

Marquette Board of Light and Power 08-04-2020 MINUTES

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

A special meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on August 4th, 2020 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and 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) Public Participation was held via conference call.

Present: John Prince, Chair
Robert Niemi, Vice Chair/Secretary
Ed Angeli
Tom Tourville
Jerry Irby

Absent: (None)

E. Angeli made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. T. Tourville seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

1. **Public Comments:**

No public comment was made.

2. **Recommendation to Approve Rates**

E. Angeli made a motion to accept the cost of service study, adopt the rate proposal as presented, and to present the proposed rates to the City Commission for confirmation. J. Irby seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

3. **Public Comments:**

No public comment was made.

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

T. Carpenter informed the Board of possible delays with the Wright St building expansion. M. Link stated that he is going to follow up the contractor for further clarification. T. Carpenter discussed the next steps with the City Commission and that he would be following up with them to see how they are currently conducting their meetings.

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

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E. Angeli – Noted that the rate change was based on the same principals we have used in the past; a cost of service study base on the facts, the numbers, and the utility’s needs. He also stated he believes this rate reduction to be a very positive thing for the BLP.

R. Niemi – Pointed out the additional savings our customers have realized over the past 4 years through the fuel adjustment.

J. Prince – Spoke to the rate stability that we are currently maintaining and that it speaks to our ability to create an action plan and budget to make our utility stronger. J. Prince also spoke to the opportunities that the MEC provides us and how it aids in our rate stability.

T. Tourville – Wanted to have the community take away two things from this rate adoption; that it is a rate decrease while many utilities are raising rates and that even with dropping revenues because of COVID-19; we are still able to reduce our rates. T. Tourville also spoke to the legal process involved in having the rates confirmed by the City Commission for any adjustments that we made, in this case, a reduction.

J. Irby – Mentioned that the rate would take effect Oct. 1 and that it would be effective in the next budget year for most. He also mentioned that the study projected no other adjustments for 2-3 years and at that point we would plan another rate study to see where the numbers are at.

10. **Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



Robert Niemi,
Vice Chair/Secretary