

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William G. Bottiggi and Ken Stone, all of BELD, Susan Clawson of American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Gavin Williams of Williams Energy.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. December 10, 2019 Electric Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of December 10, 2019 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

ii. December 10, 2019 Broadband Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the last Broadband minutes of December 10, 2019 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. Relay for Life Request

Chairman Reynolds recognized Ms. Clawson. Ms. Clawson explained that she brought along some literature for the Board members regarding what the American Cancer Society's fundraising accomplishes. She reported that there is a new name and they will now be named the Relay for Life of Greater Braintree. There are other towns that have merged their relays into theirs and this name encompasses who they are now. The other towns now include Weymouth, Randolph, Holbrook, Abington along with Quincy and Milton. This is the 19th year and this local event has raised over \$4 million for the ACS and most of that stays local. Some of the literature is about Hope Lodge which provides free accommodations for a cancer patient and a caregiver. She continued: there have been 50 Nobel prize winners for cancer research and the latest is a gentleman at Dana Farber and he was an early grantee from the ACS - that was how he started his work.

The relay this year will June 13, 2020 and still be at the high school but the location at the high school is not set due to the rink being there. There was discussion. There will be the same advertising as before and BELD could have a table there at the relay if they would like. There was further discussion.

So voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to advertise with the Relay for Life of Greater Braintree as a gold sponsor (\$1500) as previously. So voted.

ii. Algonquin FOIA Resolution

Mr. Bottiggi reminded all that Algonquin, or Enbridge, is the gas transmission owner where we get our gas from for the power plants and that we have a pressure problem – Algonquin had committed to 600 PSI and when it drops below that it causes operational issues for us. We have been in negotiations with them and they would like a confidentiality agreement with us. Mr. Bottiggi explained that because we are a municipal and subject to the Freedom Of Information Act rules the Board needs to vote to declare this negotiation is exempt from the FOIA until after it is complete.

There was discussion. This is a contractual issue and should not be misconstrued with the issues that Enbridge/Algonquin are having in the development of the gas compression station in Weymouth. Mr. Bottiggi explained this vote will withhold the information used in negotiating from the public record until the end of the contract we have with Enbridge.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept that the negotiations between BELD and Enbridge be kept confidential and exempt. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. ENE Update

Mr. Bottiggi gave an update and a little history of Energy New England (ENE). He said ENE was founded in 1997 and the original members were Braintree, Taunton, Reading and CMEEC. Each member put in \$500,000 to form the coop. Reading and CMEEC had both departed due to business reasons. However, Reading has recently bought back in. Other municipals that joined in were Wellesley, Hingham and Concord a few years ago. Braintree and Taunton are each 33% owners and Wellesley, Hingham and Concord have 7.5% each and Reading has 11%.

We have invested \$650,000 (we bought an additional 5% more as did Taunton). They have about 29 municipal light plants as customers now. They do power supply, conservation services and lobbying. They are doing about \$6 million in revenue now. This year will be a net income of \$950,000 so 33% of that is flowing to our balance sheet so we currently have about \$2 million in equity in ENE.

The biggest revenue is in power supply which is what Mr. Hebert does. There has been an increase in customers and an increase in the munies' reputation as far as government agencies since Mr. Ragucci has come on board. Some of the programs that have come from this is the smart solar and EV. The governor wants everyone to use an energy "score card" – which gets used in energy audits and goes into a standard format and gives you an energy efficiency rating. This can then be available when you are trying to buy a house.

There was discussion.

Mr. Bottiggi reported that ENE has purchased Utility Services Inc. from Brian Evans-Mongeon. Mr. Evans-Mongeon helps utilities prepare for NERC audits and compliance and is getting into cyber security. Mr. Stone works closely with him. They have customers all over the country. He wants to work 3-5 more years so a plan has been worked out. USI will be under the ENE umbrella as a separate LLC and will remain in VT with the same employees.

Palmer renewable energy project seems to be getting closer to moving forward. This will burn wood waste from tree trimming and is eligible for Class 1 RECs in CT so we can retire the RECs here in MA and it will be renewable energy for us. The key is instead of blowing the waste back into the woods where it decays and gives off methane this way will burn the waste and it will give off CO2 which is a greenhouse gas. Methane is 15-20 times worse for the environment than burning it is. We are planning on taking a 5 megawatt stake in that plant.

We are also working with ENE on a 50 megawatt solar project in CT.

They are expanding their generation management business. They run our battery for us and they run a couple of engines for other munies. They may create a little operations center to dispatch all the distributed generation. This will be significant piece of their business.

From a lobbying perspective, the House Bill – H2862 is the municipal version of the Renewable Portfolio Standard, and they are trying to get that moved through this year. That will allow us to use nuclear power which is non-greenhouse gas emitting to meet our goals for being carbon-free. Right now the MA regulations do not allow that. They are getting a lot of positive feedback. All of our existing nuclear power will be gone by 2050. So while we have it let us use it.

Mr. Ragucci has implemented a speaker series where state reps and senators come and speak to the municipal utility managers.

BELD got a Mass Evolves EV recognition certificate for being one of the leaders in the State with our electric vehicle program.

There was discussion.

ii. Internet Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that BELD has successfully exited from the cable tv business. We are up to 2396 hi speed internet customers. Our pricing structure is helping us - \$39.00 for 100 meg. Financially, the billing – this is our first month with Internet only – is \$146,000. That should grow but even if it doesn't that is \$1.7 million for the year. We budgeted to get \$1.6 million a year and our expenses are budgeted at \$1.5 million so the important thing is that we are self sufficient. In response to a question Mr. Bottiggi reported that we did have some customers that left us but did not inform us so we sent them a bill as their system was still working. We have worked our way through that – although some have our modems which we want back and we are sending them a bill for that. Most are bringing them in now. There was discussion on speeds.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained as he had mentioned before 2020 is a year where there will be a few retirements from BELD. Mr. Buker who is the supervisor for the linemen and electricians is retiring in April. In anticipation we posted his job internally and it was awarded to Mr. Toye. This way we will have a 3-4 month overlap. Mr. Toye was the GWF for the electricians. His job will be posted internally. Mr. Bottiggi continued his update. Mr. Beatson, one of the engineers from the plant is retiring in January. Mr. Uhlman has been promoted to GWF for the linemen. That means we will have two GWFs for the line department at this time. There will be a couple of others retiring at the plant as well.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he is meeting with Senator Keenan on January 24th. He continued: in order for us to replace Potter II with battery storage we need to be able to participate in the Clean

Peak Standard. Currently only investor-owned utilities can participate in the CPS. We need a legislative change. Mr. Ragucci from ENE will be here for the meeting and someone from Borrego Solar as well. There was discussion. The purpose of this legislation is clean peak – which means no fossil fuel. We could retire our old combined cycle plant with batteries. We have the interconnection and it would be cost-effective to do. Some members of the board expressed an interest in attending this meeting. It will be posted to cover our legal obligation.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

The Board recognized Gavin Williams of Williams Energy. Mr. Williams said he wanted to come down in person to thank the Board for the rebate program. Williams Energy is participating in the ENE rebate program, putting solar on their roofs on the offices. He said he is appreciative of the rebates because it made it affordable to do and it is renewable energy which he likes but also there is a financial return. He continued: this program made it all viable. There was discussion about the specifics of where the solar array would be and how far along they are in the process. BELD has just put them on the control room roof for Watson. There was further discussion.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

- i. Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

Not needed.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Electric Division meeting at 6:03 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary