

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:24 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, General Manager William G. Bottiggi and Ken Stone, all of BELD and Ms. Susan Clawson. Secretary James Regan was not present.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. September 4, 2018 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of September 4, 2018 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. Potter – Substitution Auction

Mr. Bottiggi explained that at the last meeting Mr. Cavanaugh from ENE spoke on the risks and on why we need to think about retiring Potter II. He continued that the substitution auction gives us the opportunity to make some money for at least 1 year after we retire Potter II. If we start the process in March 2019 then Potter II would be retired in June 2023. It is retired 3½ years after we clear the auction; if we start in March 2019 then the auction is in February 2020. If we do not clear the substitution auction we can permanently de-list it and that would happen in the summer 2024. No matter which way we do this Potter II will be over 50 years old by the time it is retired. This needs to happen because of the new market where we are subject to large penalty amounts. We will still be subjected to the penalties while we are in the process of retiring Potter II. There was discussion. We could try to get out of the penalties by selling our capacity supply obligation. We will also look at that during the time we are in the process of retirement. If there is an opportunity to sell that obligation we may want to so that we take that risk out of our portfolio. There was further discussion. The recent penalty cost \$300,000.00 for Potter II. Watson made \$116,000 during the same time. The other consideration is staffing. We hope to manage staffing through attrition and the time period involved will help with going through that transition.

Voted: on motion by Mr. Agnitti; Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded, to give the general manager the authorization to start the process to execute a plan to retire Potter II generator from all ISO-NE markets. See full resolution attached.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Relay for Life Update

Ms. Clawson, from Braintree Relay for Life, gave an update on the event which was held in June at the high school. She explained that they raised over \$82,000 for the American Cancer Society which is the most they have raised in the past 3-4 years so their numbers are on their way up again. They had 35 teams and the Braintree Fire did the survivor and caregiver reception and over 100 people were served. She thanked BELD once again for their support. The Commissioners thanked Ms. Clawson for the work she does in the community.

ii. Station 4 Transformer

Mr. Bottiggi explained that our oldest substation transformer was at Station 4 and was between 35 and 40 years old. It had been having oil/gassing issues which is a sign that it is starting to break down inside. We had targeted this project for this year and that old transformer has been removed and the new transformer will be here at the end of this week or the beginning of next. It will be installed, dressed, interconnected to the transmission system and the distribution system. It should be in and running before Thanksgiving. Mr. Reynolds asked if there would be any interruption in service. Mr. Bottiggi said no, the plan is for us to take the load and put it on another transformer. There was discussion.

iii. NEPPA Lineworker Rodeo

Mr. Bottiggi reported that BELD had a crew in the NEPPA Lineworker Rodeo: Jon Kincaid, JT Greenleaf and Kevin Miller. They came in first in the transformer change-out and second overall. Mr. Stone is the chair of this event.

iv. Palmer Renewable Energy/Green Portfolio

Mr. Bottiggi explained we do not have a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) like the investor owned utilities do. They are required by the legislature to get to 22% renewable by 2021 and 80% by 2050. We are exempt from this as a municipal utility – however, legislators may try to change this. What we are doing is trying to keep it on a voluntary basis and remain under local control. We met last week with ENE to plan to get us to 22% by 2021 and 80% by 2050 without a large impact to our ratepayers from a cost perspective. The impact of complying with the RPS will add about ½ cent to our electric rate - this is reasonable.

The first project we want is the Palmer Renewable Energy: a wood burning plant going into western Massachusetts. It burns just tree trimming – 1200 tons a day and produces 45 megawatts. We don't get all of that – just our share. We are looking into other projects to make us more renewable. Sometime between now and January Mr. Bottiggi plans on showing this graphically to the Commissioners and how we are going to ladder in projects and get to 22% by 2021. This is something we need to do. We need to have a plan. Mr. Stone added we are putting this into our long term hedging plan. Mr. Bottiggi added if we do the floating solar array that would fit into this plan as well. There was further discussion.

v. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the energy storage unit ribbon cutting ceremony will be taking place on October 25th. There was discussion on the agenda.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we are interviewing people for the WF, Maintenance.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

- i. Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

None.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Electric Division meeting at 5:53 p.m. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

Thomas J. Reynolds, Jr.
Chairman

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, General Manager William G. Bottiggi, Ken Stone, Chuck Coyne, all of BELD. Secretary James Regan was not present.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. September 4, 2018 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of December 5, 2017 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

None.

III. Items for Discussion

Mr. Bottiggi reported on a number of changes that are coming to the Broadband Division. We are continuing to change out the old boxes (DCT 2000s) for the new HD DTA boxes. They are much smaller and newer technology than the DCTs.

He continued that we are also getting new eBOXes from Evolution Digital – they run off hybrid Internet Protocol (IP) system. He stated that our current VOD system is going to be discontinued after November 30, 2018. We will no longer have that server with all of that programming on it. There is going to be an article in Bright Ideas about this, which will help explain to customers. The eBOX will have Video on Demand in the cloud, and will provide access to streaming content as well.

We only have about 2,400 video customers. We have about 2,800 High Speed Internet customers. We are in a transition. We are talking to a vendor who will allow us to eliminate our headend. They would have the headend equipment and we would pay them on a per subscriber basis to deliver video to us and we would send it out to the field, accessible via an app. This could be watched on an Apple TV or any smart TV – you would call up the app on your device and then watch TV. There was discussion. We are concerned about our seniors and if they would be able to watch this way. We are losing money working the way we are. We originally got into the business to provide competition and there is competition now with or without us. Comcast and Verizon are both in town. At some point we will need to pull the plug on cable tv. We would give the customers six months notice and tell them we would like them to stay with us for High Speed Internet. Give them a very aggressive offer but they would have to go elsewhere for their video. There was further discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

None.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Public Participation

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

X. Executive Session

None.

IX. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Broadband Division meeting at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

Thomas J. Reynolds
Chairman