

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

October 25, 2018

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Comms. Jennifer Kallay, Chairman
John J. Warchol, Secretary
Kenneth J. Chase
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

Julie Smith Galvin, Town Council
Zackary Fentross, Melanson Heath
Ron DeCurzio, MMWEC
Matthew Ides, MMWEC
Brian Sewell, MMWEC

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 the SMART program been approved, and the municipal section of the program is anticipated to follow in the upcoming weeks. She also recently attended the MCAN municipal utility working group meeting and heard a good presentation on Belmont's a new strategic electrification program.

Old Business:

New Business

Annual Audit. Zack from Melanson and Heath auditors presented the 2018 audit. As is customary, the WMGLD is waiting for a portion of the town's audit to

be completed to finalize the audit. However, no big changes are expected. A few items were highlighted in the presentation. Statement 25 applies to the audit this year which changes some of the reporting categories from prior years. Zack informed the Board that the department is in a very strong position. Our OPEB pension liability obligation is 62% funded, which is among the strongest in the state. We have had good returns on our investment. There will be no management letter this year. Jack congratulated Mark Cousins for his preparation for the audit. Zach concluded by saying that the final audit is expected in January.

A motion to accept the annual audit contingent upon receipt of the Town's numbers was made by Commr. W. Tarr and seconded by Commr. J. Warchol.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

MMWEC Presentation: General Manager Dion introduced MMWEC CEO Ron DeCurzio to present the WMGLD power supply portfolio. MMWEC Treasurer, Matthew Ide presented to the Board that 72% of Wakefield's power supply comes from noncarbon emitting sources. Wakefield has been ahead of the curve regarding noncarbon emitting energy sources because of its long-term planning. Commr J. Warchol questioned how clean the fossil fuel, gas fired generation is. Mat Ide replied this generation is considerably cleaner than coal and oil however, MMWEC is committed to moving to cleaner generating mix keeping in mind that reliability is the most important obligation. Ron DeCurzio said that the nuclear slice of the power mix is critical as it makes up the baseload. Wakefield has made great progress in peak load reduction. Ron De Curzio pointed out that Wakefield has only a two % ownership of fossil fuels and as a result it has great flexibility in the future.

Brian Sewell, MMWEC's Energy Efficiency Program Manager gave an overview of the energy efficiency programs coordinated by MMWEC and pointed out that customer needs are changing and demand for these and other programs and technologies is increasing over time. Commr. W. Tarr indicated his desire to review some actual audit results.

Paving Discussion: The General Manager advised the Board that on November 1, the first meeting of all parties was taking place to discuss paving issues regarding Wakefield streets. He further advised that there is a town meeting warrant article establishing a new fee structure for paving however, upon review of our General Counsel, this fee structure will not apply to the WMGLD as it is a municipal light department and past case law has precluded communities from charging municipal light departments these fees. General Manager Dion is taking a proactive approach to address the Advisory Board of Public Works concerns. Our capital program of installing dead gas main will be monitored and we make a commitment to only do as much as

can be activated that year. The WMGLD will focus on streets appearing on the town's paving list.

Commr. W. Tarr reviewed the history of paving issues in the town as seen from his experience as a member of the Board of Public Works and Finance Committee. He said there is a long history of decreasing funds available for repairing streets.

It was decided that the November 1 meeting at Town Hall will be posted by the WMGLD as a majority of commissioners may attend.

Generators and Battery Storage: Operations manager, Dave Polson reviewed the status of these two projects. General Manager Dion commended Dave for the generator work as it has already brought significant savings to the company.

Strategic Planning: A discussion took place on scheduling a strategic planning session. It is anticipated that this will include the Board, Town Administrator Steve Maio, Town Councilor Julie Smith Galvin, Town Council and all involved senior staff. At this stage the preferred time is a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday weekday morning in January for four hours

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:05 P.M. by Commr. J. Warchol. and seconded by Commr. W. Tarr.

Vote: Unanimously in favor of adjournment.