director position. Based on interviews and recommendations all five Massachusetts ENE members were of the opinion that Christian Scorzoni’s background and work

experience would make him a strong contributor to the ENE Board. After a brief discussion regarding the responsibilities and compensation for ENE Board Members, upon a motion made by Mr. Donohue and seconded by Ms. Gibson it was unanimously

**VOTED:** That Christian Scorzoni be and is hereby elected as Director of the Energy New England Board to serve in that capacity for a term as defined in Section 3.2 of the Energy New England Operating Agreement.

That in accordance with the Energy New England Operating Agreement, Christian Scorzoni be and is hereby designated as a Class A Director and as such will serve a term of three years having completed an initial one year term as defined in Section 3.2 of the Energy New England Operating Agreement.

**Babson College/Wellesley Solar.** The Director provided the Board with an update on the progress the MLP is making working with Babson College and Wellesley College ("Colleges") to facilitate solar installations on their campuses. Based on a December 2011 legal opinion provided by Attorneys Christopher Pollart and Karla Doukas of Rubin & Rudman the staff is recommending that the Purchase Power Agreement ("PPA") should be between the MLP and solar developer. The MLP will purchase all kWh's generated directly from the developer. A working group has met several times to discuss an organizational structure that would include the Colleges, MLP and the solar panel installer/owner. One of the more critical issues is to meet a timeline that would ensure the solar panels are installed and in operation by the end of calendar year 2016 to take advantage of the federal tax incentives. All members of the working group were impressed with a potential solar developer, PowerOptions that has a system in place that meets the needs of the Colleges and MLP. In addition to having existing relationships with capital investors, the flexibility to meet the Colleges' multiple demands, a fully vetted PPA, PowerOptions has recently solicited bids from solar installers and received competitive prices. Mr. Joyce reviewed the steps and timeline required to provide kWh pricing acceptable to the Colleges and obtain all necessary approvals. The Board and Director were in agreement all solar kWh's generated would be billed to the Colleges at the same price the MLP would pay PowerOptions.

**Internet Service.** Trevor P. Criswell reviewed the steps the MLP has taken to evaluate the feasibility of offering Internet Service. The MLP staff has attended meetings with Holyoke Gas & Electric Department ("Holyoke") and Concord Municipal Light Plant ("Concord"). Both Holyoke and Concord have recently begun offering internet service to their customers. Based on the very preliminary analysis to date the staff is of the opinion that the MLP might be capable of providing, faster, more reliable broadband services at competitive prices to Wellesley residents and businesses. The Board asked several questions with respect to costs and expressed their preference for a conservative, risk adverse business strategy.

**Distributed Antenna System ("DAS") Update.** Various members of the management team updated the Board on the progress made for the DAS installation. Line Supervisor, Kevin P. Bracken detailed the excellent work performed by every member of the line department. The linemen willingly participated in all facets of the fiber installation from planning/scheduling right through the installation. Mr. Bracken explained how all linemen were needed for a two-mile installation on Route 9 on a Saturday and how pleased he was that every lineman volunteered to come in.

**Eversource Litigation.** The Director and Mr. Paul Criswell reviewed the results of a meeting with Attorneys Thomas J. Harrington and Donna M. Brewer of the law firm Miyares and Harrington. Attorney Brewer has filed a complaint with the Norfolk Superior Court seeking to recover the MLP's repair cost of \$120,000 from damages caused by Eversource gas crews. On February 11, 2015, Eversource crews drilled into the MLP's supply line on Central Street in Needham. Eversource's pipeline and associated natural gas leak were nine feet away from the MLP's duct bank. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities determined Eversource violated applicable Dig Safe procedures and levied a \$5,000 civil penalty which Eversource subsequently paid. All Board Members were in agreement that Eversource's refusal to accept responsibility left the MLP with no other alternative other than to proceed with litigation.

**Next Meeting.** The Board scheduled the next meeting for Monday, December 14, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul L. Criswell, Secretary