

Marquette Board of Light and Power 11-28-2023 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 28th, 2023, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Deputy City Clerk Rachael Quayle announced elections for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair/Secretary. Elections were held for the two positions: John Prince was unanimously voted as Chair and Margaret Brumm was voted as Vice-Chair/Secretary.

Present: John Prince, Chair
Margaret Brumm
Dave Campana
John Sonderegger

Absent: None

T. Carpenter asked to add item 5b. – Purchase of replacement pickup trucks. M. Brumm made a motion to amend the agenda; D. Campana seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

1. **Approval of the October 24th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.**

J. Sonderegger made a motion to approve the October 24th, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. D. Campana seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of Bills Payable:**

M. Brumm made a motion to approve the Bills Paid, \$ 5,483,840.97 and future cash commitments of \$ 3,376,837.89, as presented. J. Sonderegger seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Bills Payables.

3. **Public Comments:**

Joanne Mitchell – 10 E. Nicolet Blvd.

Here as a member of the Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters of Marquette County.

The league is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and & Active Participation by citizens in their government. The League's observers attend the meetings of key government entities and public entities. We're observing the process and the openness of an organization, the issues that are discussed and the action taken. League Observers don't participate in the meetings – Our aim is to educate our membership and demonstrate the League's support of good governance. I've enjoyed observing the Board of Light & Power and learned a lot along the way.

It's time for someone else to have this opportunity, so I would like to introduce Jean Sekely as the new League observer of the BLP.

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Jean Sekely - 1054 S. Lake St

Is enjoying the openness of the Shiras site on the lakeshore. Stated she has a few panels in our community solar garden, along with some on their home. She stated she has a great deal to learn about energy and how we operate, she has been reading through the information Joanne has put together. She is the new observer for the League of Women Voters and her goal is to continue to keep the members of the community informed.

Sam Elder – 125 E. Main St

Two concerns, but first he wanted to compliment the Board (MBLP) on the service we provide and the employees we have and how fortunate our community has been to have the MBLP. His two concerns are related to the recently passed Senate Bills. He spoke regarding the Sands solar project and the size of the project, the space that would be needed to complete it and the cost associated with it. He spoke about the SB2271 relating to the amount of renewable energy that would be needed to meet the goals of the bill, he also mentioned the timeline and the cost that could be involved. S. Elder spoke about the timeline we have left on the MEC engines. He thinks the intention of the bills are good but is concerned about how this transition is possible with all the factors that were mentioned.

4. **Recommendation to Adopt 2023-2024 Board Meeting Schedule**

M. Brumm made a motion to adopt the presented 2023-2024 Board Meeting Schedule with alternate days in November (19th) and December (17th). D. Campana seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

5b. **Recommendation to Approve Purchase of Additional Electric Meters**

M. Brumm made a motion to approve the purchase of electric meters from RESCO in the amount of \$66,689.52. J. Sonderegger seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

5b. **Recommendation to Approve Purchase of Replacement Pickup Trucks**

J. Sonderegger made a motion to approve the purchase of replacement half-ton pickup trucks from Fox Negaunee Dodge for \$ 45,500.00 and Fox Negaunee GM for \$48,154.48, and a one-ton plow truck from Fox Negaunee GM for \$50,683.00. D. Campana seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.

6. **Capital Projects**

- a. **Second Interconnection** – Ongoing engineering, hoping to have bid packets for materials to the Board in the next few months. J. Prince inquired about the transformer down at the Shiras site. T. Kopacz stated that we do need to keep some of the cabinets in the transformer heated for the winter to protect it from any damage.
- b. **Other** – Nothing additional

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7. **Board Position Application Review and Recommendation**

T. Carpenter gave an overview of the current process for filling the vacant Board position. The Board reviewed the application received; J. Prince gave background on the Board applicant. M. Brumm made a motion to recommend Gerald Irby to the City Commission for the Vacant Marquette Board of Light & Power Board position. J. Sonderegger seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

7. **Financial Discussion – Manager of Accounting, Tobias Smith:**

Manager of Accounting, Tobias Smith presented the Interim Operating Statement for the month ending October 31st, 2023, Projected Cash Flow Statement, KWH Comparative vs. Prior Year and Five-Year History, and Trending Actual Revenue versus Budget.

8. **Energy Legislation Discussion**

T. Carpenter provided an overview of the energy legislation that was recently passed and how that may affect the Board of Light & Power moving forward. T. Carpenter stated there is still a great deal of analysis that is needed to understand the full implication of the new laws. Discussion followed.

9. **Public Comments:**

No additional comment.

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

T. Carpenter asked the Board to go into closed session to discuss the purchase of property.

J. Prince moved that the Board go into closed session under Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act, “To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.”

M. Brumm seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted.

Yes: J. Prince, M. Brumm, J. Sonderegger, D. Campana

No: None

M. Brumm made a motion to come out of closed session. D. Campana seconded the motion, A roll call vote was conducted.

Yes: J. Prince, M. Brumm, J. Sonderegger, D. Campana

No: None

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

M. Brumm – Shared two books with the Board, one relating to Wind Turbines and another relating to Renewable Energy. M. Brumm acknowledged J. Prince and his level of professionalism at the most recent meeting with local leaders relating to energy legislation. She stated he represented the BLP in an exemplary fashion and acknowledged how lucky we are to have him on our Board.


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J. Sonderegger – Nothing additional

D. Campana – Congratulations to J. Sonderegger for being elected. Happy to be part of the Board and thanks the people who voted and supported him, is looking forward to contributing in a positive way.

J. Prince – Congratulated the recently elected Board members. Inquired about the plan for the Shiras site regarding additional S. Beach parking.

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


Margaret Brumm,
Vice Chair/Secretary