

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:04 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.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. December 6, 2022 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of December 6, 2022 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

None.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Watson Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that December was a wild month for Watson. We went through 500,000 gallons of oil and bought 100,000 gallons twice. Christmas eve was very cold and we almost had rolling blackouts - prices were really high all day. The ISO-NE declared an emergency – a scarcity condition. He reminded the Board of how we sold our capacity supply obligation in December because we were worried about being penalized and that we sold it for \$55,000. Then because we didn't have a capacity supply obligation, we were running at full load and it was an hour and twenty minutes scarcity condition we got a bonus of \$568,000. ISO-NE also penalized plants that did not perform - \$39 million in penalties. Every plant that performed above their capacity supply obligation got a bonus – because we had sold it we didn't have an obligation and got the bonus. This was an extreme event – it was 11 degrees. Natural gas set the price but oil was being used – there was 35-40% oil being burned in New England. A number of plants tripped offline, which caused the price to go really high and there is gas but gas gets extremely expensive due to home heating, businesses are burning gas heat and gas for the generators. Also, the tie lines in Canada usually over-deliver but they pulled back all the power that wasn't guaranteed. There was discussion. The employees at the plant handled everything very well – there are always issues when it gets that cold. This same situation could happen if it gets that cold in January or February.

Mr. Bottiggi also reported that engine 40 is still in Montreal being stripped down and it still due to come back in April.

ii. Mutual Aid

Mr. Bottiggi explained that we sent 4 linemen and 2 bucket trucks to NH. They went to a couple of towns that were under NHEC jurisdiction. There was cold and some wind in MA but NH, ME and VT got lots of damage from the winds.

We also received a nice proclamation from Bartow, FL because we had sent Mutual Aid to them after Hurricane Ian. There was discussion.

iii. Storage Battery at St. Catherine's

Mr. Bottiggi gave an update on this project. We are having a system impact study done. Convergent has a deal with St. Catherine's and will put a 5 megawatt, 3 hour battery storage and it will be located in the back, on the lawn area between the parking lot and the highway. Pro forma shows we will save \$13-14 million over 20 years. This is a share savings plan. There was discussion. We will have to do some updates – Common Street is fed out of Station 8 and we may have to reconductor because it is a bigger load – but it will probably go online at the end of 2024.

iv. Guy Luke Substation Signage

Mr. Bottiggi explained we cannot touch the granite sign as there is not enough room on it. On the side of the building is a BELD sign and we will put under that “Guy Luke Substation”. We have been in touch with the sign company. If we have to adjust the lighting to have both signs seen in the dark we will. There was discussion.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Mr. Hitchings has been promoted to Senior Mechanical Engineer. There was discussion on future planning with some retirements and advancements coming.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. MBTA Bus Terminal

In response to a question from a Board member Mr. Bottiggi explained that this is going slow. Our attorney is reviewing a reimbursement agreement and we should be able to get that back to them by the middle of next week. There was discussion.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. Former Carter Rice Building and Other Properties

Mr. Bottiggi said the marijuana company who was going in to the former Carter Rice building may be changing their location. There was discussion of what buildings and properties are available for development in Braintree.

Mr. Regan asked about new housing at the Plaza. Mr. Bottiggi said there is a national company that is looking at putting 450 units near the old 99 restaurant where there is a wooded area. They bought all that land and the homes in there. They wanted us to move a duct bank; our 13.8 kw duct bank runs along the edge of where they want to do this and they want us to move it over about 40 feet. There are a lot of circuits in it and it will be an expensive, time-consuming job. There was discussion. The old Lord & Taylor building has been sold and is or will be a medical facility.

ii. Letter from Customer

A letter was received for the Board in which a customer voiced her complaints about various issues including BELD's former Broadband answering service, selling the Broadband business to Comcast, the recent change we made to our electric bill payment system and not getting paper bills. There

was discussion. She did not pay her bill because she had previously signed up for automatic payment. With the new system in place all customers had to re-signed up for automatic payments – this was for security purposes. No customers lost any discounts and were not cut. There was further discussion. Her concerns were addressed and this has been resolved.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. **February 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

Not Needed.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary