

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:05 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, all of BELD.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. December 15, 2020 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of December 15, 2020 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Agnitti seconded. So voted.

**II. Items for Action**

None.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. Coronavirus Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we have had 10 people test positive at BELD: 9 of those were exposed from outside of BELD. We did have 1 employee-to-employee transmission. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi said we would be going back to the same schedule we had in the spring: splitting up the work crews. He spoke with Ms. McGrath of the health department and they are administering the vaccine to the police and fire. According to the governor's schedule we are supposed to start getting it in February. Mr. Bottiggi said he is going to try and prioritize the BELD schedule so that the people who keep the lights on are the first employees to get the vaccine.

**ii. Potter II**

Mr. Bottiggi gave an update on Potter and the insurance claim. We have received \$1.7 million of the \$2.5 million. There are 20 insurance companies that have a piece of the insurance and we have received from 11 of them.

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the next thing to deal with is the equipment at Potter. There is a lot of interest in the gas turbine. We are in the process of signing an agreement with a company that will come in and open it up at their expense, take the rotor out and evaluate what it is worth. This company may be our broker and sell the equipment. They will get a percentage – although we do not know how much yet. There is a company in CA that is interested in buying the rotor. There are other pieces of equipment that someone may be interested in. Eventually the building will come down. This will take a few years. There was discussion. We have sold the capacity off so there is no risk of Potter not being available in the Pay for Performance market and the penalties.

**iii. Internet Update**

We ended the year with just under 2500 subscribers. We won't be doing any installs due to Covid-19. We don't want our employees to go into people's homes until this is over.

**iv. Rate Study**

Mr. Bottiggi explained he had the draft copy of the rate study that Mr. Cameron was doing. The final should be here very soon. He is recommending that we raise our rates – especially the residential rate and lower the P1 rate. Mr. Bottiggi does not want to raise the rates now but would like to use the rate study as a guideline to adjust rates if we need to. We have added 652 customers since 2014. We are down 25 million kilowatt sales. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi explained he wants to see what happens with our cash flow this year. The budget that Mr. Bottiggi presented to the Board in December shows our cash position dropping by \$2.5 million and if that doesn't happen we could go up a ¼ of a cent at a time. There was further discussion.

**v. Negotiations**

Mr. Bottiggi said that the union contract expires March 31, 2021. The Union and the Division Managers have met separately and will exchange proposals. We want to clean up the contract – there are a lot of positions that do not exist anymore. Mr. Bottiggi hopes to have the contract negotiated by the end of February. There was discussion.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we have hired 2 people: Mr. Nixon a meterman and Mr. Smith a lineman. There was discussion. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Williams both retired in early January. There will be 2 more retirements coming up in the spring.

**V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)**

Mr. Regan said he had a small update on the electronic sign. The historic commission will be voting on the sign next month – this is due to the town green being considered historic. There was discussion.

There was a short discussion on the budget. We are buying some vehicles this year but spending less on energy. The newest substation is station 8, built in 1985 and the switchgear is original and needs to be replaced. We plan on this in the next couple of years. That is the gas insulated substation and requires more maintenance. We are having a roof structure built over the SF6 switchgear because the worse wear-and-tear is the weather, especially the sun. That will be done this year. There will be a foundation, structural steel and then the roof structure.

**VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that his board position on ENE needs to have a vote every three years. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, for Mr. Bottiggi to continue on the ENE board as a Class A Director. So voted.

**VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)**

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

**IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings**

**i. Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

**X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)**

Not needed.

**XI. Adjournment**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. So voted.

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James P. Regan  
Secretary