

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 6-27-17 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 27, 2017 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present: Tom Tourville, Chair  
David Puskala, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Jerry Irby  
Robert Niemi  
David Carlson

Absent: None

J. Irby made a motion to accept the agenda, as presented. Motion was supported by D. Puskala and Board approved unanimously.

- Approval of the June 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes:**  
R. Niemi made a motion to accept June 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes, as presented.  
D. Carlson gave his support and minutes were unanimously approved by Board.
- Approval of Bills Payable:**  
J. Irby made a motion to approve the Bills Payable, as presented, totaling \$1,551,792.65.  
D. Puskala gave support and Board unanimously approved.
- Public Comments:**  
J. Prince, 3023 Island Beach Rd, Marquette, Mr. Prince wanted to speak in regards to Executive Director, Paul Kitti, Assistant Director-Utility Operations, David Lynch and what they have contributed to the MBLP. He has known and worked with D. Lynch for over 30 years. He said, "Dave has done a wonderful job, not just with the RP3 classification, but in how he assembles the crews, teaching, training, safety and operations. His work is second to none and he has set a high bar for those who follow. Thank you, Dave." Over the last seven-eight years, I have had the chance to work with Paul Kitti. Being from a military background like him I too push forward all the time, I commend you for being strong enough and decisive enough to push the Marquette Energy Center Project and to position the MBLP in a fashion that allowed us to do the project. He has gathered and led the troops here to think positively, work hard, make them accountable and we should all be thankful for what you have done for the future, for the citizens, for the rate payers and that community that owns this utility. Thank you, Paul.

Tony Retaskie, 936 Wilson St. Marquette. He congratulated Paul Kitti, John Reynolds and Dave Lynch on their retirement and their years of dedication to this community. He has worked with Mr. Lynch on a few boards and stated he will be missed. Paul, you have done a great job on the new energy center. A couple of years ago, I was at a Board Meeting and asked when the MBLP started the new energy center, that you would use local labor. You came out into the community and made some promises and you kept those promises. You used our local labor force, hired the local unions and I want to thank you for that. Because

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this was an industrial site and not a residential site, it gave us the chance to train some of our apprentices on the project too. Thank you for putting us to work.

Jorma Lankinen, 8 Marquette Dr. I want to thank Dave Lynch, John Reynolds and Paul Kitti for doing a fabulous job over all these years. Thank you for a job well done and for having the foresight to build this energy project much sooner than later. Other facilities that are being designed now are paying a lot more in megawatts. Everyone did their due diligent in this project. Thank you so much for allowing me to see the engines running.

#### 4. **Retirement Recognition:**

a. David Lynch has worked at MBLP for 31 years. Chair T. Tourville stated that Dave started as an Associate Engineer in 1986 and is ending his career as Assistant Director – Utility Operations. During his tenure, he was responsible for many innovations that have improved distribution and reliability including cyclical power line brushing, Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI), APPA RP3 program and securing the upcoming Solar Garden. T. Tourville stated he has put your heart and soul into this place for 31 years and we appreciate that, thank you, Dave.

b. Paul Kitti has been at the MBLP since 2004. T. Tourville covered his extensive career who has been in the electric utility service for over 30 years, was a senior business consultant for Wisconsin Public Service, was a federal mediator, and has been board members of Operation Action UP and UP Labor Management Council. He is a retired US Navy Commander and a former US Army Military Policeman. He has received many military medals and has served in Germany, Italy, England, Panama, Guam, San Diego and Japan.

Paul then spoke and thanked the Board and stated that it has been a real pleasure to serve the MBLP. He then reviewed the process of MEC Project, beginning in July 2015 meeting with small groups of commissioners. We had many supporters like Mike Coyne, Ed Angeli, John Prince, Jerry Garceau and Karen Kimar Johnson. He went over some of the highlights of the MEC project and stated that less than two years from the first meeting, the project is completed, less than one year since Miron began construction. He said to Ken Mixer, they don't get any better than you. Ken has been on the job for over 30 years and all his projects have come in under budget and on schedule. This project does not happen without a lot of people, the Board, staff, John Reynolds, Tammy and Ken Seavoy's work on the bonding, Helen LaFayette organizing all the data for the bonding. I can't thank Wärtsilä, Miron, B&B Electric, Sargent and Lundy enough. I want to thank Helen LaFayette, Noreen Collins, Mary Adamini, John Schultz, Tom Carpenter, Josh Hendrickson, Erik Booth and Dave Lynch for their great job. This project did not come together without a lot of work and sacrifice. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this community.

D. Carlson stated that from the inside, watching Paul pull all the strings together has been just incredible and I have seen the Navy Commander in him. The project is on time and under budget because a lot of other people worked hard on this project but it would never have happened without the work that you did, Paul. It was unbelievable effort to make it happen. Thank you so much for what you have done on this project because it really has served the community.

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5. **Financial Discussion – Helen LaFayette:**  
Helen LaFayette, Controller reviewed the Interim Operating Statement for the eight months ending May 31, 2017, the Projected Cash Flow Statement, the KWh Comparison and Revenue Charts. Discussion followed.
6. **Award of Underground Power Project for Bothwell Middle School:**  
D. Carlson made a motion to award the Underground Power Project bid to Red Electric of Marquette, for a total amount of \$21,100. Red Electric of Marquette submitted the lowest bid meeting minimum quality standards. Motion was supported by R. Niemi and unanimously approved by the Board.
7. **Wärtsilä Proposal for Operation Support Services for MEC:**  
J. Irby made a motion to award Wärtsilä the contract to provide one (1) Service Engineer, including all expenses, for the month of August, 2017 for the total amount of \$63,302. Motion was supported by D. Puskala and unanimously awarded by the Board.
8. **Sargent & Lundy Presentation – Ken Mixer:**  
Ken Mixer from Sargent & Lundy gave the current updates on the MEC. The overall project is 99 percent complete and commissioning is 89 percent. He then went over some of the remaining engineering expenditures because of the air compression system changes, the cost of the spare parts that will need to be purchased and remaining potential change items. The commissioning continues with performance testing scheduled for completion around July 3.
9. **Marquette Energy Center Update – John Reynolds:**  
John Reynolds, Project Manager gave an update on the financial project costs summary, stating the remaining contingency is at \$3.7 million. The project continues to be under budget and on schedule.
10. **Public Comments:**  
Earl Robinson of 162 Abrahams Rd, Skandia who is the Township’s Utility Review Committee Member thanked Paul Kitti for his hard work and dedication to the MBLP and wished him well in his retirement.
11. **Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present:**  
Executive Director, Paul Kitti spoke to the Wärtsilä people and stated that they are really doing a fantastic job. He then thanked his team, Helen, Noreen, John, Toby, Tom, Mary and Josh saying the MBLP is in your hands and you can stay as long as you want. Thanks again to the board for your support.
12. **Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present:**  
R. Niemi congratulated Paul Kitti and wished him the best in his retirement. He said that it is incredible that in one year the energy center is done. He can’t thank the staff enough for their work and really appreciate their dedication.

D. Puskala thanked P. Kitti and D. Lynch for their dedication and congratulated them on their retirement. Because he was not at the last meeting, he said that he is very pleased that Tom Carpenter accepted the Acting Executive Director and thinks that the MBLP is in very good


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good hands. He also offered T. Carpenter help in any way that he can and he is looking forward to working with him.

J. Irby thanked P. Kitti for sharing his knowledge with him and can't thank John Reynolds enough for teaching him about electricity and distribution. He said that Paul and John both should take great pride in what they have done for the MBLP. Good luck in your retirement.

T. Tourville thanked J. Reynolds for not going into retirement and hanging in there for the last two years. We are going through a lot of transitions with the new energy center and also going through a leadership transition but these are exciting times and we will get there. I feel honored to part of this organization and to work with a group of employees that are so dedicated.

13. **Adjournment:**  
The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



David Puskala  
Vice Chair/Secretary