

Marquette Board of Light and Power 06-23-2020 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 June 23rd, 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) Board Meeting was held via conference call.

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

Absent: Jerry Irby
(Excused by John Prince, Chair)

T. Carpenter asked to add a discussion item, 6a - Public Act 95. E Angeli made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, with the inclusion of item 6a. T. Tourville seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

1. **Approval of the May 26th, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

R. Niemi made a motion to accept the May 26th, 2020 regular Meeting Minutes as presented. E. Angeli seconded the motion and Board unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of the June 9th, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes:**

E. Angeli made a motion to accept the June 9th, 2020 special Meeting Minutes as presented. R. Niemi seconded the motion and Board unanimously approved

3. **Approval of Bills Payable:**

T. Tourville made a motion to approve the Bills Payable, as presented, totaling \$631,289.39. E. Angeli seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Bills Payables as presented.

4. **Public Comments:**

Mary Thorington – 2412 Huron St. – Stated she is still hearing noise coming from the Marquette Energy Center. Reported a high pitched whine and a low thumping; she asked if there was any more work that could be done to correct this disturbance.

Alex Stoner – 951 Highland Dr – Stated concern regarding the frequency and duration of outages at the home they have purchased in the last year. Alex questioned if anything could be done to increase reliability. Alex also spoke to the difficulty he had reaching someone at our office during outages. Alex also stated he appreciates the hard work and service we provide.

Marquette Board of Light and Power 06-23-2020 MINUTES
2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-0311

5. **Recommendation to approve purchase of two (2) above ground storage tanks from Steel Tank & Fabricating Corporation.**

E. Angeli made a motion to approve purchase of two (2) above ground storage tanks from Steel Tank & Fabricating in the amount of \$26,822.87. T. Tourville seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

6. **Recommendation to adopt New Collection Procedures.**

T. Tourville made a motion to adopt new collection procedures. E. Angeli seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

6a. **Public Act 95 Discussion**

E. Angeli made a motion to opt-out of Public Act 95. R. Niemi seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

7. **Capital Projects**

a. Second Interconnection – Very near to receiving a proposal from an Engineering firm to be able to present to the Board.

b. Wright St Expansion – Breaking ground on Monday.

c. Shiras CCR/Shiras Demolition – In progress, Golder was onsite; just about ready to wrap up the bid specification. Clearing of the ash settling ponds are moving forward, individual cells have been removed and it is currently one large open area.

d. Other - None

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

Chief Financial Officer – Mark Link presented the Interim Operating Statement for the month ending May 31st, 2020, Projected Cash Flow Statement, KWH Comparative vs. Prior Year and Five-Year History, Trending Actual Revenue versus Budget. Discussion followed.

9. **Cost of Service Discussion**

M. Link and T. Carpenter presented the Board with the preliminary Cost of Service Report. The Cost of Service Report initially reflected a 3.7% reduction in cost of service. T. Carpenter clarified the 3.7% will not be a direct correlation to each rate class, but represents an overall percentage reduction across all rate classes; some rate classes may experience a larger percentage reduction, while some may experience a lower percentage reduction.

Marquette Board of Light and Power 06-23-2020 MINUTES
2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 228-0311

10. **Public Comments:**

Mary Thorington – 2412 Huron St. – Stated that during the Wright St expansion, as we consider the comfort of our work environment, we should also consider the impact we have had on the surrounding neighborhood.

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

T. Carpenter spoke to the outage from yesterday and the comment received from Alexander Stoner. Stated the area affected was coming up on a brushing cycle soon and there is the possibility of upgraded re-closers that could help reduce the frequency of outages in that area. T. Carpenter also spoke to the comment regarding the phone systems and stated that we are currently evaluating solutions to better handle the increased call volume during outages. T. Carpenter mentioned the scam calls that have been received recently in the Marquette area; the MBLP is warning customers of these scam calls though different media outlets and asking customers to not engage/respond to these calls.

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

R. Niemi – Inquired about the “loud whine” being reported. T. Carpenter explained the action we are taking to be able to limit the speed of the fans that cool the MEC; this should reduce/eliminate the “whine” that is being reported.

E. Angeli – Inquired about changes in our shut-off procedures and how we are going to convey the information to our customers. M. Link and T. Carpenter spoke to our current actions; customer service representatives are reaching out to those affected to ensure they are informed about our collection process, this action also provides an opportunity for the MBLP to work out a solution with the customer.

J. Prince – Stated that he appreciated the comments from Mary Thorington and that we are doing all that we can to remedy the noise that is being reported. J. Prince also spoke briefly regarding the discussions with the MCSWMA.

T. Tourville – No comment

10. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


Robert Niemi,
Vice Chair/Secretary