



WMGLD  
P.O. BOX 190 480 North Ave.  
Wakefield, MA 01880  
Tel. (781) 246-6363 Fax (781) 246-0419

Peter D. Dion, General Manager

Jennifer Kallay, Chair  
John J. Warchol, Secretary  
Thomas Boettcher  
Kenneth J. Chase, Jr  
Philip Courcy

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

**May 8, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Commrs. Jennifer Kallay, Chairman  
John J. Warchol, Secretary  
Kenneth J. Chase  
Thomas Boettcher  
Phillip Courcy

Peter Dion, General Manager, WMGLD

Maureen Mata, Executive Assistant  
Gene Sullivan, Asst. General Manager  
Mark Cousins, Financial Manager

Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council Liaison

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Kallay called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M and informed the Board the meeting is recorded and that we have a sign in sheet for members of the public.

**Chair Remarks:** Chair Kallay commented on the events that have transpired since the last meeting, including, the strategic planning session, town meeting, an MMWEC conference, and a local election.

**Commissioner Remarks:** Commr. Warchol congratulated the two newly elected commissioners, Tom Boettcher and Phil Courcy. Jack then drew the board's attention to the State Attorney General's website for a review of the open meeting laws with particular focus on interest groups and any potential violations of the open meeting law caused through such participation. Commr. Warchol drew attention to listserv's and used his prior participation in MCAN as an example. Commissioner Warchol would like the chronological Commissioner's requests added to every Board package. He also advised the Board that the online version of the April 2018 minutes was a draft version and reiterated the need for the Board to see the final version of minutes before posting

**DPU Annual Report:** Commr. Chase inquired as to who should sign the annual report. Financial Manager Mark Cousins advised that tradition has been to have the Board sitting at the time of approval sign the document.

Commissioner Courcy inquired where the Wallace substation generators were reported. Financial Manager Mark Cousins pointed out the location.

Commr. Warchol asked Mark Cousins where to look for the energy charge. Chair Kallay said this discussion was scheduled for later in the meeting but that if there were only a few questions, we could dispose of this agenda item. In response to Commr. Warchol's inquiry, Mark Cousins pointed out the various locations of the energy charge elements that comprise the charge. General manager Dion added that the DPU report requires us to break down those elements.

Chair Kallay inquired as to total asset value, and Mark Cousins showed the location of the Gas and electric components of the total.

**A motion** to approve the annual report to the DPU was made by Commr Warchol. Chair Kallay seconded the motion.

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

**Congratulations:** Former WMGLD Commissioner Jim Murphy appeared to congratulate the two new members, Phil Courcy and Tom Boettcher.

**Town Liaison Comments:** Town Councilor Julie Smith-Galvin thanked the WMGLD for providing the Town with an electric vehicle that will be used in parking enforcement.

### **New Business:**

General Manager Dion introduced Matthew Ide and Stephen Smith from MMWEC. For background, the General Manager told the Board that as part of the preparation for the newly adopted WMGLD Solar Program, he had shared a Synapse report on the "Distributed Cost of Solar in Washington, DC" that had been provided to him by Chair Kallay. Steve Smith gave the Board a presentation that related the Washington DC findings to the WMGLD. A discussion took place with Board members on the various elements contained in the presentation. Topics such as the sliding time of day peak power usage that was being driven by solar usage were discussed. The point was made that west facing solar was the most valuable since it would enter the system nearest to the peak when you get later in day power.

Chair Kallay followed this discussion with a presentation she developed on the value of solar. The many intrinsic and extrinsic factors that must be considered in valuing this commodity were examined, and the presentation explained these myriad and complicating factors. She also suggested that customers who enter the program at 85% would be grandfathered at that percentage if the board decreases the rate in the future.

The Board had a lengthy discussion of this information as they worked to develop a solar rate for the new solar program. Commrs. Warchol and Courcy discussed several considerations at length and concluded that the WMGLD wants to motivate residents to install solar and part of that motivation will come from the rate these customers received for sending power back to the WMGLD. Commr. Warchol pointed out that the impact of solar customers was very little at this time. The WMGLD is providing financial incentives along with the state grant. A discussion took place on commercial solar incentive in addition to the planned residential program. The Board decided its preliminary focus will be on residential, but they will monitor the program closely, and possibly consider commercial incentives in the future.

Commr. Warchol summarized the many factors in play.

**A motion** to set the solar payment rate at 85% of the current rate and cap residential solar at 10 Kwh and municipal and

commercial and industrial solar at 25 Kwh was made by Commr Warchol. Commr. Courcy seconded the motion.

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

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of minutes from the March 6, 2019, meeting was before the Board for approval. Commr. Warchol offered a minor revision to the Board and General Manager Dion said he would incorporate the change.

**A motion** to approve the amended minutes of the March 6, 2019 meeting was made by Commr Warchol. Commr. Chae seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The minutes of the March 6, 2019 meeting were approved with Comms. Kallay, Chase, and Warchol in favor. Comms. Boettcher and Courcy abstained as they were not Commissioners at that time.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Payroll Designated Signer:**

**A motion** to retain Commr. Warchol as the Board's designated signer of weekly payroll was made by Commr Chase. Commr. Courcy seconded the motion.

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

**Compliance Requirements:** An overview of various state and federal compliance requirements was presented to the Board. Upcoming meetings will focus on specific areas with IT scheduled for the next meeting.

**National Grid Project:** This project is proceeding on schedule with a meeting in the next week. It is anticipated that bids will go out in June with the project starting in July and finishing in December.

**Strategic Plan:** An updated version was sent electronically with the plan to cover different topics in future meeting agendas. Comments on the strategic plan should be in by Friday.

**New Business:**

**Board Reorganization:**

**A motion** nominating Commr. Warchol as Chair of the Board was made by Commr Chase. Commr. Kallay seconded the motion.

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

**A motion** nominating Commr. Courcy as Secretary of the Board was made by Chair Warchol. Commr. Chase seconded the motion.

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

Jack nominates Phyllis Sec. Any seconds. All in favor Jack motions to adjourn and 9:30 PM any seconds all in favor

**Adjournment:**

**A motion** to adjourn was made at 9:35 P.M. by Chair Warchol and seconded by Commr. Chase.

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