

**MINUTES OF THE  
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD  
MARCH 29, 2016**

**PURSUANT TO** notice given the Wellesley Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met at the Wellesley Middle School, Room 303 at 6:15 PM.

**PRESENT**

Those present included Chair Owen H. Dugan, Commissioners Paul L. Criswell, David A. T. Donohue, and Katharine Gibson; MLP Director Richard F. Joyce and staff members Debra J. Healy, Kevin M. Sullivan and James W. Verner.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the February 29, 2016 Public Session Minutes as amended.

**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**

**Canton Mountain Wind (“Canton”).** The Director reviewed the correspondence and cost estimate Energy New England provided. Canton is an eight-turbine, 22.8 megawatt wind project located in central Maine. The MLP has had a positive experience with two other wind projects developed by Patriot Renewables. Since this project is going into commercial operation after 1997 the purchase would be entitled to Class I, Renewable Energy Certificates. Mr. Joyce was of the opinion the twenty-year fixed price was competitive and there were no material financial risks because the MLP would be able to sell any RECs in excess of those required to be retired as part of the voluntary renewable energy program. It was also noted that in response to Opinion Dynamics May 2013 customer survey, almost 60% of Wellesley residents were either “somewhat willing” or “very willing” to purchase renewable energy. The Board and Director discussed the MLP’s energy portfolio and requirements of the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act legislation. Upon a motion made by Mr. Criswell and seconded by Ms. Gibson it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To authorize the Municipal Light Plant Director to enter into an agreement with Energy New England and/or Patriot Renewables to purchase the Municipal Light Plant’s participant share of the Canton Mountain Wind project at the specified, fixed, megawatt-hour price for twenty years.

**15-Mile Radius.** Assistant Director, Debra J. Healy discussed the need to include a 15-mile residency requirement for all new emergency responders hired after July 1, 2012. Wellesley residents and businesses have become dependent on electricity to operate medical and other equipment. As a result of this increased dependence the MLP’s response to power outages outside of normal work hours is much more critical. As property values in Town and surrounding communities continue to rise there is concern MLP lineworkers will move further

away. Ms. Healy was of the opinion most, if not all, current lineworkers were able to respond quickly to outages. This residency requirement was established with the approval of the MLP's Production Union, to prevent potential, future problems. All Board Members were in agreement and formally approved the Policy Regarding Compliance With Article 22(m) Residency Requirement For Group 4 Employees.

**Distributed Antenna System ("DAS").** Ms. Healy provided a brief update on the activation of the Verizon Wireless 48-node DAS network. Negotiations are on-going between American Tower Corporation and a second carrier. Ms. Healy was optimistic a second carrier would be utilizing the Town's DAS by the end of calendar year 2016.

**Mass Development - Devens ("Devens").** April 2016 marks the thirteenth year of the Operations & Maintenance Agreement. Devens has exercised both five-year rollover provisions. The Board discussed the overall success of the MLP's relationship with Devens and expressed support for a continuation of the partnership.

**Financial Statements.** Unseasonably warm temperatures in February 2016 resulted in a \$334,000 revenue reduction. However, a combination of these temperatures and major decreases in natural gas prices reduced energy costs by \$663,000. Transmission costs continue to be a burden as the February peak demand was down 8.1% but transmission costs were 7.7% higher than February 2015. The MLP's Fiscal Year 2016 ("FY16") cash balance was \$3.2 million higher than last year. Mr. Joyce expected the year-end cash to be close to the \$9.0 million projection. Through the first eight months of FY16 the net income exceeds the forecast by \$148,000 with a projected profit of \$1.8 million after the \$1.0 million payment to the Town's General Fund.

**Lost Time Accidents.** On July 25, 2016 the MLP will have gone 2,000 consecutive days without experiencing a Lost Time Accident. This is a major accomplishment for any electric utility. The Director discussed possible ways to recognize and reward employees for their safety record. A luncheon is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dugan noted that 28 of 31 employees also did not take a sick day in 2015. The Board was in agreement the 2,000 days was a noteworthy accomplishment and employees should be suitably rewarded from the savings the MLP realized.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC").** The Board expressed their appreciation for Massachusetts United States Senators and Representatives support in challenging the fairness of capacity prices. The March 14, 2016 formal complaint to FERC highlights the financial burden placed on New England electric consumers due to ineffective ISO-New England oversight.

**Next Meeting.** The Board scheduled the next meeting for Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul L. Criswell, Secretary