

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:01 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, all of BELD.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. December 5, 2017 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of December 5, 2017 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Agnitti stepped down and seconded. So voted.

**II. Items for Action**

None.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. Winter Generation Performance**

Mr. Bottiggi said he sent an email to the Board today and wanted to go over it with them. The period of time on the chart shows the latest of the very cold weather we had: December 27 to January 7. There is such a demand for natural gas with people trying to heat their homes that there is a shortage and prices went over \$50/mmbtu and they are normally \$3/mmbtu. Oil was \$2/gallon which is the equivalent to \$15/mmbtu. We ran a lot – more than we ever have before – at the Watson Stations and ended up burning over 600,000 gallons of oil over that time period. Overall we made \$445,000 net for that period. This really shows the value of owning those power plants in times of stress.

Mr. Regan asked about maintenance and how it differs using oil vs natural gas. Mr. Bottiggi said it may be two to one for equivalent operating hours so if you burn oil for 12 hours it is not 12 but 24 hours. You budget to overhaul the turbine at 25,000 hours - so using oil eats at your 25,000 hours but it won't significantly affect it. Customers won't see these particulars but it helps with our budget.

**ii. Winter Storm**

Mr. Bottiggi explained that during the same time period (discussed above) we had a big winter storm. We had no outage; calls that came in were about a branch on a wire or a Comcast wire down. This is good because it shows that everything we are doing during the year is helping.

**iii. Energy Storage Project**

Mr. Bottiggi explained this is the \$700,000 grant that we won. A company named IHI won the bid to provide the actual storage unit. We gave them a Notice to Proceed because we want to get this installed by June 1 so we catch the summer peak. We are very close to having the contract

finalized with them – it should be this week. It is \$1.7 million for the unit; the whole project is \$2.5 million. The consultant on this project is Borrego Solar and they are getting \$550,000. Mr. Stone went to Sterling today to see their energy storage; they were the first in the state. Mr. Bottiggi said that Reading and Taunton are doing an energy storage project.

**iv. WBUR Interview**

Mr. Bottiggi had an interview with a reporter from WBUR. The reporter was Bruce Gellerman and he wanted to discuss energy. Mr. Bottiggi thought it went well. Mr. Gellerman was very informed on energy policy and the energy situation in Massachusetts with the gas pipeline restrictions and wanting to do renewables. He knew there was a lot of oil being burned in New England and that was why he originally called.

**v. New Town Councilor Power Plant Tour**

Mr. Bottiggi said he met with Tim Carey and gave him some information on how BELD runs: how we buy energy, how we hedge our budgets. They discussed Broadband as well. Mr. Bottiggi then took Mr. Carey on a tour of the power plants.

**IV. Personnel Update**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we are working to hire the intern at Potter. Brandon Hitchings is a Mass Maritime student and is graduating in May.

There was discussion on the courier position since Mary Hobart has retired. That position will not be filled. Currently the CSRs are doing whatever duties there are – such as bringing the warrant to Town Hall and picking up the mail residents drop in the mail box there. Internal communication is going to be electronic.

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

**i. Budget**

Mr. Bottiggi said we found a mistake in the budget: we double counted the Potter capital. The total budget will drop by \$500,000. There was some discussion.

**ii. Advanced Meter Situation**

Mr. Bottiggi explained this is the resident who did not want the advanced Meter on her home. We have not heard a word from her. We had told her that we wanted to come to the house and demonstrate that there is no impact from the advanced meter.

**iii. USVI**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that, since the last time we met and were going to send a fourth wave of personnel, they have cancelled our trip. We have our truck back. All BELD employees are back. We just got our first check from this for \$150,000. We spent about \$300,000 in labor which the

workers get right away. We probably have another \$80,000 in expenses. We will probably get back another \$300,000. We will end up getting more than we spent and that is due to the truck.

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

**i. South Shore Renewable Energy Forum**

Mr. Bottiggi explained that this event is being held in Pembroke on January 29. He is on the panel to speak about solar arrays and electric vehicles.

**ii. Solar Power Northeast**

Mr. Bottiggi explained that this event is a conference in Boston on February 5. He is speaking at this conference on solar power renewables and electric vehicles.

**iii. Patriot Ledger**

There is a new reporter at the Ledger: her name is Erin Tiernan. Mr. Bottiggi, Mr. Orpen and Ms. Stak Bregnard are due to meet with her this coming week to discuss net neutrality. They will explain to her how municipal utilities work. She may be doing a series of articles – although this is only in the talking stage at the Patriot Ledger.

**iv. Potter II**

Mr. Bottiggi reported to the Board that Potter II has been recommissioned on oil. This will be good for the next time we have one of the bad cold spells. We bid on gas on Potter but it was never called. If we had been able to burn oil it would have run. This is a two edge sword because it would have run but we would have run out of oil. We could not get oil; the harbor was frozen. There were three barges stuck out in the outer harbor that could not get in here. Mr. Nelson bought 5,000 barrels of oil today so that gives us a five day inventory and we can buy more now. There was further discussion.

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

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

**i. Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**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 5:23 p.m. So voted.

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James P. Regan  
Secretary

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:23 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, all of BELD.

**I. Minutes of Prior Meetings**

**i. December 5, 2017 Open Meeting**

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of December 5, 2017 Open Meeting as written. So voted.

**II. Items for Action**

None.

**III. Items for Discussion**

**i. Retransmission Consent Negotiations Update/Rate Increase**

Mr. Bottiggi reported that these negotiations which take place every three years got very contentious this year with Fox and ABC. They wanted over 100% increase for retransmission. We finally came to an agreement. However, we are going to have a \$6-8 increase in March for the bundles. We are planning on making sure the customers all know it is because of programming increases. There was discussion. If we had not continued to negotiate it would have been a \$12 increase.

**IV. Personnel Update**

None.

**V. Old Business**

None.

**VI. New Business**

**i. Website Hosting**

Mr. Bottiggi reported we have been website hosting and we are going to stop now. It costs us \$6,000 each year to offer the service and we lose \$5,000 on it. We only have ten sites that we host and we will help them move off to someone else. The margins are so tight in Broadband that we just can't do this.

**ii. Emails**

Mr. Bottiggi explained currently customers have many beld.net emails and we do not charge for them but it requires a lot of work. We are going to now give the first email for no charge and then \$0.99 per month for each one after that up to six emails. There was discussion.

**VII. Public Participation**

None.

**VIII. Tabled Items**

None.

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

- i. Tuesday, February 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 5:28 p.m. So voted.

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James P. Regan  
Secretary