

Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Vice Chairman Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William Bottiggi and Ken Stone, all of BELD. Chairman Reynolds arrived toward the end of the meeting.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. August 18, 2020 Electric Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of August 18, 2020 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Agnitti stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. Department of Elder Affairs Request

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we received a request from the Department of Elder Affairs. They usually hold a Senior Walk for Health and Fitness at Pond Meadow and it needed to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19. However, they are now going to hold a Senior Health and Fitness Week at 71 Cleveland Ave and this will include exercises, healthy snacks, health talks for 2 hours each day. We usually give \$100 and have a table there to advertise our services. This year they will advertise their sponsors in their newsletter.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to do as we have done in previous years and sponsor the Senior Health and Fitness Week. Mr. Agnitti stepped down and seconded. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. High Speed Internet/Remote Learning Update

Mr. Bottiggi reminded everyone about the internet financial hardship program for families who have school age children who will be remote learning. We have worked with the schools on this and the response has been good. We have received 56 calls and are working our way through that. We use the QCAP which is the fuel assistance program in Quincy to determine need for this type of program. Mr. Bottiggi continued, out of 56 calls there were 6 we couldn't serve because we don't serve that area but they can get this from Comcast or Verizon, 2 were over the income levels and were rejected, 1 declined and decide to stay with Comcast, 7 new customers that have switched to us and there were 2 who didn't have any internet provider at all because they couldn't afford it. Mr. Bottiggi explained the procedure: if a customer is at a certain level then you get everything free which includes equipment and in another level the customer will get it at half-price including equipment. There are 19 pending accounts; they have internet and can do remote learning but haven't been approved for this program yet. This will continue for the school year or until the kids go back full time into school.

ii. Coronavirus Update

Mr. Bottiggi updated the Board: we have had some employees exposed to Covid-19 but so far no one has had it. We have it set up with Urgent Care to do a 24 hour test: once the employee is at

Urgent Care – they come out to their parking lot to test them. We are requiring that employees that go to a high-risk state have a test before they can come back to BELD.

Mr. Bottiggi asked Mr. Bracken to explain about the cleaning services. Mr. Bracken said that we had hired Bostonian and they have been coming in once a week fumigating. They douse the area and let it sit for 15 minutes. We have the SDS sheets on the product – we clear everyone out and close off the area. We did the customer service area recently. There was discussion.

iii. Potter II: Capacity Supply Obligation and Insurance Claim

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we are still compiling all the data that the insurance company wants. It looks like \$5.5 million to repair the gas turbine but we will have to pay a deductible which could be \$1 - \$1.5 million. We have to review and decide what we want to do. It may make more sense to repair the gas turbine but then sell it. There are companies around the country that want it. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi continued: part of this is that we have sold our capacity supply obligation. We get paid for the next year \$4.80 per kilowatt month but we sold it for \$.40 so we keep \$4.40 and we don't have any responsibility. Next year, June 2021 to June 2022 we sold it for \$.30. This is good for us financially because we have no risk.

iv. Potential Energy Storage Project

Mr. Bottiggi explained that one of our options if we do sell the gas turbine is to build a big energy storage plant with batteries. However, in order to do that we would have to tear down Potter and the warehouse and completely disrupt BELD operations. He continued the technology is not quite there yet. The most important part is will this help the ratepayers. We are not sure it will make a significant difference. There was discussion.

v. Internet Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we are back up to 2420 customers. We had gone as low as 2325 after we got out of the cable tv business and then with Covid-19 we couldn't do any installs. We are now adding customers at a pretty steady rate. There was discussion. We are looking at getting out of the email business as well. It is very expensive to supply.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi confirmed that Mr. Tedeschi had retired and his position – working foreman for the meter shop – was posted today.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

Vice Chairman Regan asked Mr. Bottiggi about the Palmer Renewable Energy project. Mr. Bottiggi replied that it is permitted. It has been held up because of Covid-19 but they need to be online as of the end of 2021. We have a few megawatts of it.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

There was discussion on this date and the next meeting date will be determined. It will be posted on beld.com once it is decided.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

None.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary