

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD, and Mr. Mike Cavanaugh, resident.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. January 10, 2023 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Regan, to accept the minutes of January 10, 2023 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. ENE Director Vote – Paul Hibbard

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Mr. Tom Whitney, one of the last two founding directors of ENE is retiring. There was discussion. Mr. Tzimirangas, the president and CEO of ENE, reached out to Mr. Paul Hibbard. Mr. Hibbard was the head of the Energy Facilities Siting Board when we were permitting Watson. We work with him occasionally now – he is the principal at Analysis Group. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan, to accept Mr. Hibbard as a director of ENE. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Watson Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported on this past weekend's cold. We did struggle – when it got to minus 11 degrees some cold got in and some sensing lines froze. We got Watson 1 back online for all day Saturday but Watson 2 didn't get online until Sunday. The good news is that it was a weekend and there is no penalty from the Forward Reserve Market. We did make money again. There was discussion.

Mr. Bottiggi continued: Watson for 2022 had a positive cash flow to BELD of \$2.5 million – this was the best year ever so far. That includes the bond payments. We also bought a million dollars of oil that was included in that. Once the bonds are paid off Watson will be worth \$10-11 million per year. There was further discussion.

The turbine is still in Montreal and disassembly is complete. There were a couple of small things so there will be some change orders but we still expect to get that back before June.

ii. Generac Grid Solutions

Mr. Bottiggi explained that we have been doing as much as we can to promote green: EVs, heat pumps, thermostats but it has been a little bit of a shotgun approach and we don't have just one solid program. He continued Generac, the emergency generator company, started a division called Generac Grid Solutions. They put together a model or a program so they can pull our programs

together so they run more smoothly – we are doing this through ENE. This will be more consistent, with the same message going to everyone. ENE is signing a contract with Generac Grid Solutions and we are going to participate. We will do residential load control with thermostats, batteries, water heaters, heat pumps – anything that can be helped remotely with load control. They will take over our electric vehicle program. Currently we are doing that with Sagewell and ENE. We will re-do the incentives for off peak charging and

the incentives for installing level 2 chargers. This will also work in the commercial industrial section so we will reach out to the bigger customers and see if we can help them manage their load by helping with lighting systems and heat systems. This will help all the end users. The commercial customers will still be supported by Mr. Ford and residential customers by Ms. Slater.

iii. MEAM Bylaws

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he attended a recent MEAM (Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts) meeting. The executive committee wanted to change the bylaws because they had not been updated for years. He continued: in that meeting they wanted to specify that the representative for the light department be either the general manager or the electric operations supervisor because all the light departments do not have general managers. There were some board members there – from Hingham, Wellesley, Reading – that expressed their displeasure with that change. They wanted to be the representative at the MEAM meetings to be able to vote for their town's light board. There was a lot of discussion at the MEAM meeting and eventually the vote was held to keep the bylaws the way they are. This caused more dissatisfaction among those light board members. Mr. Bottiggi wanted to make the BELD Board aware of this in case any other town light board members reach out to them. The board members at the MEAM meeting said they would be reaching out to other towns. Mr. Bottiggi continued: the issue is that each board member can get together with their board and the general manager of the light department in their town and the general manager's job is to present on the issues that are affecting Massachusetts. MEAM mostly deals with legislation, for instance the Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard. The discussions should take place at each individual light board meeting for each town. Then the representative goes to the MEAM meeting. There was discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi told the Board about some changes for the Support Services Division. Ms. Cohen is retiring in January 2024 and Ms. Hynes will be replacing her. A new position has been created that will assist Ms. Hynes in her new position: foreperson, customer service. This is an internal posting – we are not hiring anyone for this position. There was discussion.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. Guy Luke Substation Signage

Mr. Bottiggi updated the Board on the sign for Station 4. Since the sign already there has Plain Street Substation and we cannot change this due to ISO-NE's records Mr. Bottiggi asked how the Board felt about having the sign read In Memory of Guy F. Luke. There was discussion: the goal is to have something that represents the 25 years of service that Mr. Luke gave to BELD. The sign will be lit at night as the BELD sign is now.

VI. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

Mr. Cavanaugh commented that he had emailed Mr. Bottiggi about the Palmer biomass project and although he knows that deal is not going through he has heard that Palmer may try and hold people to the PPAs that had been entered into and there is a very short window of termination. He continued if you do not do that in the short window you would somehow be on the hook. Mr. Bottiggi addressed Mr. Cavanaugh's concerns: ENE is our power supply consultant and he has been in touch with them. We are sending the Palmer Renewable Energy company notice through ENE – they have a dozen municipals they are representing. There was discussion.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked how BELD is doing in regard to the percentages of green in BELD's portfolio. Mr. Bottiggi said he had mentioned the Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard earlier and since he knew Mr. Cavanaugh would be attending the meeting he took this opportunity to print out our latest power supply chart.

Mr. Bottiggi explained: this is what our power supply looks like – out to 2027. This year we are at 58% in compliance with the law and we will go up to 74% and then over 80%. This does not include the off shore wind which we are going to participate in. He continued: we are very diverse: wind, solar, nuclear. We have tried over the past 10 years to increase our renewable portfolio. There was discussion. Mr. Agnitti left at this point.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked if there were any residential solar programs coming out as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act. Mr. Bottiggi explained that last year we had an agreement with the state. We were putting in \$0.60 a watt and they were putting in \$0.60 a watt so \$1.20 – if you put a 10 kilowatt array on your roof and you get \$12,000 plus you get the federal tax credit. Now, we are still doing \$0.60 a watt but the state program has ended. Mr. Bottiggi explained if you want to do a solar array for environmental reasons that's fine but if you are thinking of doing this for economic reasons it would be a long payback because our rates are so low. There was discussion.

VII. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

There was discussion about St. Catherines and how others can do storage batteries on their property. The best place to have a storage battery is in a large parking area. We are doing a system impact study to see if any modifications to the distribution system are needed.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. **March 14 2023 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 5:35 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary