



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

Peter D. Dion, General Manager

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

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department  
Board of Gas & Light Commissioners Meeting

July 17, 2019

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Peter Dion, General Manager, WMGLD  
Maureen Mata, Executive Assistant  
Gene Sullivan Asst. General Manager  
Mark Cousins, Financial Manager  
Dave Polson, Operations Manager  
Joe Collins, Intern

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Warchol called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and announced the meeting is being recorded.

## **Opening Remarks:**

**Chair's Remarks:** Chair Warchol referred to his discussion of the Open Meeting Law at a previous meeting and informed the Board that there were two webinars scheduled on the open meeting law. They will be held on July 18 from 9:30 AM to 11 AM and August 12 from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

**Commissioners Remarks:** Commissioner Kallay informed the Board that a community conversation on climate change has been suggested, and she would like to see the development of a greenhouse gas inventory for the town. The Massachusetts Area Planning Commission has a proposal to standardize municipal greenhouse gas inventories

Commissioner Kallay also inquired as to recent problems at the Public Safety building with their emergency generator. It did not operate during a recent outage. General Manager Dion told the board that the WMGLD provided assistance to the Public Safety Building and it was determined that the generator had not been maintained and that the town electrician was resolving this issue.

Commissioner Kallay inquired if the WMGLD policy handbook addresses vehicle idling. The General Manager responded that there is a policy but it is not detailed in the handbook. Commissioner Kallay offered to forward the state idling policy for consideration to be added to the policy handbook

**NEPPA August Conference:** Commissioner Kallay reminded the Board members that this was the last meeting before the conference so plans should be made if you are planning to attend. Commissioner's Kallay, Warchol, Chase, and Courcy will attend, and Commissioner Boettcher would check his calendar first.

## **Secretary's Report:**

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of minutes from the June 5, 2019 meeting was before the Board for approval. Commissioner Kallay offered an edit to clarify that under Commissioner's Remarks, it should say develop a "Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan" instead of a climate change action plan.

**A motion** to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2019 meeting with the proposed edit was made by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Courcy.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously

**Old Business:**

**Legislative Update:**

The General Manager advised the Board that there was a recent hearing before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications and Energy. The subject was legislation retaining the authority municipal utilities have to formulate their own path to clean energy.

The General Manager outlined municipal green energy initiatives to date and discussed the potential for the near future. Commissioner Kallay also provided testimony in opposition to the municipal position. Commissioner Courcy took issue with Commissioner Kallay's testimony as it was not clear she was representing an individual viewpoint. Commissioner Courcy stated his position that policy decisions should be discussed by the Board. Commissioner Warchol took issue with the definition of clean energy in the legislation stating that the WMGLD currently receives 60% of its energy from non-carbon emitting sources, but we would not get credit for most of this under the legislation supported by Commissioner Kallay.

All Board members agreed that the issue should be discussed at a future meeting and proceed based on the majority opinion.

**SOLAR PROGRAM:** The General Manager initiated a discussion of the new solar program by updating the status of applications. Commissioner Boettcher inquired as to the possibility of additional funding, and the General Manager replied that it was a possibility once the state disbursed unallocated funds. Commissioner Boettcher also requested that the Board be regularly informed of our solar fund expenditures.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** Under a proposal by the WMGLD, three EV chargers could be located in town. The WMGLD will pay for the installation and charge the town for electric usage. Commissioner Warchol expressed his reluctance to support a program that is not likely to recover all capital costs. General Manager Dion expressed the philosophy that this type of program requires financial participation from the WMGLD, and the benefits to the town may be significant.

The Level 3 charger could be located in the Main Street town parking lot with the intent to drive users to local businesses. The effect of Envision Wakefield was discussed and the Board was informed that the locations were chosen by the town with full knowledge of the proposed Main Street renovation project.

A discussion of rates ensued. Commissioner Warchol indicated that he would be more comfortable supporting this project if user experience allows us to adjust the rate charged to the town to the power rate.

**A motion** to approve the investment in EV chargers subject to WMGLD providing guidance and education to town officers regarding general rate-making principles, and further, a draft letter of agreement will be developed as a rider to the terms of service was made by Commissioner Courcy and seconded by Commissioner Boettcher.

**Vote:** The motion was approved 4 to 1 with Commissioner Chase voting in the negative.

### **New Business:**

**Energy Efficiency Programs:** General manager Dion introduced Joe Collins, intern. Joe is analyzing the WMGLD energy efficiency program and presented results to date to the Board. The General Manager stated that the reason for the review is based on results from our recent customer survey that indicated that improvements could be made in this area. It was shown that the WMGLD had performed about 2,100 residential audits out of a housing stock of approximately 9,000 units.

The development of a commercial audit program was discussed. The General Manager recommended that the WMGLD eliminate the current. 30 cent conservation rate and replace it with an energy conservation charge. This will require a public hearing and a filing at the DPU.

The Board requested that this be discussed at the September meeting and Board members would forward all questions to the General manager as soon as possible so they can be accommodated in advance, the General Manager also recommended that we post the required public hearing for the October 2019 meeting.

**New Gas Service Moratorium:** The General Manager proposed that the WMGLD implement a moratorium on any new multi-family residence gas services. Gas supply is unpredictable, and we installed LNG capacity last winter to provide the necessary product. A moratorium on new gas services on multi-family residences will allow the WMGLD to meet current needs and can be reviewed in the future. The Board can always consider service applications on an individual application basis.

**A motion** to approve the gas multi-family residential moratorium was made by Commissioner Chase and seconded by Commissioner Kallay.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously

**Adjournment:**

**A motion** to adjourn was made at 9:21 P.M. by Commr. Chase and seconded by Commr. Boettcher.

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