

**WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**December 5, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Comms. Jennifer Kallay, Chairman  
John J. Warchol, Secretary  
Kenneth J. Chase  
Kevin T. Haggerty  
Wayne M. Tarr

Peter Dion, General Manager, WMGLD

Maureen Mata, Executive Assistant  
Gene Sullivan, Asst. General Manager  
Mark Cousins, Financial Manager  
Dave Polson, Director of Operations  
Michael McCarthy, General Counsel

Julie Smith Galvin, Town Council Liaison

**PLACE:** WMGLD Conference Room, 480 North Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting Recorded

Chair J. Kallay called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.  
The Chair informed the board that there was a meeting concerning street paving held on Dec. 1, 2018. Guidelines are being developed to ensure the highest standards are met.

Chair J. Kallay further informed the Board that a Solar Forum will be held on January 23, 2019. The new solar incentive program for municipal light plant communities will be discussed. General Manager Dion related that we are waiting for MMWEC confirmation regarding the implementation of the program.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Phil Courcy inquired about the natural gas safety processes being implemented following the Columbia Gas incident. General Manager Dion

responded that there is legislation that will require the sign off by a Professional Engineer on future gas construction documents.

A further question was raised regarding the new street construction fees recently approved by Town Meeting. Town Council Liaison, Julie Smith Galvin reaffirmed that a floor amendment removed the WMGLD from these requirements. The bylaw is waiting upon approval from the Attorney General.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chair J. Kallay offered some modifications to the minutes from previous meetings. The Board will review these modifications and vote on the minutes from September 12, October 25, and November 1, 2018 at the next meeting.

**A motion** to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting was made by Commr J. Warchol. . Motion was seconded by Commr W. Tarr.

**Vote:** The minutes of the September 19, 2018 were approved unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

**Customer Survey:** Chair, J. Kallay had requested that the survey be kept online for an additional period and twenty-five responses were received. General Manager Dion advised the Board that Great Blue Research would be present at the next meeting and the Board tabled further discussion until that meeting.

**Supply Mix:** Chair J. Kallay requested that solar be added to the reported supply mix.

**Customer Requests:** Commr. J. Warchol informed the Board that he saw no need to include personally identifying information in these notices. The board concurred and these reports will be modified going forward.

**Commissioner Requests:** Commr. J. Warchol requested that completion dates be added to this information so it will be known when issues are completed.

### **General Manager's Report:**

**WMGLD Generators:** General Manger Dion informed the Board that the WMGLD generators had been in use for the three previous month's peak usage. This greatly mitigated the cost effects of peak usage and actually paid for the carrying costs of the generators.

**Battery Storage:** Operations Manager Polson reported that materials had been delivered and installed and this project remained on schedule.

**Portable LNG:** Site work is nearing completion and a meeting with Lynnfield safety officials has been scheduled. The General Manger filed the required notification to the DPU on November 21, 2018.

**Solar Program:** General Manager Dion has been working with the state DOER in shaping this program. \$150,000 has been budgeted by the WMGLD to support the implementation of this program. As soon as approval is received, we will publicize the program;

Chair J. Kallay inquired about residential solar panel installation procedures. General Manager Dion responded that solar systems are required to be sized to meet the capacity needs of the individual residence. If more electricity is produced the WMGLD has a policy of paying an average cost for that power which is more than replacement costs. This is funded by all residents. This is the main reason requiring properly sized solar systems. Chair J. Kallay said she would like to review the WMGLD Net Metering Policy

#### **New Business:**

**Capital and Expense Budget:** Financial Manager, Mark Cousins, reviewed the components of these budgets. Final figures on pension costs will be coming from the town at the conclusion of their audit. Commr. J. Warchol reviewed the net income numbers. General Manager Dion advised the Board that it is more cost efficient for the WMGLD to purchase vehicle rather than leasing them and that line trucks have a seven year life and we look at eight years for vans and passenger vehicles.

**A motion** to approve the Capital and Expense budgets was made by Commr J. Warchol. Motion was seconded by Commr K. Chase.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously.

**Commissioner Salary and Benefits:** Chair J. Kallay told the Board that at a recent NEPPA meeting she attended, NEPPA members were shocked to find the WMGLD provided health care benefits to Commissioners. NEPPA members noted that salaries between \$0 and \$5,000 per year are provided to Commissioners. Commr J. Warchol questioned why benefits to commissioners were available. He pointed out that the Selectmen had the same issues in prior years and took steps to eliminate benefits. General Manager Dion related that MGL: Chapter 38 allows for benefits as a result of the \$138 salary paid annually to Commissioners. Commr. W. Tarr asked if Commissioners received

reimbursement for education and conferences. The General Manager responded that expenses for attending any conferences are reimbursed.

General Counsel M. McCarthy advised the Board that prior to any vote being taken regarding benefits and salaries, that the Board should stipulate they are invoking the Rule of Necessity since any action affects the Commissioners directly.

**A motion** to invoke the Rule of Necessity was made by Commr. W. Tarr and seconded by Commr J. Warchol.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously

**A motion** to eliminate Commissioner benefits and salaries was made by Commr J. Warchol. Motion was seconded by Commr K. Chase.

**Vote:** The motion was approved 3-2 with Comms. Kallay, Chase and Warchol in favor and Haggerty and Tarr opposed.

On discussion, Commr. W. Tarr said his opposition centered on the effective date of the motion. General Manager Dion, along with Financial Manager Cousins, confirmed that the year-end \$69 payment had already been processed. Commr. W. Tarr suggested that the Commissioners could donate that salary to the local Food Bank or other local charity. General Manger Dion suggested that the effective date of the change be May 2019 as that is when the next salary payment is scheduled.

**A motion** to reconsider the previous motion was made by Commr J. Warchol. Motion was seconded by Commr K. Chase.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously

**A motion** was made by Commr J. Warchol and was seconded by Commr J. Kallay to eliminate Commissioner benefits and salaries on May, 2019

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously

**Adjournment:**

**A motion** to adjourn was made at 8:48 P.M. by Commr. W. Tarr and seconded by Commr. K. Haggerty.

**Vote:** Unanimously in favor of adjournment.

