

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 G. Bottiggi, Ken Stone, Chuck Coyne and Jack Orpen, all of BELD.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. January 16, 2018 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of January 16, 2018 Open Meeting as written.

**II. Items for Action**

**i. Recreation Department Request: Sunset Lake Concert Series and Cook-out**

The Board had been provided with the letter from Mr. Chin, the Recreation Department Director. There is an increase in the amount this year – from \$7500 to \$9000 – but in return the Recreation Department will designate one of their movie nights as a BELD-sponsored event. There was discussion.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to approve the \$9000 amount for the Sunset lake Concert Series, one cook-out and one movie.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. Forward Capacity Auction # 12**

Mr. Bottiggi explained this auction was held last week and the price cleared low as we expected. We did not participate. It cleared at \$4.63 as compared to \$5.30 the year before. We hear this may be the case for next year as well. There was discussion. We missed the opportunity when it was there.

**ii. Energy Storage Project**

Mr. Bottiggi explained this has to do with the grant that we won for \$700,000 and will be located at Station 9. All the contracts are in place and we are going through the design phase now. We have ordered the auxiliary equipment, like the transformers. We still anticipate the unit being delivered in mid-May and being online June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Regan asked about the space available at Station 9. Mr. Bottiggi said we will move the back fence back a little bit to make sure there is enough clearance. It is roughly 55 feet long and is long container sized. It comes without the batteries in it; then we will load the batteries in and do the testing. We will do a little ribbon-cutting ceremony. We intend to be the first grant recipient to go commercial so we expect to have a good showing from the Statehouse. Mr. Bottiggi listed the potential attendees: Lt Governor Polito, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton and Department of Energy Resource Commissioner Judith Judson. We may get some good press on this. There was further discussion.

**iii. Email**

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Lisa Maki, Town Solicitor, would like all board members and town employees to have a town email. He called her and she said she is not worried about BELD. Mr. Bottiggi continued the bottom line with us is anytime we communicate officially through email the exchange server downstairs catches it so we have all those emails memorialized. Mr. Bottiggi said if you use a Hotmail or Gmail account and send an email to him or the executive secretary it would be on the server downstairs so if anyone came in with a public information request asking for communication with the Board and BELD we can get those. He continued you can use your personal email if you want – it does not matter to us – because you are only going to see what has come through our exchange server. Your emails to your family and friends won't be seen by us. That is all we care about – that is BELD business. There was discussion: beld.net and beld.com are two different servers and the business ones will go through beld.com. Mr. Bottiggi said the Board can keep their emails the way they are currently.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi told the Board that an offer has been made to Mr. Brandon Hitchings. He is the Mass Maritime student who has been here for a few years. He will join us after he graduates in June. There was further discussion.

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

**i. Advance Meter Situation**

Mr. Bottiggi said this is the same customer who does not want the advance meter on her house. He had sent a letter to the customer informing her that we would like to go to her house and demonstrate that there is no impact from the advance meter. She has since called Ms. Cohen, Support Service Manager and said she does not want anyone to come to the house for that purpose. There was further discussion. We will keep the same meter on the house but turn off the communication portion. We will send someone out and will charge her \$75 per month to read her meter. She is fine with that situation.

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

**i. RP3**

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Mr. Stone is the BELD administrator for RP3. He is also on the RP3 panel for APPA – although he recuses himself for BELD's application. Mr. Bottiggi said Mr. Stone does a great job with this. RP3 stands for Reliable Public Power Provider. We again achieved the Diamond level, which is the highest level. This is a national award that puts us right up there with some of the larger utilities in the country. Mr. Stone said safety, reliability, workforce development and system improvements are the four sections that are looked at. Mr. Bottiggi said we are going to do another breakfast celebration and employees will be given a blanket with the RP3 logo on it. Previously we have had polo jackets with the RP3 logo. The Board congratulated Mr. Stone and BELD.

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

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

**i. Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

Recessed at 5:24 p.m. - on motion by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti. So voted. Mr. Reynolds said we would be re-opening the Electric Open Meeting after the Broadband Open Meeting to go into Executive Session and would announce any votes in Open Session.

Chairman Reynolds re-opened the Electric open session meeting at 5:34 pm in BELD Board Room. He announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy regarding negotiations with Utility Workers Union of America, Local 379. He continued having this discussion in open session may be detrimental to BELD's bargaining position but any decisions that were voted on will be announced in Open Session.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to enter Executive Session at 5:35 pm.

Mr. Agnitti – yes                      Mr. Regan – yes                      Mr. Reynolds - yes

Executive Session commenced at 5:35 pm.

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

**i. Collective Bargaining Strategy**

Motion and roll call vote taken to adjourn from the Executive Session at 5:56 pm.

Chairman Reynolds re-opened the Electric open session meeting at 5:57 p.m. He announced that no votes had been taken in Executive Session.

**XI. Adjournment**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the Electric Division meeting at 5:57 p.m. So voted.

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**February 13, 2018**

Attendees: Chairman Thomas Reynolds, Vice-Chairman Anthony Agnitti, Secretary James Regan, General Manager William Bottiggi, all of BELD.

Chairman Reynolds re-opened the Electric open session meeting at 5:34 pm in BELD Board Room. He announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy regarding negotiations with Utility Workers Union of America, Local 379. He continued having this discussion in open session may be detrimental to BELD's bargaining position but any decisions that were voted on will be announced in Open Session.

A Roll Call Vote was taken to enter into Executive Session at 5:35 pm.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds - yes

Executive Session commenced at 5:35 pm.

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

**i. Collective Bargaining Strategy**

Mr. Bottiggi passed out a page (attached) with the articles that are being discussed in the negotiations sessions between the managers and union board. He explained that the new contract will take effect on April 1, 2018. He said there were three meetings that lasted approximately three hours each. We moved along fairly quickly. He explained he was not worried about money as much as tightening up job specifications. He reviewed each point with the Board. He continued we have reached an agreement but the union needs to have a full union meeting and vote on the contract. There was discussion on each point. There was further discussion on the rate increase: 2.75% for year one, 3% for years two and three. The Commissioners expressed concern with the size of this increase.

Motion and roll call vote to adjourn from the Executive Session at 5:56 pm.

Mr. Agnitti – yes

Mr. Regan – yes

Mr. Reynolds – yes

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James P. Regan, Secretary

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:24 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, Jack Orpen, Ken Stone and Chuck Coyne, all of BELD.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. January 16, 2018 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of January 16, 2018 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

**II. Items for Action**

None.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. New Cable Boxes Testing**

Mr. Orpen reported to the Board that we are ready to install the new Tivo boxes to some employees and see how they do with them. We want them to play with it, maybe see if they can break it. It is the testing period. We hope to start this week. We had been waiting for enough VOD content and we now have it. This is a whole new IT based system. We have put a lot of time and energy into this project and hopefully we will have a soft launch in mid-March. He continued it has Netflix, Youtube – we are still negotiating with Amazon. Mr. Orpen invited the Commissioners to join in on this testing time period. Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Regan said they would be interested in being test participants.

**IV. Personnel Update**

None.

**V. Old Business**

**i. Beld.net Email**

Mr. Bottiggi said we have offered up to six emails for no cost and now there are thousands of email addresses out there and many are dormant. Mr. Orpen commented that out of 10,000 email addresses 3,500 have not been used in the last six to nine months. Mr. Bottiggi said we are going to send a notice and turn them off. Mr. Bottiggi continued, as explained at the last meeting, we are going to start letting accounts have one email free and then charge \$.99 per month for any additional emails up to six. We are not going to offer email to new customers; we will tell them to use Gmail. Mr. Orpen said the cost of providing emails has become a money loser to us. He reported that Mr. Markham, the network engineer, said we get millions of spam rejections for our email addresses. We are constantly spending money to upgrade spam filters and for storage. Mr. Orpen said that Verizon sent a notice that they would no longer have their Verizon.net domain and moved everyone to an aol.net domain. This is common in the industry. There was discussion. We are going to

encourage people to get a third party email and then we will have a stop date that we won't be giving out any more email addresses.

**ii. Web Hosting**

Mr. Orpen said we are also losing on web hosting. We only had twelve to fifteen people but we were losing \$6,000 per year. They have been notified that we will no longer we are doing this. There are plenty of platforms for them to have web hosting. We are trying to peel away the services that we are not making money on.

**VI. New Business**

**i. News Article regarding Net Neutrality**

There was discussion on this article. It was in the Patriot Ledger and the Braintree Forum. This is good publicity for us.

**VII. Public Participation**

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

**i. Tuesday, March 13, 2018 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 5:34 p.m. So voted.