

Marquette Board of Light and Power 03-24-2020 MINUTES

2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-0311

A regular meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on March 24th, 2020 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by Roll Call.

Due to special circumstances and adhering to Governor Executive Directive No. 2020-2 (Public Meetings of State of Michigan Public Bodies during the COVID-19 Emergency) Board Meeting was held via conference call.

Present: John Prince, Chair
Robert Niemi, Vice Chair/Secretary
Jerry Irby
Ed Angeli
Tom Tourville
Absent: (None)

T. Carpenter requested that the board remove agenda item 5 and replace it with a discussion about COVID-19. J. Irby made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. E. Angeli Seconded the motion.

1. **Approval of the February 25th, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

E. Angeli made a motion to accept the February 25th, 2020 regular Meeting Minutes as presented. J. Irby seconded the motion and Board unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of Bills Payable:**

T. Tourville made a motion to approve the Bills Payable, as presented, totaling \$226,710.97. E. Angeli seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Bills Payables as presented.

3. **Public Comments:**

No public comment was made.

4a. **Recommendation to award Purchase of Plow Truck from Signature Ford of Owosso**

R. Niemi made a motion to award purchase of plow truck from Signature Ford in the amount of \$37,510.00. E. Angeli seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

4b. **Recommendation to award Purchase of Two 4x4 Trucks from Marthaler GMC of Marquette**

J. Irby made a motion to award purchase of two 4x4 trucks from Marthaler of Marquette in the amount of \$60,768.00. T Tourville seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

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5. **COVID-19 Discussion**

T. Carpenter updated the Board regarding the recent Executive Orders from the Governor as to how the MBLP is responding. T. Carpenter emphasized we are still here for our customers; our offices are still open Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm, we are ready to respond to outages during and after hours. He acknowledged that what is going on right now may create economic hardship for some of our customers; it was stated that we have suspended all fees associated with late payments and that we have waived convenience fees for card payments over the phone. T. Carpenter also updated the Board on what the MBLP has done to follow social distancing guidelines. The Board expressed their gratitude to the staff of the MBLP for their hard work through a challenging situation such as this. J. Prince stated that the MBLP staff is taking all necessary steps to protect our employees and our customers; if someone has an issue, we will be there to take care of them.

6. **Financial Discussion – Mark Link:**

Chief Financial Officer – Mark Link presented the Interim Operating Statement for the month ending February 29th, 2020, Projected Cash Flow Statement, KWH Comparative vs. Prior Year and Five-Year History, Trending Actual Revenue versus Budget. Discussion followed.

7. **Public Comments:**

No public comment was made at this time.

8. **Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present:**

T. Carpenter reiterated that we are still open; if any of our customers are having an issues, whether that be with their electric service, or trouble paying their bill, we ask them to reach out to us so we are able to assist.

9. **Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present:**

E. Angeli – Wished J. Irby a happy birthday. E. Angeli also inquire about purchasing power and how we are dispatching our units. E. Angeli inquired about the Board being able to utilize iPads or something of the sort for these remote meeting situations. E. Angeli also thanked the staff for all the work they have been putting into this and appreciated how everything has been approached.

R. Niemi – Concurred with E. Angeli’s comments.

J. Irby – Concurred with E. Angeli’s comments. J. Irby brought up the use of drones for line inspections and other scenarios that it could be used for. B. Collins commented on where the Distribution department is and what possibilities there are for utilizing drones in their department.

T. Tourville – Concurred with E. Angeli’s comments, thanked the staff and management of the MBLP.

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J. Prince – Concurred with the rest of the Board and their comments. J. Prince wanted to urge customers to contact the MBLP if they have any concerns about their bill and payments related to it; we want to be able to take care of our customers. J. Prince reminded everyone to be safe and healthy.

10. **Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Robert Niemi,
Vice Chair/Secretary