

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, and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD and Sean Powers, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. February 20, 2024 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Agnitti, to accept the minutes of February 20, 2024 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

**II. Items for Action**

**i. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee Request**

Chairman Reynolds recognized Mr. Powers from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. Mr. Powers thanked the Board for their previous support, and partnership, of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee event. He continued this year is the 51<sup>st</sup> year of the event and parade and will be held on June 29, 2024. The Committee uses local companies as much as they can, but the prices of supplies and labor have gone up. There was discussion. In response to a question Mr. Powers explained the event that takes place at the high school each year – the show, operation and fireworks – alone costs \$50,000.00. He further explained, this includes the sound stage: rigging, lighting and staging; the live entertainment: this year there are two bands; the portable restrooms and the on-field activities for the families: petting zoo, interactive drum, face painting; food trucks. The Committee tries to provide activities for all ages. There was further discussion. Mr. Powers explained that the parade is separate from this and the funding that was appropriated for this fiscal year to support the parade and the operation of the parade is gone. It is being re-allocated to other needs in the Town. The Committee, through their fundraising efforts will have to make up for that – it was about \$40,000.00.

Mr. Regan explained that he looks at the big picture of what the Town is facing and wants the Town of Braintree to have a nice 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He made a motion to support the high school event as just described. There was an extended discussion. This is marketing for the Light Department – we want to get maximum exposure, with signage on the advertising documents and electronically and at the event, along with announcements. Mr. Powers was asked and answered that he would look into something along the lines of what was done with the Marathon and John Hancock. The staging does allow for branding – Mr. Powers will look into that as well. Mr. Powers said he usually works very closely with Mr. Ritchie from BELD and will this year as well. There was further discussion on what BELD already does for the Town at no cost and the PILOT payment.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to support the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event at the high school event in the amount of \$50,000.00; Mr. Reynolds stepped down to second. Mr. Agnitti voted in favor as well. Unanimous.

**ii. East Braintree Little League Request**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the East Braintree Little League has asked about advertising on their field. We have received this before. There was discussion. The Board would like to have one of the signs where the girls play if possible. The executive secretary will check this with the organizer and if that is not available we will do as before on two different fields – the AAA and the Major League.

Voted: on motion on Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan, to advertise on two signs at Watson Park. So voted.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. Floating Solar Array on the Reservoir**

Mr. Bottiggi said that he has been trying to meet with the Tri-Town Board for three months. He does not want any of the Tri-Town board members to hear about this project and not know anything about it. He will draft a letter and mail it to the individual members.

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he will need to go to the DEP to try to get Chapter 91 relief for this project to be done. The current political Administration will be more favorable toward clean energy projects than the last one. We are also applying for a grant through ENE - Beacon Climate is the company that is doing this. The federal government has money available through the inflation reduction act. There is a 50% grant potential if we can qualify – that would be \$15 million that we could apply toward this which would cut the electric rate. We would be paying \$125/megawatt hour which could be cut down to \$65-70/megawatt hour.

**ii. Station 9 Battery Storage**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we are still dealing with Delorean Power. They have hit a snag with IHI which is the company that we bought the battery from originally. They need a lot of information from IHI and they have been slow to turn it over. We are still running the battery but it would make more sense for Delorean Power to run it as we are not a battery company. Delorean Power has changed its name to Lightshift Energy.

**iii. Sound Thinking/ShotSpotter**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he is continuing to work with the police on this. There was discussion about the benefits of having the Sound Thinking program. (ShotSpotter has changed their name to Sound Thinking.)

**iv. Potter Demo Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the air-cooled condenser is down, which is the biggest thing in this project. The air intake structure, which is above the control room area, is being taken down piece-by-piece and using a crane because the roof is under it and they need to be careful. That part is about 40% done. The stack will then come down after that. By the end of May it will be all gone. We are discussing having them take the evaporator which is on top of the diesel generator building. We are focusing on things that could potentially cause a safety issue.

**v. Common Street Battery Storage**

Mr. Bottiggi explained as they finalized the footprint of this project we had to take two parking spaces away from St. Catherine's parking lot in order to fit this battery in. We had two more lines painted but did not need to increase the blacktop. However, a stormwater study has to be done per the Planning Department. This has slowed the project down by a couple of months but we are still hoping to get it completed this year. There was discussion.

**vi. NEPPA Rodeo**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the NEPPA Rodeo is in Hull this year, May 7-9, along Hull Shore Drive in the field next to the hotel. If any of the Commissioners wanted to go to watch they could and not actually have to register and attend the event. We will have two teams in the skilled competition this year – they do eight different sections. They compete in climbing, pole-top rescue, transformer change-out, etc.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi said Mr. Cusack is retiring. We are hiring a fully qualified meterman to replace Mr. Cusack as he is the most qualified in that department. He reported we will have a Mass Maritime intern here in the Production division for the summer.

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

None.

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

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the Relay for Life is asking if one of the Commissioners would like to speak at the Relay. There was discussion. Mr. Reynolds said he would check his schedule and if he cannot do this Mr. Regan will be a back-up for him.

The Braintree Chamber of Commerce and the South Shore Chamber are having the annual “Breakfast with the Mayor” at Braintree Town Hall. Mr. Bottiggi wanted to let the Board know about this.

Mr. Bottiggi also reported that the BELD building is having some issues with termites downstairs. They opened the walls up and there is a lot of rot. We are going to go out to bid for new windows since these are twenty seven years old. We are not sure if we will replace them all but will start downstairs and open up the walls to fix the issues. There was discussion of what needs to be done.

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

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

- i. May 14, 2024 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 5:51 p.m. So voted.