

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:06 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 Bottiggi, Ken Stone and Chuck Coyne, all of BELD and Sean Powers, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. March 7, 2019 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of March 7, 2019 Open Meeting as written.

**II. Items for Action**

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

Chairman Reynolds recognized Chairman Sean Powers here tonight as the representative of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee. Mr. Powers thanked the Board and BELD for the long-standing partnership that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee has had. He continued: this year's celebration- the 46<sup>th</sup> - will be held on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> and it includes the Stars & Stripes parade, the festival at 4:00 p.m. at the high school which will have the fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. Last year the electric vehicle initiative was very well-received and Mr. Powers would like to get BELD its own pavilion on the field for the EVs. There could be viewing and testing EVs and so give the exposure to that aspect of BELD's marketing campaign. Mr. Bottiggi said we just acquired two plug-in hybrid bucket trucks: when you drive them the diesel runs and when you stop and are working it runs off the battery. The troubleman has one and they work at night – so residents in the area of the work no longer have to listen to the engine running while the work is being done. Mr. Regan suggested putting this bucket truck in the parade this year. Mr. Powers said BELD could put as many vehicles as they would like in the parade. There was discussion. Mr. Powers said he would work with BELD's marketing team so that BELD gets good advertising out of this year's event.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to advertise at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration events for \$8,000.00.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. Potter II Update**

Mr. Bottiggi said we have started the process with ISO-NE to be in the substitution auction next February. We had to submit a lot of spreadsheets to demonstrate what our pricing structure is like. We met with them recently for four hours and they have sent questions since then. We have sent our answers in and now they would like to have a conference call. We are continuing to work with them. Hopefully we clear the auction and then can retire Potter II in June of 2023. The idea is that those three years gives others time to build something to replace the energy source. There was discussion on the condition of the building and the equipment in it.

**ii. Solar Panels – Operations & Gas Compressor Building**

Mr. Bottiggi said that he had been incorrect when he had previously reported the solar panels would be on the gas compressor building due to the safety implications of gas – it would require special wiring and equipment so we will not be doing that. We will be putting them on the Watson operations building. BELD electricians will be doing the work – we are hiring a consultant to help instruct them. The consultant will spec out and provide the equipment.

**iii. ENE Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported the ENE has moved their offices to Mansfield. It is only five miles from the previous offices but it is a class one building and has emergency generation. He continued with his update: last year they made another \$708,000 so they have \$4.9 million in equity now. BELD owns 33% of that – so our \$500,000 investment is worth \$1.6 million in return. They had 8% in ownership left and Reading bought it. There was discussion. Reading had been one of the original members. CMEEC, Taunton, Reading and Braintree were the originals. When Reading left we sold their 25% to Hingham, Wellesley and Concord. Then CMEEC left and BELD bought another 5% that got us up to the 33% as well as Taunton and then Concord bought some which left the 8%. ENE is bigger than MMWEC. There was further discussion.

**iv. Fireking**

Mr. Bottiggi said this project is moving along. We will have power there by May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be putting emergency diesels out there – natural gas fired, 4 megawatts. We won't have those in until the end of the year.

Mr. Regan reported that he walked the property with Councilor Kokoros and the general contractor, Greg Cataldo. Mr. Cataldo had asked Mr. Regan to do the tour. Mr. Regan had been in touch with Mr. Bottiggi about this. During the tour he met the owner and liked him. The owner is doubling his workforce, putting \$20 million into the property and signing a 30 year lease. There was further discussion. He is a good customer.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Mr. Grey has finished his trial as the meterman. His previous job of Storeskeeper has been awarded to Mr. Malatesta and is on his trial.

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

**i. Watson Gas Pressure Issue**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we had a conference call today with Algonquin regarding the ongoing gas pressure issue. We have the executed operating agreement that says they will not do anything to negatively impact our operations and in the agreement they reference exhibit B. On exhibit B it says the minimum pressure will be 625 pounds. We have spoken with Mr. Coyle and Mr. DeMetro, the natural gas consultant that we used when we built Watson. There was discussion. We offered a compromise solution – to split the fee for upgrades to our equipment to make up the difference and get the gas pressure up to 625 pounds. There was further discussion. We would get brand new gas

compressors that we would own that will go from 625 to 850. We have been going from 525 to 850. There has been a lot of wear and tear on our compressors because of this. They are supposed to be overhauled every 5 years and we are overhauling them every year.

**ii. Diesel Generator Building Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that National Grid is putting in the gas lines for the new natural gas engines at diesel generator building. The 2 new engines have been in since last fall but the strike put off the commissioning. They are putting in around 60 feet per day – it should go fast. The gas line will tie into the National Grid system outside the gate and then we will be able to run them.

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

**i. Audited Financials**

Mr. Bottiggi said the audited financials are done and he is going to give them to Mayor Sullivan and the Town Council.

**ii. Thin Film Solar Panels**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that there was a meeting today with Allen Giles of Picktricity, a company located in Centerville, regarding thin film solar panels. He showed the Commissioners the panel that Mr. Giles left with us. This weighs ¼ as much as the conventional solar panels. Mr. Bottiggi said Mr. Giles has a CEC grant from the state to put these on the roofs of municipal water towers. They will pay 75% of the cost – so the solar panels could go on the water towers in town for a small amount of investment. The panels stick on and glue down – they do the work and there is a 20 year guarantee. Mr. Bottiggi explained without the grant they cost \$2.50 per watt - conventional panels are around \$3.00 – and with the grant they are going to cost ¼ of \$2.50. He continued he will speak with Mayor Sullivan about this tomorrow. There was discussion.

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

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

**i. Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

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

Not needed.

**XI. Adjournment**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Electric Division meeting at 5:36 p.m. So voted.

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James P. Regan  
Secretary

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:37 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 Ken Stone, all of BELD.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. March 7, 2019 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of March 7, 2019 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

**ii. March 7, 2019 Executive Session Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to table the minutes of March 7, 2019 Executive Session Meeting. So voted.

**II. Items for Action**

None.

**III. Items for Discussion**

None.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Mr. Malatesta from the Help Desk has been awarded the stores keeper position that was posted. He is currently in the trial phase of the job. Mr. Bottiggi continued, we will not be posting or filling his Help Desk position. We are looking to hire an after-hours telephone-based help desk. Norwood Light uses one and it is very inexpensive compared to hiring a replacement. We do not feel we are going to need this position so we do not want to hire someone and then lay them off.

**V. Old Business**

None.

**VI. New Business**

Mr. Bottiggi explained to the Board that due to what we have been discussing in the Executive Session we want to develop a communications plan to make sure we do this the right way if we do something with video. He spoke with Mr. Forman of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce and told him what we are trying to do: messaging, branding, communicating to help our customers understand that we are not going away. He gave me a couple of names of consultants and he spoke with them. Mr. Bottiggi will be meeting with Sarah Welsh DeMayo of Vibrancy next week. Mr. Bottiggi continued, we do not want to lose customers out of misunderstanding. We may lose customers and we are going to do the best we can to not lose as many. There was discussion.

**VII. Public Participation**

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

i. **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

**X. Executive Session**

None.

**IX. Adjournment**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Broadband Division meeting at 5:40 p.m. So voted.

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James P. Regan  
Secretary