

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:03 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.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. January 7, 2020 Electric Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of January 7, 2020 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Agnitti seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. East Braintree Little League Request

Mr. Bottiggi reported that this is for Watson Park and we have been advertising there for a few years. There was discussion. In the past we have had a sign at either end of the field or one at the majors' field and one at the AAA's field.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to get two signs at the bronze level. So voted.

ii. Braintree Community Youth Center Bill Insert Request

Mr. Bottiggi explained this is for a bill insert and we have done this for a few years. This is for their annual spring raffle.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to approve the BCYC bill insert for the next available month. So voted.

iii. Braintree Recreation Dept Sunset Lake Concert Series Request

Mr. Bottiggi reported this is the annual Sunset Lake concert. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi explained that we would have a table here as always and promote our internet service and other programs we have such as EVs.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to once again advertise our services at the Braintree Recreation Department Sunset Lake Concert Series. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Town of Stowe, VT Municipal Hydroelectricity Project

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he spoke with Ms. Burt, the general manager of the Stowe, VT electric department. Stowe offices back up to a river and there is a dam that they own. It is an old, abandoned hydro dam. She has spoken to a company – BV French – and they make a pre-cast concrete structure. You put the structure in the dam and then the hydro unit goes into that. BV French has a government grant so he thinks he can do this fairly cheaply. Ms. Burt had called Mr.

Bottiggi about partnering on this project. They have discussed and perhaps BELD would be a shareholder instead of partnering. They will explore the options and Mr. Bottiggi will give an update at future meetings. There was discussion.

ii. Light Up Navajo Nation Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that unfortunately this project will not be happening. There have been some legal and insurance questions from the different utilities who have signed up to help out Navajo Nation. Legal counsel has reviewed contracts and the position is that if a lineman went out there and was disabled or died on the job they would lose their pension. The problem is they are not under a Mutual Aid contract. There are some people looking into getting some legislation passed. There was discussion – this would have been a great project, not only for Navajo Nation but also for the linemen and others who helped to get them electricity.

iii. Potter II Lube Oil Cooler Repair

Mr. Bottiggi explained the Potter II has two lube oil coolers: one for the steam turbine and one for the gas turbine. There was a leak on the steam turbine lube oil cooler. Oil was infiltrating the water system. He continued: Potter II was out of service for a couple of weeks but we didn't lose any money because we didn't have any scarcity conditions.

Mr. Bottiggi described the work that has been done and what needs to be done. A temporary repair was done, the unit is back in the pool and we have ordered a new tube bundle and a new head. Mr. Bottiggi commented that this is a single point failure - there is only one steam turbine lube oil cooler so it takes the whole plant out. This is the unfortunate problem with a 40 year old plant.

iv. H.2863 Update

Mr. Bottiggi said this is the legislation that MEAM (Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts) has been working on for quite a while. Currently, municipals are exempt from the Global Warming Solutions Act and the Renewable Portfolio Standard that the investor-owned utilities are subject to. We helped put this legislation together with other munies and it is called the Municipal Lighting Plant Greenhouse Gas Emitting Standard. Representative Golden who is the chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy sponsored the legislation. Representative Cusack co-sponsored it. Mr. Bottiggi explained this is not purely renewable; it is non-greenhouse gas emitting because we wanted to include nuclear. This will set standards if it passes. We will have to be 30% renewable by 2030, 75% by 2040 and net zero by 2050. We will be able to count solar, hydro, wind, nuclear, biomass which is what the Palmer Energy project is.

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he has signed a PPA (Purchase Power Agreement) with Palmer. Once this energy plant gets built we will be at 57% non-greenhouse emitting. There was discussion on their timeline. Mr. Bottiggi said they have to be online by the end of 2022 as that is in the PPA. We have a little over 5 megawatts in this project. There was further discussion.

v. Enbridge Update

Mr. Bottiggi said he signed a confidentiality agreement with Enbridge and they have offered us \$1 million. We have told them that we think it is a \$8 million project. Mr. Nelson is getting an updated

estimate. He also has found someone in Texas who thinks there is cheaper way to upgrade the gas compressors – we may just have to replace the motors and not the compressors. This would be good because all the piping and the piping systems in there wouldn't have to be touched. It would save a lot of money and we wouldn't have to rig out and rig in the new gas compressors. We have told Enbridge we would like to look into this first but we have the paperwork in place to start negotiations.

vi. Internet Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we broke 2400 customers and we have 10 on the schedule all the time. We are breaking even at this point. There was discussion. We have changed all the customer plans so that everyone is paying \$39 per month. We have about 75% of the headend cleaned out. We have done just under \$140,000 in billing. This may go down because we have changed the plans out to the \$39. We have come to the end of cable tv.

We still have customers coming in 1-2 days per week to learn about streaming. We have a sign-up on beld.com to help us schedule the training. We also have our in-house help desk and the outsourced help desk for off hours and the customer service representatives. Every call that comes in goes to the Customer Service department and they are trained to do the first rounds of help for a customer that needs it. They then can transfer them to one of the help desks.

We are doing more social media regarding our internet service. Mr. Ritchie will start going out to MDUs (Multiple Dwelling Units) to let people know about the service.

vii. Active Shooter Training

Mr. Bottiggi explained that we had some training here last week. The owners are ex-cops. They gave us a different view of how to survive if we were ever in an active shooter situation. Teamwork is key. They showed videos of different scenarios. There was discussion. The entire company went to the sessions. They also did a survey of our facility to show us areas on how to protect our employees from people who want to do harm. They had a few recommendations. This training was well-received by employees. There was further discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he has to have his knee replaced. There was discussion. We will not plan on having an April meeting in the event Mr. Bottiggi will not be able to attend.

There was discussion about the many retirements coming up at BELD. We have posted any openings internally as the employee retires.

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Mr. Hitchings has acquired his 2nd engineers license. There was discussion.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

Mr. Bottiggi reported that there is going to be an upgrade to the software on the CMTS (Cable Modem Termination System). This will happen on Thursday February 20th starting at midnight. This will affect the internet and phone.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

- i. Tuesday, March 10, 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 5:39 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary