

Vice Chairman Agnitti called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD. Vice Chairman Agnitti announced that Chairman Reynolds was participating remotely and any votes will be taken by roll call.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. December 12, 2024 Open Meeting**

A Roll Call Vote was taken to accept the minutes of December 12, 2024 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds – yes

Mr. Agnitti – yes

**II. Items for Action**

None.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. National Grid/MBTA Buildout**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he just sent National Grid a progress report. He continued we are almost done; all that still needs to be done is pull in the riser cables from the station up to the overhead. We still need to install the equipment at the town line but we do not want to do that until closer to them needing the power.

**ii. Hyatt Hotel Fire**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that a fire pump circuit failed at the Hyatt Hotel. He explained fire pumps are fused so that the fuse doesn't pop because you want the fire pump to keep running. It is 8 times the fuse – so if it draws 200 amps it is fused for 1600 amps. It burned itself into submission. Mr. Bottiggi said he went to the mayor's department head meeting and heard that they think the hotel will be open in a couple of weeks but the pool area won't be as that is where the damage is.

**iii. Duke Engine Acquisition**

Mr. Bottiggi said this item is actually about the sale of the Duke engines and Whetstone has completed the acquisition. He continued as far as BELD is concerned nothing changes. Whetstone is coming in here tomorrow to sit down with the BELD team to make sure everything operationally is set to go.

**iv. Watson P30 Cooler**

Mr. Bottiggi reminded everyone that the P30 cooler in Watson 1 failed last summer and caused us some outage time. We have had a new one installed so it has been fine. We ordered a new one for Watson 2 in August and it is still not here due to logistics. The manufacturers in Canada got the tubes, which was the long lead item, last week and have given us a delivery date in February. Once

we get that we are not going to wait for Unit 2 to fail; we will swap the P30 cooler out and then we will have a spare. All of this will be done before the summer.

We are in the middle of doing an analysis; the units are 15 years old now and there are a number of things that are single point of failure and we are going to start accumulating spares. There was discussion.

**v. Watson IEP Days**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we have had 2 Inventory Energy Program (IEP) days in December – on December 21 and December 22. IEP days get called when the average temperature at Bradley airport in Hartford, CT is 17 degrees or less. We had the correct amount of inventory and filled out the paperwork so we are in compliance.

**vi. EEA Clearinghouse Update**

Mr. Bottiggi said this is the State program that is being proposed that will have municipals being treated as the investor-owned utilities. We would be forced to participate in the same programs that investor-owned utilities do and that will cause us to have to raise our electric rates by \$.04 per kilowatt hours. He is going to a meeting tomorrow at Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM) to discuss how to proceed and voice our displeasure.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we have a Mass Maritime student interning here for the winter break, working at Watson. Mr. Bottiggi explained that there are 3 openings here at BELD: a customer service representative, a technical assistant in IT and a custodian. We have posted all of these positions internally. After the posting period is up we will interview outside BELD if need be.

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

None.

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

Mr. Regan reported that this is his last meeting and he will be signing his resignation letter as soon as this meeting is over. He continued: he feels he is leaving BELD with as good name as when he walked in the door and loved working with the staff. He thinks the greatest thing they accomplished was the power plant and that will be a long-term benefit to this community. Personally, he enjoyed being on the APPA Policymakers Council, the Braintree Day celebrations and the Nelson Chin Concerts. He mentioned that he feels this board has been unique in that they are longest serving board with the same members. There was discussion and the other Board Members commented that Mr. Regan was the face of BELD at Sunset Lake, did a fantastic job representing BELD throughout the Town and that BELD has been made better because of Mr. Regan.

Mr. Regan said it was a privilege to serve, and he wanted to leave with this one quote of George Washington's: "I feel eased of a load of public care. I hope to spend the remainder of my days in cultivating the affections of good men, and in the practice of the domestic virtues".

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

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

**i. Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Mr. Bottiggi commented that the tentative plan is to have a Light Board meeting during the first week of February to interview any potential candidates for Mr. Regan's position. The date above is the next regular meeting for the Light Board. Mr. Regan's resignation letter will be delivered tomorrow morning and then the Town Clerk, Mr. Casey, will put a notice on the Town website for 2 weeks notifying of the open position. BELD will put the same notice for 2 weeks on our website. Once the 2 weeks is completed we will post the interview meeting. There was discussion on the Commissioners schedule.

**X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)**

Not Needed.

**XI. Adjournment**

A Roll Call Vote was taken to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds – yes

Mr. Agnitti – yes

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

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Thomas J. Reynolds  
Chairman