

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William G. Bottiggi, Joe Bracken and Mr. Orpen, all of BELD. Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti was not present.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. April 13, 2021 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of April 13, 2021 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. NYPA Voting Delegates

Mr. Bottiggi explained that he and Mr. Stone were the voting delegates for the hydro project but since Mr. Stone has left BELD he would like Ms. Teele to be the secondary voting delegate. Mr. Bottiggi would be the primary voting delegate. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept Mr. Bottiggi as the primary NPYA voting delegate and Ms. Teele to be secondary NYPA voting delegate. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Internet for BPS Program

Mr. Bottiggi explained that this is the program that the Board had voted on last year. A program to offer discounted internet to families with hardship that had students in the Braintree school system. Due to Covid-19 the school was doing online classes only and the program was to last for the school year. Mr. Bottiggi continued the school year has come to an end and we will be sending a letter home to those families to let them know the program is coming to an end as well on June 30, 2021. They can continue to get internet from us if they would like.

ii. Coronavirus Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the majority of employees have been vaccinated. The office will be open to the public on June 3, 2021. This is also the date that we will start with cuts for non-paying customers. There was discussion.

iii. Potter II Update

Mr. Bottiggi asked Mr. Bracken to give an update. Mr. Bracken explained that now that Potter II is retired they are dealing with the process of extracting and selling the equipment that has considerable value. There are units around the country that have similar machines so we have entered into a partnership with a company called APGI power group out of Houston, TX. They know what the market is and we will split the profits with them. They will take our routers, gas turbine and any equipment that could be of use will be trucked there and reconditioned and

refurbished. We are hoping to hit the fall outage season and there are some plants who want this equipment. We are hoping we will be done in 3 weeks. There was discussion. Mr. Regan asked if there was any hazardous material? Mr. Bracken reported we have lube oil, fuel oil and we have isolated those things and are dealing with Clean Harbors. We took apart some of the steam pipes yesterday and have had an insulation sample tested for asbestos to be sure but we are pretty sure it isn't. We should hear by tomorrow.

iv. Watson Forward Reserve

Mr. Bottiggi explained there are two forward reserve seasons every year: winter is October until May and summer is June until September. We have been mostly clearing and we did clear for the summer. If everything goes perfectly we will get an extra \$414,000. There was discussion.

v. ENE Dividend

Mr. Bottiggi reported that ENE has been around for over twenty years and last year they created a policy that they would start paying the owners a dividend. He handed out a letter from Mr. Tzimirangas, President and CEO of ENE. ENE is up to \$6.3 million in equity now and 1/3 of that is ours. 20% of the \$510,000 of income back to the owners based on your load ratio share of how much of ENE you own. BELD owns 33.33% of ENE and will get \$33,674 dividend. The way they will pay it out is from July to December so 1/6 for the last 6 months of the year. To put that into perspective we pay ENE about \$27,000 every month so it is like getting a free month. There was discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we hired a new electrician, Mr. Adams. This was due to Mr. Toye's retirement and Mr. O'Neill's promotion to his position. We needed an electrician to fill in the ranks. He will be starting at the end of this month. Mr. Bottiggi reported that we hired a fireman, Mr. McDonough and a relief fireman, Mr. Hassan at the plant. Mr. Bottiggi continued we have also created an administrative position in HR that Ms. Haight has taken.

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the new hours in Customer Service have started: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. He continued over the summer the hours will be 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. Pole Inspection

Mr. Bottiggi reported that it has been decided to do a new pole inspection this year, later in the year. When we bought the Verizon poles we did an inspection and have been replacing them; we have about 100 more to go. We have done 600 plus the regular amount we do each year. We are expecting some replacements will be needed as poles get old – something that passed last time may not this time. There was discussion. The double pole situation is better: we need to wait on other

companies to get off of the original pole so we can dispose of that pole. BELD and BELD Broadband are on the pole in addition to Comcast, Verizon and Fire alarms.

ii. Elm Street Bridge

Mr. Bottiggi reported we had spare positions at Station 8. We had feeders at Station 10: one was going directly to Station 8 as a back-up and one was going to the Storrs feeder. We reconfigured the distribution system so nothing goes over the bridge. This is a reliability improvement. The only thing left in that conduit is a fiber optic cable. Mr. Reynolds asked what is the vulnerability of the fiber? Mr. Bottiggi said that the Internet Division uses that fiber to supply a major portion of the town. Mr. Orpen said it has about 10 nodes and that we are going to bring that under River Street, where the old underpass is. They are continuing to look at it.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

i. Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

i. To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information.

Chairman Reynolds announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information. He continued any decisions that we vote on will be announced when we come back into Open Session; if no votes are taken we will be adjourning.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan to recess Open Session to go into Executive Session. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

Chairman Reynolds announced a Roll Call Vote at 5:25 p.m.:

Mr. Regan – yes. Mr. Reynolds – yes.

Executive Session commenced at 5:26 pm.

Chairman Reynolds re-opened the Open Session 5:55 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary