

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:03 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. February 18 2020 Electric Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of February 18, 2020 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

II. Items for Action

None.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Roxwind PPA

Mr. Bottiggi explained that BELD is participating in another wind project – this one is located in Roxbury ME. This project is a 4 turbine, 16.8 megawatt DC and 15 megawatt AC which produces 50,000 megawatt hours per year. BELD will get 8400 of those hours, about 16.5% of the project. This continues to increase our renewable energy sources.

ii. Legislative Visit

Mr. Bottiggi reported that he and Mr. Stone had made a visit down to Washington, DC to visit with our representatives. They split up and met with all the congressman and senators or their staff from Massachusetts. The House was not in session. Mr. Bottiggi met with Senator Kennedy and discussed transmission and capacity. Mr. Bottiggi said he gave Senator Kennedy some information that contradicts what Dan Wiley from ISO-NE is telling him. Mr. Wiley is telling him that capacity prices keep going up and they don't, they go up and down. Mr. Stone met Senator Markey. There was discussion.

iii. Potter II Lube Oil Cooler Repair Update

Mr. Bottiggi said that the lube oil cooler for the steam turbine failed and it took about 2 weeks but we were able to do a code repair. The tube sheet had a hole in it and they were able to temporarily repair that and then when they put the cast iron bell on the end it cracked. Then we needed to get a code repair to repair that because that is a pressure vessel. We have it all back and the unit is in service. We have ordered a new tube bundle and a new head as a spare just in case. There was discussion. We are currently contemplating replacing Potter with batteries. It has been a good asset and has helped to stabilize our rates but we always have the risk due to the Pay for Performance market. We might be able to shed our obligation for next year – if we can do this cheaply we will. We still want to be able to get the capacity credit. We are looking into this right now. There was discussion.

iv. Fiber Optic Cable Incident

Mr. Bottiggi explained we were running a new fiber optic cable from Station 4/Mahar Highway to Station 8/at Simon Mall and explained the complete route this would take. He continued there is a separate duct bank that is just communication with no electric power in it. We had an electric crew out there and they were supposed to cut an old copper communication cable and pull it out to make room for some fiber optic cable. Unfortunately, they cut the incorrect cable – they cut a 288 count fiber optic cable which we lease to Crown Castle. It was 1700 feet long. They pulled the fiber out before they realized what had been done. We work with Phoenix Communications – they carry and splice the cable. They brought a piece of cable that was 2,000 feet long, our crew pulled it through and Phoenix spliced it on both ends. There was discussion.

v. Internet Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that things are steady now. Our revenue is \$135000-145000 per month and we have added customers again. We are now at 2418 customers at the end of February. This is a much more simple a business now that we do not have to deal with the programmers. We are up to 90% decommissioned in the headend. They still need to remove some equipment but the only thing that will still be left there will be the CMTS (Cable Modem Termination System). We will need a little bit of equipment to do local broadcasts. We have officially ended the broadband accounts with Town Hall – we will no longer have a broadband warrant. Our basic plan is 100 meg downloads – this will cover 6 devices. There was discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained to the Board that the only opening we currently have is the working foreman maintenance at the power plant – as Mr. McCollem was awarded the relief engineer’s job. There has been some shifting at the power plant: Mr. Beatson retired and Mr. Donovan bid on and was awarded Mr. Beatson’s position, engineer. Mr. McCollem had bid on Mr. Donovan’s old position. There was discussion on staffing at the power plant.

Mr. Bottiggi also reported that we have hired an electrician, Mr. Anderson. Mr. Buker will be retiring on April 10th. We have also had shifting in the electrician and linemen departments. To recap, Mr. Toye was promoted to Mr. Buker’s position – electric operations supervisor, line and electrician. Mr. Parker bid on and was awarded the general working foreman electrician position, Mr. Toye’s previous position. This shifting opened up a position in the electric department. There was discussion.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Mr. Stone had received a NERC alert on Covid-19 which require a lot of information. Mr. Stone will be spearheading the response. Mr. Stone commented on one of the questions having to do with our supply chain. This has and will affect the supply chain for things we will all need.

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he will be meeting internally with key people to discuss a contingency plan for what BELD will do when Covid-19 gets to Braintree. There are obviously some people who have to work here but there are some who can work from home. We will need to look at what equipment will be needed. There was discussion on the coronavirus situation.

Mr. Stone reported that we are doing the residents survey that we do every three years. We are changing it up a little as people don't answer their phones as much now. So, we are using emails and other ways to reach customers.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Bottiggi reminded the Board that we would not be having an April meeting due to his surgery scheduled for March 25th.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

None.

XI. Adjournment

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

James P. Regan
Secretary