

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, General Manager William G. Bottiggi and Arthur Graziano, all of BELD and Sean Powers of the 4th of July Committee.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. May 9, 2023 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Agnitti, to accept the minutes of May 9, 2023 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. Braintree Special Needs Recreation Program

This request is for the Braintree Special Needs golf tournament which benefits the Braintree Super Saturdays Program. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti to approve this request and advertise at the golf tournament. So voted.

ii. Bobby Harvey Memorial Scholarship Advertising

Mr. Bottiggi reminded the Board that Bobby Harvey was the ironworker who died when the crane came down over at the shipyard next door to BELD. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan to approve this request and advertise at the memorial scholarship golf tournament. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Sean Powers, 4th of July Committee

Chairman Reynolds recognized Mr. Powers from the 4th of July committee. Mr. Powers explained that he was here on behalf of the 4th of July committee to present the Board with a gift. He explained this flag was handmade – crafted and painted by a retired veteran, who wishes to remain anonymous, who does this on the side. He wanted to give you this flag as a presentation of the committee’s outmost appreciation for BELD’s longtime, continuous and generous support of the 4th of July celebration in Braintree. Mr. Powers continued: he has a plaque that goes along with the flag as well. The Commissioners decided to hang the flag and plaque in the boardroom at BELD. Mr. Bottiggi took a picture of the Commissioners and Mr. Powers. The photo will be on beld.com and BELD’s Facebook page. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Powers for the beautiful handcrafted wood flag and to pass on their thanks to the veteran whose workmanship is greatly admired.

ii. Generation Division Future Budgeting

Mr. Bottiggi explained he wanted to give an update: when we built Watson Potter II was still running and so half the watch engineer’s and half the firemen’s time was split 50-50 between them.

As of the end of May 2024 we will not be getting paid for Potter. At that time we will be putting all the time in under Watson. The Unit Holders will be paying their 10% each share of that. So, BELD's cost will actually go down because we were paying all of Potter and our share of Watson and the Unit Holders cost will go up a little. Mr. Bottiggi met with Mr. Bracken and Ms. Needham to put the simulated budget together because some of the Unit Holders budget is calendar year and some are fiscal year. He explained he just wanted the Board to know about this change.

iii. National Grid/MBTA Electric Bus Charging Facility

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the contract was in place. It has been signed with National Grid and they will send it with their package to the MBTA. The MBTA will be giving us a check for a little under \$2 million. Once we get that check, according to the contract, we start ordering the material. We have a lot of pole work to do on Commercial Street for the tracks all the way up to the top of the hill: that is single phase and we have to convert that to three phase and put another circuit on it. Most of the work will happen in 2024. At the town line we will do a handoff to National Grid. We will have our metering equipment on the last pole in Braintree and then the first pole in Quincy will be National Grid. There was a lengthy discussion.

iv. Lithium Ion Battery Storage Ordinance

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the building inspector and the fire department have created an ordinance that is in with the Ordinance and Rules Subcommittee of the Town Council. If that were to pass the EV owners will need a residential sprinkler system in their garage and a double layer of sheet rock and a heat detector if you want to pull your EV into your garage. Also, an EV charger cannot be mounted on the side of your house – because they want the vehicle away from the house. It would need to be mounted on a pole away from your house. If you want to put in an energy storage unit or a Tesla power wall it would need to be 15 feet away from the house and inside a combustible-proof enclosure. Mr. Bottiggi was asked for his opinion and he has given it. The Committee are reviewing the ordinance. There was discussion.

v. New Load Forecast

Mr. Bottiggi reported we have a potential new 80,000 megawatt hours of load coming in between now and 2026. He listed some of the projects that will affect this: Mass General is coming into the old Lottery building, the water treatment plant, Lord & Taylor is being turned into a life science building, Banner Park land behind the lottery has a movie studio going in there now, 400 Wood Road has three tenants: two are moving in next year and the big one is moving in 2025 and the medical marijuana facility is still trying to get a building big enough in Braintree.

There was discussion. We have about 220 megawatts of capacity in our transmission system and our peak right now is 80 megawatts. We will be having a NERC audit next year – we have one every six years. Mr. Evans-Mongeon and his team help us with this. Our group is very good as well.

vi. Derrick Digger Supply Chain Issue

Mr. Bottiggi explained that this is on the agenda to let the Commissioners know that supply chain issues are ongoing. The last derrick digger that we ordered in 2017 which we received in 2020 was \$280,000 and we are ordering one right now for \$470,000 and it will not be here until 2026. We went out to bid on this. There was discussion. Our school of thought on this is we have ten big

trucks – buckets and diggers and a big electricians truck. We get one a year and they last ten years. We are keeping them more than ten years because we can't get them. There was further discussion.

vii. SoundThinking/ShotSpotter

Mr. Bottiggi explained that ShotSpotter is the technology that the police use in the cities to detect gunfire. Mr. Bottiggi recently had a zoom meeting with Deputy Chief Tim Cohoon, BELD's Engineering & Operations Division Manager Weijun Li and the SoundThinking/ShotSpotter representative. We have Netwatch at the substations and they are great but that is cameras and from the fence in. If someone uses a rifle then they could do a lot of damage before the police could get there. There was a discussion on what areas would be covered and what that would entail in town. Mr. Bottiggi said this will not stop the first shot but it will minimize the damage. It can filter out fireworks, back fires, gun clubs. It is all automated: if a gun gets fired in less than sixty seconds ShotSpotter communicates with the police dispatcher so they can respond immediately. Mr. Bottiggi continued we have not decided yet. This company is in twenty towns in Massachusetts. There was further discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we have two interns starting at BELD. One will be at the power plant and will be a Mass Maritime senior. The other intern will be in the engineering department and will be a UMass Amherst senior. They are both staying for the summer. We are trying to hire an electric engineer as well.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

Sherriff's Summer Safety Fest

Mr. Regan said he had been contacted by the Sherriff's Office about this event and if BELD could be there for a Touch-A-Truck event. He contacted Mr. Bottiggi and he said BELD probably could but the lineman would have to be able to park in a place he could easily get out of were there an electric outage. Mr. Bottiggi said Mr. Miller would be able to do this unless there is a problem. There was discussion. In the past we were able to bring kids up in the bucket, give them a little hard hat.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

There was discussion and the Board decided the next meeting will be held in September and if there was a need for a meeting before that we would post it on beld.com.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

X. Executive Session

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body. He continued any decisions that we vote on will be announced when we come back into Open Session; if no votes are taken we will be adjourning.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti to go into Executive Session at 5:38 p.m.

Roll Call Vote at 5:38 p.m.:

Mr. Agnitti – yes. Mr. Regan – yes. Mr. Reynolds – yes.

Executive Session commenced at 5:38 pm.

XI. Adjournment

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

James P. Regan
Secretary

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June 13, 2023

Attendees: Chairman Thomas Reynolds, Vice-Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William Bottiggi, HR Manager Arthur Graziano, all of BELD.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds - yes

Executive Session commenced at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. Bottiggi turned the meeting over to Mr. Graziano. Mr. Graziano explained we have a former employee who has retired but has an unresolved workers' compensation claim. The retired employee filed a workers' compensation claim eight months after the 4th of July parade in 2019 and said that he fell off the truck at the parade. If he were to get workers' compensation, in addition to his full retirement of 80% he would get 60% tax-free of his ending base pay. There was discussion. Mr. Graziano continued: this has gone to court; the first time the former employee lost. He then appealed the decision and it went to mediation today. We settled for a one-time payment and this expunges everything else. There was further discussion.

Mr. Regan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Agnitti.

Motion and roll call vote to adjourn from the Executive Session at 5:50 pm.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds - yes

James P. Regan, Secretary