

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, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD and Sean Powers, Braintree's 4th Committee and Meredith Boericke, Town Council President.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. March 22, 2022 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of March 22, 2022 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Regan seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. Braintree's 4th Committee

Chairman Reynolds recognized Mr. Powers. Mr. Powers reported that due to BELD's support last year Braintree was one of the few communities who held a 4th of July celebration. He thanked the Commissioners for their support. He continued this year they are experiencing some challenges with supply chain issues impacting prices and costs plus inflation. The 4th Committee start early to make sure they can do the best they can. There was discussion. Mr. Powers said we are facing the challenges but there is not anything that they can't overcome to produce the parade, fireworks show and offer some live entertainment.

The date is Saturday, June 25. This year there will be a 12 piece Motown band and a country western singer to start off the afternoon – from 4:00 p.m. until about 9:30 p.m. when the fireworks go off. This will be the 49th year of holding this event. There was discussion. Mr. Powers and the Committee work closely with Mr. Ritchie of BELD's marketing. Mr. Powers explained that he would like to work with Mr. Ritchie on a series of promotions leading up to the event and then do cross promotions between the Braintree's 4th's media channels and BELD's media channels. There was further discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti to increase our budget for advertising to \$12,000 at Braintree's 4th Celebration. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Council President Boericke – Proposed Tree Protection Ordinance

Chairman Reynolds recognized Town Council President Boericke. Ms. Boericke expressed that she wanted to speak with the Board about a proposed tree protection ordinance that has been filed with the Council and is going for the first reading at the Ordinance and Rules Committee tomorrow night. She explained to the Board that she had met with Mr. Bottiggi and Mr. Murphy last fall – she wanted BELD to be the first place she checked with because she knows how critical vegetation management is to keeping the lights on. She continued the goal of this ordinance is to make sure that trees that are coming down in the public way/town property - from developers clearing land and large multi-family developments – are being replaced. If they cannot be replaced there would be a payment in lieu of planting. Ms. Boericke works at Eversource and she wanted to review a very early draft with

Mr. Bottiggi and Mr. Murphy so that we protect the electric light system in Town. The intention of this ordinance is not to disrupt the vegetation management program that BELD has in place. Ms. Boericke has met with Town legal counsel to make sure what she is proposing is in harmony with state laws as well.

Ms. Boericke explained that should this be passed one of the provisions is the establishment of a tree committee so that there is a level of oversight and we are holding ourselves and developers accountable for re-planting. She is proposing that a member of the Light Board be on the committee so that we have eyes on the vegetation management component when removing and replacing trees. There was discussion regarding the types of trees and other town's programs and how they are run.

Mr. Bottiggi explained BELD's tree trimming program: we trim every day and we do this by circuit – but we do not take trees down or re-plant trees – we trim to protect the electrical infrastructure. There was discussion. Mr. Bottiggi explained we have a tree removal incentive program that BELD will reimburse a resident up to \$500 toward the cost to remove a tree that is on their property but we have deemed could be an issue for the electrical infrastructure. That is working well. In response to a question from Mr. Agnitti, Ms. Boericke explained that the proposed ordinance would not interfere with this program and the way it is structured right now it is for multi-family of more than 4 units. Mr. Bottiggi added, under this ordinance we could encounter a tree that we trim but we say it makes sense to get rid of this tree – that would not be an emergency – and we could take that situation to the tree committee and they would decide. The only reason we would want it removed is if it is diseased or rotting.

Ms. Boericke commented that there is an emergency clause where if there is a snow storm and trees are coming down it wouldn't be taken to the tree committee. She continued: her intention is trees in the public way and if the decision is made that it would be best for it to come down then it needs to be replaced. The way this is happening right now is there is no follow-up and the idea is to hold us and the developer accountable. If the tree can't be replaced for some reason – underground utilities or a building is going up - then we have a fund to plant a tree somewhere else. Ms. Boericke would like to focus on areas of town where there is low tree canopy like South Braintree Square but that would be decided with the help of the committee. They are there to make sure the re-plantings happen and/or making sure the funds are being dispersed timely and appropriately.

Ms. Boericke explained part of the reason for coming before the Board is to see if one of the members would be willing to serve on the committee should it come to fruition. Mr. Regan asked how many members would be on the committee. Ms. Boericke explained there would be 5 members: an arborist, a Light Board member, a member of the Conservation Commission and 2 residents. She continued her intention is to have a Light Board member because they need someone who understands the importance of trees and electricity to sit on this committee because it can get lost on people and people can get emotional about trees. There was discussion. Mr. Reynolds is the tree warden in Marshfield where he works. He is very familiar with the laws and deals with scenic ways. He also deals with Eversource and their tree trimming. There was further discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan, to nominate Mr. Reynolds for the position on the tree committee if the ordinance comes to fruition. So voted.

ii. Watson Gas Turbine Upgrade Status

Mr. Bottiggi reported that the gas turbine/Unit 1 will be back in June but we don't want to put it back into service until the fall and that will be explained under the next item. Currently, Unit 1 is in Montreal and the spare engine is in Unit 1's place. When Unit 1 comes back we will store it until the fall and then it will go into Unit 2's place. The second gas turbine, which is Unit 2, is going to go up to Montreal for its upgrade in October. Once it is completed Unit 2 will go into Unit 1's place – probably early next year. We will then be in great shape for the future.

iii. Watson Forward Reserve

Mr. Bottiggi explained the reason we do not want to change out the spare engine in Unit 1 is the Forward Reserve. This is the market where we get paid for Watson's ability to sit there cold but get to full load in

under 10 minutes. The Forward Reserve used to be pretty lucrative. It is a reverse auction – they start high. So, if the ISO needs 5,000 megawatts and participants bid \$7,000 megawatts – they start at 10,000 so people who bid above what they need get knocked out. We bid low so we get in no matter what.

Over the years it has trended down a bit. We always bid into it and bid low to get in and this summer it popped. We bid \$500/megawatt month, which translates into about \$400,000 for the summer (June, July, August and September) and it cleared at \$7386/megawatt month. Assuming we have perfect performance, which there is usually an event and we won't, we could get \$2.7 million for Summer Forward Reserve. This is really good news. We do not rely on this budget-wise. There was discussion.

iv. MBTA Bus Maintenance Facility Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that this project is progressing – there is a zoom meeting every couple of weeks. This would be 42,600,000 in kilowatt hours per year in electric sales. We do 328,000,000 now – that is a big increase in our load. That would be our largest commercial customer. They will be 7 megawatts of load. We are giving them (2) 9 megawatts circuits: 1 up Hawthorne and 1 up Commercial Street.

This will cost about \$1.8 million to build this out for them but we will be getting that money back. We will put conduit across Elm Street to rise up over by St Thomas More and then add a circuit at the top of the pole. The tree wire, not the cross arms, the three wires running together all the way to the town line. We have conduit that goes up Elm all the way to Ross school and we will bang a left on Commercial St. We will hand off on Penns Hill where the town line is. The National Grid is taking it from us in 2 places – both on the Quincy line. Their plan is that late 2024 the facility will be completed and they will have 75 electric buses there. This will be all brand new infrastructure. There was discussion.

v. ENE Update

Mr. Bottiggi said he wanted to give an update on ENE; we are 1 of the 5 original owners. It was formed in 1998. We own 33% and they manage 1,300 megawatts of peak load. They manage 5.5 million megawatt hours of energy and have 25 wholesale customers. He listed some of the customers. It is a big organization now. They have 31 clients that participate in Mr. Ragucci's ENE Strategies and they serve 24 municipal utility clients for energy efficiency. They bought Utility

Services of VT and they had 110 customers and is working in 47 states. ENE is the largest cooperative/joint action agency in NE. The good news is we put \$500,000 in 1998 and now ENE is worth \$7 million and 33% of that is BELD. With the changes to the owners, we increase our ownership from 25% to 33% we could put another \$150,000 in. For our \$650,000 investment we are worth over \$2 million now. Its not just an investment - we get 1 month free power supply per year. It is a dividend and the way they do the dividend is they give us a discount. We spend about \$360,000 per year with ENE doing our power supply and basically get 1 month free. There was discussion. The real value is in the work they do. They provide us with high quality power supply.

Mr. Agnitti left at 5:59 p.m. Prior to leaving, there was discussion. The meeting is only 2 weeks away. It was decided to change the date to June 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we are hiring a new billing analyst in anticipation of future retirements. There was discussion.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

In response to a question from Mr. Regan, there was discussion on paying bills. A resident asked about using their credit card to pay online when they were away. Mr. Bottiggi explained there is an option of auto bill pay. Mr. Regan expressed that this particular resident did not want to have it automatically come out but wanted to go in and do it themselves with a credit card. Mr. Bottiggi said they can go online and see their bill. We do not take credit card numbers here – but they can call our billing vendor and give them their credit card number. From a security perspective we no longer take cash or take/keep credit card numbers. We don't even have bank account numbers – we have a third party that manages all that – so we do not have to worry about ID theft. Mr. Bottiggi said the best thing for the resident would be to call BELD customer service. They will explain it all.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Changed to June 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

Not needed.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary