

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, Mr. Michael Lang and Mr. David Oliva of East Braintree Civic Association and Mr. Sean Powers of the 4th of July Committee.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. February 9, 2021 Executive Session

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to table the minutes of February 9, 2021. Mr. Agnitti seconded. So voted.

ii. March 16, 2021 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of March 16, 2021 as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Discussion

i. EBCA/School Partnership – Environmental Monitoring

Chairman Reynolds recognized Mr. Lang and Mr. Oliva. Mr. Lang explained that this idea came from a tv show that he had seen about Lexington High School – they were consolidating their science program into one specialty which would help the kids to get a job. They were doing robotics. He looked at the Fore River basin and saw that everything there are necessary industries but can cause problems. He would like to meet with all the companies and have them send their environmental information through BELD computers and go to all the communities involved: Braintree, Weymouth, Quincy including Quincy College. They could feed this into their science program and then they could possibly do field trips to places like Clean Harbors, Citgo, etc.

Mr. Lang said right now there is an air quality monitor that the DEP has put in down by Calpine and they do not think that is a good location. They have another air monitor that they are paying for and are looking for a home for it – they hope to build that into this program. There was discussion on where they wanted to put the monitor and someone in their group had suggested behind BELD on the walkway. Mr. Bottiggi explained that BELD uses a Continuous Emissions Monitor System (CEMS) at the top of the stack to stay in compliance with our permit. Mr. Oliva said we want to monitor the whole basin. Mr. Lang added they want everything to be monitored - they do not care where its coming from – they want to know the cumulative amount of all. There was discussion.

Mr. Bottiggi asked if the scope or idea was to get something curriculum-wise in place with the schools. Mr. Lang agreed and said he sat down last week with the head of the science department for Braintree and she loved the idea. They are already leaning that way; they have an environmental group formed and are pushing the program in that direction. Mr. Reynolds asked about the timeline on when the monitor would arrive – Mr. Lang did not have a definite timeline. They are in an exploratory stage now, trying to see if there are people who agree with them. Mr. Oliva added we also need a place to put the monitor. Mr. Bottiggi thought that BELD could help with a place to put the monitor and could help with the connectivity to get it hooked up. He continued before you buy anything make sure that BELD's IT group see it to make sure we will be compatible with it. Other

than that you could end up with a cellular wireless connection which would work but you are better off having it connected to a fiber optic cable. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi explained that Mr. Nelson is BELD's air compliance expert so he understands all this technology. Mr. Bottiggi wants to make sure that they get what they want, it is compatible so we can hook it up to the Internet so that anyone can remotely log in – the different high schools in the different towns. There was discussion. The best place to put the monitor may be on the roof of the BELD administration building.

Mr. Lang explained that their next steps were to meet with Mayor Koch and then Mayor Hedlund. He continued: he needs someone who can organize the companies so that there could be a meeting and he could explain their idea. Mr. Agnitti said the South Shore Chamber of Commerce would be the way to go and he will put Mr. Lang and Mr. Oliva in touch with the person in charge of that. Mr. Reynolds asked that they get us the information on the monitor so that our engineers and IT can do some research and make sure that it would be compatible. Mr. Bottiggi added that it might be good to get the spec that the State is using for their monitor. Mr. Lang said he would – although he didn't think they had even hooked the monitor up yet.

ii. Coronavirus Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that although we are back to normal for most operations here we did have 1 employee test positive but he will be back Friday. We sent home 2 other employees who were exposed to the first employee.

iii. Potter II

Mr. Bottiggi reported that May 15 is the target date to start with the disassembly of the gas turbine. This will take about a month. We are using O'Connor with our employees to disassemble. Allied Power is the company that put the contract together and we will split the profits with them on everything that is sold. There are a couple of utilities in CA that are looking to buy the router.

iv. Tree Removal Rebate Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained that we have implemented this policy that was discussed last month. Mr. Murphy is working with the first customer. It is \$500 per tree as long as it could impact our distribution system. It does not include the customer's service wire – the one that feeds their house. We will have this in Bright Ideas so that people will know about it. There was discussion.

v. Climate Legislation – MLP Language

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Governor Baker had signed the climate legislation and the municipal light plants voluntarily included themselves in it. Investor-owned utilities have to use solar, wind, small hydro but we can use nuclear, landfill gas and possibly biofuel, which is like wood burning. We are in great shape: we need to be 50% renewable by 2030 and we already are and 100% by 2050. There will be some impact: we are at about \$40-41/megawatt hour now which is 4.1 cents/kilowatt and will go up to about 4.8 cents – so about 1 cent more. That will put us at 15 cents in 5 years and Eversource is at 25 cents right now. There was discussion.

Mr. Bottiggi provided an update on Palmer Renewable Energy/wood burning project in response to a question. That plant was fully permitted in 2012. They are using wood waste (sawdust and tree

trimming wood), not cutting down trees in this project. They were going to burn 1200 tons a day. If you look at the chemical reaction behind burning the wood vs letting the wood rot – methane is the biggest greenhouse gas molecule so about 80 times worse than CO₂. However, the environmentalists do not want any CO₂ put into the air. This project has been challenged since 2012. The DPU finally said it's been more than 2 years and you haven't started construction and pulled the permit. Mr. Bottiggi is unsure if Palmer would challenge that in court but we have a PPA (Purchase Power Agreement) for 39 megawatts with 8 municipals to buy that power. It may just go away but we will replace it with other projects. There was discussion. There will be no impact to BELD.

vi. MEAM Annual Meeting

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the MEAM annual meeting is being planned for an in-person meeting. It is on Thursday – Friday May 20 and 21. There was discussion.

vii. Customer Service Hours

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the office will be opening to the public on June 1 hopefully – unless the governor extends the no cut season. There was discussion. We are also looking at changing the customer service hours to Monday to Friday, 8-4 instead of the later hours. We do not take cash anymore and everything is done on the Internet now.

viii. Internet Update

Mr. Bottiggi said we added 17 customers last month so we are a 2532 customers in total. There was discussion.

III. Items for Action

i. 4th of July Committee Request

Chairman Reynolds recognized Mr. Sean Powers. Mr. Powers reported that he wanted to thank BELD and the Commissioners for the support in the past of the 4th of July celebration. He continued Covid 19 forced them to cancel all activities and because of that they suspended all fundraising for 2020. There were some costs incurred and deposits made that were not refundable. There was discussion.

Mr. Powers explained what this year's celebration will be like. Tentatively scheduled for Saturday June 26 and based upon Covid 19 regulations and guidelines set by the state. If we are not in a place to hold large gatherings such as the regular celebration it will be rescheduled to the fall, when we are further along in the phases. The plan is for the Stars and Stripes parade to be socially distanced, a mask mandate and a socially distanced celebration at the high school. A lot of the activities will be socially distanced – they will not be having the hands-on activities that has been in the past. There will be live entertainment, food trucks and the fireworks show. Mr. Powers said that in the past the celebrations have been successful because of the partnership of BELD and they would like to continue. There was discussion. The fireworks had been moved up to 9:30 and will stay that way. Pre-covid there were close to 20 food trucks and normally there is a \$100 fee. However, with the challenges that a lot of the food truck people have had with their business impacted there will be no fee this year. They want as many food trucks to be there as possible. The mood is more mellow

and folksy than the carnival atmosphere of a few years back. There was further discussion. Mr. Powers explained that in the past they have worked closely with Mr. Ritchie of our marketing team and welcome having a BELD truck and electric vehicle in the parade.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan to advertise at the 4th of July celebration events for \$10,000. So voted.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported the Ms. Haight from Customer Service was awarded the Administrative HR Generalist. She will support Mr. Graziano and be his back-up. There was discussion.

He continued we interviewed an accountant. Currently, personnel from Mr. Stone's departments (energy and accounting) are reporting to Mr. Bottiggi. We are thinking of hiring an accounting supervisor or another accountant – by the fall.

Mr. Toye, the Electric Operations Supervisor, will be retiring in June. Mr. O'Neill was awarded the position so that he can shadow Mr. Toye and then take over. There was discussion.

Mr. Lyons, Fireman at the plant, has retired. We are interviewing relief fireman. Mr. Kuhn, who was a relief fireman has moved up to Mr. Lyons position.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. Sunset Lake Concert Series

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the Sunset Lake Concerts are usually on the agenda by now – but with Mr. Chin's passing he thought he should bring it up. Mr. Regan said he received a robocall stating that the concerts are on and that BELD is sponsoring them. There was discussion. We usually do advertise with the Sunset Lake Concerts every year. Last year they had to do them virtually – but not as many concerts and they did not have the cookout. There was further discussion. We used to receive a request from Mr. Chin – but this is a timing issue since the Board meets once a month. Upon further discussion it was:

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti to advertise with the Sunset Lake Concert Series for the same amount as last year, provided we receive documentation from the Recreation and Community Events department. So voted.

ii. Electronic Sign at Town Hall

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the Mayor told him they are moving forward on the sign. We may do some wiring for them. There was discussion.

iii. Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)

Mr. Bottiggi said he had sent home an article on ELM. They, along with others – like MCAN (Massachusetts Climate Action Network), really lobby hard to force the state to get green. They cannot go after investor-owned utilities boards but they can go after municipals. They have taken a strong interest in gaining control of light boards so that the light boards can direct the general managers to be more green. He is aware of some towns that already have some of the members of these groups on the boards and some running for the board. We do not seem to have any groups in Braintree. We have Sustainable Braintree and they seem okay with us. We try everything green: thermostats, electric vehicles, battery storage. There was discussion.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, May 11, 2021 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 meeting at 6:10 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary