

WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 13, 2019

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Commsrs. Jennifer Kallay, Chairman
John J. Warchol, Secretary
Kenneth J. Chase
Kevin T. Haggarty
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 Liaison

PLACE: WMGLD Conference Room, 480 North Avenue

Call to Order:

Chair Kallay called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M and informed the Board the meeting was being recorded.

Opening Remarks:

Chair Remarks: Chair Kallay related a conversation she had with General Manager Dion about a request from the Finance Committee that was sent to

us through Town Administrator, Steve Maio regarding having our Department come before the Finance Committee to discuss some issues. The General Manager asked the Town Administrator the topics to be discussed and was informed they were the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and streetlights. He informed the Board that these two issues had been covered in detail jointly with the Finance Committee two years ago. The WMGLD had done a comprehensive study of these issues, and a five-year agreement was reached. The consensus was that if there are additional questions, the Finance Committee will be invited to meet with the Board.

Town Council Liaison: Julie Smith-Galvin reported that at a recent Town Council meeting there was a discussion of Light Department assistance in the procurement of an electric vehicle to enforce parking regulations. The General Manager reported he informed the town that he was willing to research electric vehicle options and contribute towards the program.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of the minutes of September 12, 2018, and January 9, 2019, were before the Board. Commr. Warchol made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2018, with amendments. Commr. Tarr seconded the motion for purposes of discussion. Discussion ensued as to what words should be contained in the minutes and whether actual transcript notes should be recorded in the minutes. There was a discussion on various suggested edits.

Commr. Tarr withdrew his second of the motion, and Chair Kallay then seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Commr. Warchol to accept the September 12, 2018 minutes with his edits and edits of Chair Kallay. Chair Kallay seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-2 with Comms. Kallay Warchol and Chase in favor and Comms. Tarr and Haggerty opposed.

Commissioner Drug Testing:

Commr. Haggerty said he recently had a discussion with a ratepayer asking if the WMGLD performed drug testing and inquired as to whether the Commissioners were tested as part of this policy. Commr. Haggerty commented that he thought that was a good point as we are not like Congress and we should not exempt ourselves from our policies and suggested that the Board should not treat themselves differently than employees are treated. He acknowledged that this might be groundbreaking and other boards may not have even thought of this, but he recommended this Board should do it. A discussion ensued regarding the logistics of such a program. Commr Haggerty said he was bringing up this point for discussion and Chair Kallay suggested reviewing the policies as to their general applicability to Commissioners.

January 9, 2019 Minutes:

Discussion continued concerning the minutes of January 9, 2019.

A motion was made by Commr. Warchol to accept the January 9, 2019 minutes with his edits and the edits of Chair Kallay. Chair Kallay seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-2 with Commrs. Kallay, Warchol and Chase in favor and Commrs. Tarr and Haggerty opposed.

Old Business:

Battery Storage: The General Manager informed the Board that the system was put in service on February 1. There is a minor CT issue being resolved by the contractor, but construction has completed.

LNG – General Manager reported that portable LNG had been used for ten days so far this winter to manage peak gas demand, with a total of 14 truck deliveries.

National Grid 325 KW Project – It has been requested by National Grid that the WMGLD will oversee the gas portion of this project. Commr. Tarr reminded the board that the residents in this area were very concerned at public meetings. The General Manager responded that with us in charge of the project, it can be done faster and with less disruption to the residents.

Chair Kallay requested a copy of the National Grid agreement when it is available.

Strategic Planning Retreat: Two dates have been suggested; April 3 or 8, 2019. The Board discussed the proposal received by the consultant managing this project. Questions were raised concerning the extent of the consultant's involvement after the retreat. The General Manager responded that their role should be considered very fluid, ranging from a summary of the day to the development of a complete strategic plan. These will be options for the Board's consideration.

Chair Kallay inquired of the board if there were any conflicts on either April 3 or April 8 and hearing none, suggested that these dates be offered to Town Administrator, Steve Maio. Also, Chair Kallay requested that the contract be reviewed and more WMGLD Board involvement should be part of the document.

New Business:

Solar – The General Manager reported that we had a very successful solar presentation at the recent forum. However we were restricted from releasing program specifics because the DOER has not officially announced the

program yet. It has been suggested that this may be an appropriate time to review the solar program.

Currently, our Net Metering program caps systems at 10 KW. and more specifically, to the size of the customer's actual load. Questions were raised both at the forum and to the Department asking why customers cannot put extra panels on their roofs. The General Manager suggested that the program remain capped at 10 KW but not restricted to the customer's actual load. They could put more panels if desired. It was also suggested that we pay customers the value of the power received back on the system which less than the total cost of power for excess generation back to the system. The actual value is in the neighborhood of \$0.04 and a table of Locational Marginal Prices by hour was provided. In addition, the General Manager suggested that the WMGLD would upgrade service cables to customers when necessary but the any other system upgrades such as transformer or relay system upgrades would be borne by the customer.

Chair Kallay said that addressing these issues proactively is a good idea and should be part of the strategic planning. This is one of many policy decisions requiring information to guide future investments. Chair Kallay further added that excess generation might not be a large issue in Wakefield as rooftops are constrained.

Solar Calculator: Chair Kally presented a draft version of a solar calculator that she helped develop. The intent of the calculator is to show customers

actual numbers, so they can evaluate the value of investing in solar. The solar calculator will be sent out to Board members for further review.

Environmental Sustainability Committee: Chair Kallay told the Board that this Committee was developed by the Town Council. There is a seat for a representative from the Light Board.

A motion was made by Commr. Warchol to appoint Chair Kallay as the WMGLD representative on the Environmental Sustainability Committee. Commr. Tarr seconded the motion.

Vote: The Board unanimously approved the motion

MCAN Report Card: – The report was made available in the Board packages, and no action was taken.

Executive Session:

A motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel contractual issues and to return to open session solely for the purposes of adjournment was made at 8:50 P.M. by Commr. Warchol, and seconded by Commr. Chase.

Vote: Board polled and unanimously approved the motion

Return to Regular Session:

The meeting returned to regular session.

A motion was made by Comm. Warchol and seconded by Chair Kallay to increase the General Manager's base salary by 2.75% per contract and to award a performance bonus of 96% of the 6% (5.76%) of base salary in the form of a lump sum to his 457 Retirement plan per contract and review of the General Manager's goals and objectives for 2018.

Vote: The Board unanimously approved the motion

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:35 P.M. by Commr. Warchol, and seconded by Commr. Tarr.

Vote: The Board unanimously approved the motion