

# Marquette Board of Light and Power 02-25-2025 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 February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Present: Dave Campana, Chairperson  
Jerry Irby, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Margaret Brumm  
John Sonderegger  
Rick Holmes

Absent: None

J. Irby made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, R. Holmes seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

1. **Approval of the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes & February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes**

M. Brumm made a motion to approve the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes & February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Special Meeting minutes as presented. J. Irby seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of Bills Payable:**

J. Irby made a motion to approve the bills paid, \$ 2,542,457.97 and future cash commitments of \$ 1,836,924.13 as presented. J. Sonderegger seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved the Bills Payables.

3. **Public Comments:**

Peter Zenti – 2002 Werner

Expressed gratitude for what the MBLP has done to support the trails. He voiced concern relating to the second gate down from the MBLP (leading to Wright St Falls). His concern is about the difficulty people are having when trying to exit the area onto Wright St.; many people have become stuck due to icy conditions and the 11% grade leading up to the road. P. Zenti has helped multiple people by either pushing them out or with a tow strap. P. Zenti was hoping to further a discussion with the MBLP about possible solutions.

4. **2023-24 MBLP Audit Presentation**

Gregory Soule, CPA, of Andrews Hoopper Pavlik PLC, presented the 2023-24 MBLP Audit, G. Soule stated that they issued an unmodified “clean” opinion regarding the audit and there were no adjusting journal entries that were needed. G. Soule explained the different aspects of the Audit and the responsibilities of both Management and the Auditors. G. Soule highlighted some key statistics relating to MBLP operations Discussion followed.

J. Irby made a motion to accept the audit as presented, M. Brumm seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

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5. **Resolution – Support for Michigan House Bill 4007 of 2025**  
T. Carpenter shared information relating to the resolution (see attached). J. Sonderegger made a motion to support the Resolution of Support for House Bill 4007 of 2025. R. Holmes seconded the motion and after discussion, the Board unanimously approved.
- 6a. **Recommendation to Approve Purchase of Precast Substation Cable Trays**  
R. Holmes made a motion to approve the purchase of precast substation cable trays from Trenwa in the amount of \$32,461.00, M. Brumm seconded the motion, after discussion the Board unanimously approved.
7. **Capital Projects**
  - a. **Second Interconnection**
    - a. **Resolution for Easements**  
L. Reilly outlined (Step-by-step) the process of Eminent Domain in Michigan and provided a brief explanation of what is involved in each step. Discussion followed. As the discussion turned to the purchase of easements for the second interconnection project, a motion was made by M. Brumm to amend the agenda and move the discussion item into agenda item 12 - Closed Session, as the Board would be discussing the purchase or lease of real property. J. Irby seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.
    - b. **Other** – Nothing additional
8. **Financial Discussion – Director of Finance, William Toomey:**  
Director of Finance, William Toomey presented the Interim Operating Statement for the month ending January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Projected Cash Flow Statement, KWH Comparative vs. Prior Year and Five-Year History, and Trending Actual Revenue versus Budget.
9. **Public Comments:**  
No public comment
10. **Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present:**  
T. Carpenter shared some background and insight on the different parking areas near the North trail systems. He highlighted the original parking lot to the west of the MBLP, at the NTN North Trailhead, this parking lot also has an access road to one of the MBLP’s hydro plants. As the trails continued to increase in popularity and for the further benefit of the trail users, a second parking area was added to the west of the access road adjacent to the original parking lot. The area being discussed this evening is further west from these two parking lots and is an access road to the Penstock for the hydro, this area was never intended to be a parking area for hiking due to the dangers of traffic on Wright St., the lack of visibility when exiting the access road, and the difficulty of exiting the access road during the winter due to snow/ice. T. Carpenter recommended placing “No Parking” signs and directing people to park at the designated trailhead parking.

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The Board thanked P. Zenti for all the work & effort he continually puts into the trail system. Discussion relating to the safety of use of the access road was highlighted as a major concern for its continued use, options to alter access to that area were discussed but would ultimately prove to be too costly/not practical. Board members shared they have witnessed the difficulties and the dangers while people are trying to enter/exit the area from Wright St. to the gate. The Board supported the MBLP's plan to place "No Parking" signs and directing people to park at the designated trailhead parking.

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

M. Brumm – Nothing additional

J. Sonderegger – Nothing additional

D. Campana – Nothing additional

R. Holmes – Nothing additional

J. Irby - Nothing additional

12. **Closed Session**

D. Campana moved 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. J. Irby seconded the motion, a roll call vote was held:

*Yes: D. Campana, M. Brumm, J. Sonderegger, R. Holmes, J. Irby*

*No: None*

D. Campana made a motion to conclude the closed session, J. Irby seconded the motion, a vote was held:

*Yes: D. Campana, M. Brumm, J. Sonderegger, R. Holmes, J. Irby*

*No: None*

M. Brumm made a motion to authorize payment of \$73,366.00 relating to easements for the second interconnection project, J. Sonderegger seconded the motion, the Board unanimously approved.

7a.a - **Resolution for Easement**

Board Counsel L. Reilly explained the contents of the Resolution of Necessity. She explained that by adopting the Resolution the Board would be recognizing the second interconnection is a critical infrastructure project to ensure the reliability of the MBLP system for the public, that the MBLP has contracted with a third party for the easement acquisition where good-faith offers have been presented and refused by the listed land

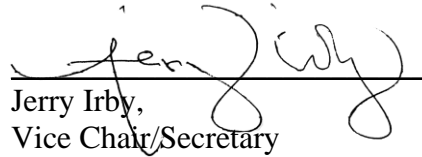
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owners; that alternate routes have been explored and deemed not reasonable/too costly; that securing easements along the original route of the project is therefore necessary to the second interconnection; and that the Board has a statutory condemnation right. (See attached).

M. Brumm then read aloud each of the 8 numbered points of the proposed Resolution. (See attached)

J. Irby made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented; M. Brumm seconded the motion, after discussion/deliberation the Board unanimously approved.

15. **Adjournment:**  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
Jerry Irby,  
Vice Chair/Secretary