

Marquette Board of Light and Power 11-14-17 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 November 14, 2017 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Kris Hazeres conducted the oath of office with the newly elected board members, Ed Angeli and Tom Tourville. An election was held for the position of Board Chair in which Tom Tourville was elected unanimously on the first ballot. The oath of office was then conducted by K. Hazeres. An election was held for the position of Vice Chair/Secretary in which David Puskala was elected unanimously on the first ballot. The oath of office was then conducted by K. Hazeres.

Roll Call.

Present: Tom Tourville, Chair
David Puskala, Vice Chair/Secretary
Jerry Irby
Edward Angeli

Absent: Robert Niemi

T. Tourville stated that Robert Niemi is out of town at another meeting. J. Irby made a motion to excuse R. Niemi from the meeting, E. Angeli gave support and the Board unanimously approved. T. Tourville requested that item 6 on the agenda be changed to a first reading tonight and have the 2018 Board Meeting Schedule voted on at the next Board Meeting. J. Irby made a motion to accept the revised agenda. E. Angeli supported the motion and Board unanimously approved the revised agenda. It should be noted that D. Puskala arrived at the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

1. **Approval of the October 10, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

E. Angeli made a motion to accept October 10, 2017 regular meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was supported by J. Irby and the minutes were unanimously approved by Board.

2. **Approval of Bills Payable:**

E. Angeli made a motion to approve the Bills Payable, as presented, totaling \$2,014,454.00. Support was given by J. Irby and unanimously approved by the Board.

3. **Public Comments:**

Earl Robinson, Township Utility Review Committee Representative asked what "longevity" was on the bills payable. Controller Helen LaFayette explained that it is an annual payment to eligible employees and is part of the union contract.

4. **Recognition of Outgoing Board Member – David Carlson:**

Executive Director Tom Carpenter thanked David Carlson for his fifteen years of service on the MBLP Board. He also shared that Mr. Carlson was the chair of the "Save the MBLP Committee" in 1989. In the years of 1998 to 2004, Mr. Carlson was on the Marquette City Commission and from 2011 to 2014, he was on the Peter White Public Library Board. Chairman Tourville thanked him on behalf of the MBLP Board for his dedication and decades of community service. Mr. Carlson said that he enjoyed working on the MBLP Board.

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5. **Financial Discussion – Helen LaFayette:**

Controller, Helen LaFayette gave a financial summary of the 12 months ending September 30, 2017. She noted that fiscal year-to-date revenues came in very close to projections.

H. LaFayette informed the Board that the MBLP Auditors will be here next Monday for their annual audit field work and the audited report will be brought to the Board at a meeting in January, 2018. Discussion followed.

6. **Recommendation to Adopt the 2018 Regular Board Meeting Schedule:**

This item has been revised to be a First Reading and will be just for discussion tonight.

Executive Director, Tom Carpenter stated that considering the new Marquette Energy Center has been wrapped up and the amount for Board approval letters has been raised from \$3000 to \$25,000, he suggests that the utility could go to one meeting a month. Regarding the City Charter requirements, advice was requested from legal counsel, Ken Seavoy. He stated that in the City Charter, the City Commission has to have 2 meetings a month but that is not part of the Charter language concerning the Board of Light and Power. E. Angeli asked what steps have to be taken to add meetings or to cancel meetings, which is easier to accomplish for staff. D. Puskala commented that he would be in favor of having one Board Meeting a month with the option of scheduling extra meetings if needed. T. Tourville stated that he is in favor of having one meeting a month, adding that nothing is worse than trying to find a reason to have a meeting. J Irby stated that if he has questions, he comes into the office and talks to the staff directly. D. Puskala stated that the Board is not here to micro manage the utility so one meeting a month makes a lot of sense. Board members stated that they have a high level of trust with staff members.

7. **Public Comments:**

Jorma Lankinen 8 Marquette Drive commended that he has been on other local Boards and having one meeting a month was plenty for them. Having two meetings makes a lot of extra work for staff. He stated that he thinks the Board is going in the right direction. He shared with the Board that even with the last big storm, he only had his generation on for two hours. He said that it would be helpful if the actual kwhs for months prior were on the billing statement instead of just the graph.

John Prince 2023 Island Beach Road, Marquette thanked the citizens of Marquette who voted for our Board members in the recent election. Our citizens are in good hands with Tom Tourville and Edward Angeli. He also thanked Dave Carlson for his dedication to the MBLP.

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

T. Carpenter stated that we were an “island” from the grid this past weekend and Shiras Steam Plant was up and running. He gave an update on the recent storm that the area experienced. He stated that almost all our customers were out of power at one point or another. We had to call in extra workers from Presque Isle Township and the city of Negaunee. Our staff turned in over 500 hours of overtime during the storm, some staff only going home to sleep.

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

J. Irby thanked T. Carpenter for the opportunity to be at the plant when they were starting up the combustion turbine. He stated that it was awesome to see and hear.

D. Puskala apologized for arriving late to the meeting. He also thanked D. Carlson for serving on the Board. He said that it has been a pleasure to get to know him and will miss him on the Board. D. Puskala welcomed E. Angeli to the Board.

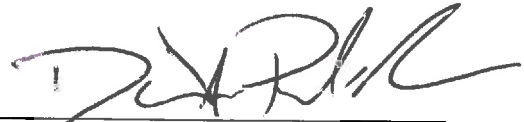
E. Angeli said that he has watched D. Carlson on the Board and has enjoyed his input over the years. He said that he is looking forward to being back on the Board and to do whatever I can to be a part of this organization.

T. Tourville thanked staff for doing such a good job dealing with the recent storm. He was impressed with the staff and everyone stepping up to help.

Manager of Distribution and Engineering Services, Ben Collins said that in the first three hours of the storm, over 600 calls came in.

9. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.



David Puskala
Vice Chair/Secretary