

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. in the BELD Training Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William G. Bottiggi and Joseph Bracken, all of BELD. Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti arrived at 5:09 p.m.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. March 14, 2023 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the minutes of March 14, 2023 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

ii. February 7, 2023 Open Meeting Revision

Mr. Regan made a motion to revisit the February 7, 2023 minutes previously approved at the March 14, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reynolds. So voted. Mr. Regan then made a motion to amend the minutes of February 7, 2023 in this way: under the Personnel Update, in the second sentence the words “most likely” should be added after “Ms. Hynes will” and in the third sentence strike the words “Ms. Hynes” and replace with “Gail’s replacement”. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

II. Items for Action

i. Nelson Chin Summer Concert Series

Mr. Bottiggi referenced a letter to Chairman Reynolds for the Board’s consideration of continued advertising at the Nelson Chin Summer Concert Series. He went over the concert dates. The amount this year would be \$10,000 which would include the annual cookout on July 11, 2023. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to honor the request for the first year of the Nelson Chin Summer Concert Series. Mr. Reynolds seconded the motion. So voted.

ii. BHS All Night Grad Party Request

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Braintree High is doing an event for the graduating seniors at Dave & Buster’s. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan to deny this request, seconded by Mr. Agnitti. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Watson Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Mr. Bracken, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Hitchings and the team have done a great job over the past two years getting permits, the turbines overhauled and doing modifications – going back and forth to Montreal. He continued: everything is done and back in service. We are still sorting out the money a little bit. We have not received the final invoice yet – we had put away \$6 million and we may spend between \$6 and \$6.5 million when we are all said and done. We will

front that money out of our funds and then as we run Watson and collect monies we will pay ourselves first. It will take a year at the most. This will be easier than invoicing the other unit entitlement owners.

We are in great shape right now. We have cleared the Forward Reserve for the summer and we should get \$2.7 million if we run flawlessly. We are just finishing up the winter now and we received \$1.3 million in Forward Reserve money. In response to a question from a commissioner, Mr. Bottiggi explained that the auction is held every spring for the summer (June, July, August, September) and the winter is the other eight months. There is a winter reliability program called the Inventory Management Program that will start this coming winter for at least two winters. We will get paid to store seventy two hours of fuel in the tanks which is equivalent to a half million gallons of oil. We do not know how much we will get paid exactly yet – it is based on dynamic pricing, based on the price of liquid natural gas in Europe.

ii. National Grid/MBTA Electric Bus Charging Facility

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he is due to get the reimbursement agreement back from National Grid tomorrow. Our work that needs to be done with this project was planned by Mr. Li for this year – we have now changed that to be done next year. The MBTA are not going to be ready to go on this until spring of 2026. There was discussion.

iii. Luke Sign/Ceremony

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the sign is ready and we need to pick a date for the ceremony. He continued: he thought the week of May 22, 2023 would be good. There was discussion. It was decided to do Tuesday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m. We will check with the Luke family to see if this date will work for them.

iv. Summer Hours Update

Mr. Bottiggi gave the Board an update on summer hours. Some departments will be doing summer hours where they will work longer Monday through Thursday and then a half day on Friday. The customer service department will not be doing this on a regular basis but will do on the Friday before 4th of July and Labor Day weekend. The electric delivery division is doing the summer hours. This is a test this year to see how we like it and how it works.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that tomorrow is Ms. Cohen's last day. We have also hired a Mass Maritime student for an intern position at the power plant and an electrical engineering intern. There was an extended discussion about employees.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. Station 4

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Station 4 needs to be repainted. This is where the Luke ceremony is going to be. The area where the sign is going and where the ceremony will be is looking okay. Mr. Henriksen will go out to bid for this.

ii. ShotSpotter

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he has been talking with a company called ShotSpotter – police departments all over the country use them for shot detection in cities. They set up a grid and if a gun is fired they can guarantee within eighty feet where it was fired. It dispatches the police. He has also been talking with Deputy Chief Tim Cahoon and they would like to get it but the police do not have the budget for it. Mr. Bottiggi explained that substations are being attacked on a fairly regular basis now by people with high power rifles. We have cameras now but our cameras are looking at the fence inward. An attack would be outside the fence. This will not stop the first shot but it may stop some of the damage. There was discussion on specifics of the system and where these devices would be.

iii. Lithium Ion Battery Storage Ordinance

Mr. Bottiggi reported that there is an ordinance going through the Town. It is with one of the subcommittees of the Town Council right now. What happens is there have been fires with batteries and it gets sensationalized. A car battery burns at 4500 degrees and you cannot put them out with water because it's a chemical reaction – its not burning fuel. The ordinance would be if you have a garage you would need to have 2 hour rated fire wall in that garage – this is 2 5/8 inch thick layers of sheet rock, a sprinkler system and a wired heat detector. This won't save the house – it is to give more time to get out of the house. If you have a battery storage power wall they would not be able to mount them to the side of the house anymore – they would have to be on the lawn 15 feet from the house and inside a fire proof enclosure. If you want a car charger in your driveway you cannot mount that to the side of the house – it has to be on a pedestal 15 feet from the house. This is for batteries that are 40 kilowatt hours and greater – so all electric vehicles. If you have a hybrid they are 18 – 20 kilowatt hour batteries – so it would not apply to them. There was discussion.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

i. Braintree American Little League Request

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti to take this off the table to discuss this item. So voted.

After discussion, it was Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan to deny this request, seconded by Mr. Agnitti. So voted.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. June 13, 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 5:59 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary