



WMGLD  
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Peter D. Dion, General Manager

Jennifer Kallay , Chair  
Elton Prifti, Secretary  
Thomas Boettcher  
Philip Courcy  
John J. Warchol

## WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT

### BOARD OF GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONERS MEETING

**January 11, 2023**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Comms., Chair Jennifer Kallay  
Thomas Boettcher  
Phil Courcy  
Jack Warchol

Peter Dion, General Manager, WMGLD

Mark Cousins, Finance Manager  
Joe Collins, Business Analyst- Energy Services  
Sylvia Vaccaro, Minute Secretary

Mike McLane, Town Council Liaison

Matt Ide, MMWEC  
Bill Bullock, MMWEC

Members of the Public  
William Reading, Gates Lane  
Paula Barrett, McDonald Farm  
Mike Thater  
Angel Iglesias  
Julie Smith Galvin  
Dan Lieber  
Bronwyn Della Volpe  
Christine Rioux

**PLACE: ZOOM MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Commr. Kallay called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and informed the participants that the meeting is being recorded. She explained that tonight's meeting will be in two parts. The first will be a public hearing to discuss a proposed new Time of Use rate for electric vehicles and the second part will be the regular monthly Board meeting.

**A motion** was made by Commr. Boettcher to suspend the regular meeting for the purposes of opening a special hearing on the creation of a Time of Use electric rate for electric vehicles and upon conclusion thereof, to resume the regular meeting and seconded by Commr. Warchol.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	Commr. Boettcher	Aye
	Commr. Warchol	Aye
	Commr. Kallay	Aye
	Commr. Courcy	Aye
	Commr. Prifti	Absent

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

Commr. Kallay welcomed the members of the public to the hearing. After brief introductions, she explained that the Board voted at the December Board meeting on the proposed design of a Time of Use (TOU) rate for electric vehicle charging being presented tonight. The purpose of tonight's public hearing is to explain the rate, to gather comments, and to answer any questions. The Board will take all comments under advisement and a formal vote will be taken at next month's Board meeting. If approved the anticipated rollout would be April 2023. Pete explained that the proposed TOU rate is optional for EV charging customers and is not a requirement. Customers can take advantage of WMGLD's other programs, such as Connected Homes and the free EV chargers. Currently, the rate is for residential only and not commercial. This new rate would require customers to install a separate meter that would have a reduced monthly customer charge of \$2.00. Customers would be required to stay on this rate for one year. The rate is designed to benefit EV owners by reducing their bill and also benefit WMGLD by reducing townwide electrical load during peak times. The rate includes two critical time windows with different energy charges:

On-Peak (Premium Rate) Traditionally 4pm-9pm at \$0.4540 per kwh Energy Charge

Off-Peak (Discounted Rate) Any time that is not within the peak window at \$0.0408 per kwh Energy Charge

The Fuel and ECC charges would still apply the same as regular Domestic Electric Rate A.

Pete noted that WMGLD would also offer an incentive to support the installation of the separate meter. Joe Collins reviewed the proposed incentives. The first option would be a free EV charger with a onetime \$600 incentive for the separate meter install, or a onetime \$1000 incentive for the separate meter install for customers that already have a charger or want to procure it on their own. Both incentives would be in the form of a credit on the customer's bill. Commr. Kallay opened the meeting for questions and comments.

Daniel Lieber submitted the following questions for consideration and clarification noting that some had already been answered:

1. How will customers be notified of the annual setting of the On-Peak Hours and Off-Peak Hours?
2. How do the proposed rates compare to the current static rate?
3. What is required to install a 2<sup>nd</sup> meter? What portion of the installation is expected to be at the cost of the customer? What is the anticipated cost of installation for the customer?
4. Is this available to commercial customers?
5. Can the 2<sup>nd</sup> meter be used for other purposes? If so, how will this be enforced?
6. Will meter subsidies continue to be available to make this easier for EV adoption?
7. Will this affect the rates at the local public EV stations operated by WMGLD?
8. Can customer signs/stickers be made by WMGLD as a reminder of when Peak vs. Off-peak hours are stated as a reminder to users?

Pete stated that if an additional line from the street is required than the cost for that line work would be borne by WMGLD, but that would be in very unique situations only. He also stated that using the second meter for other purposes than charging an EV would be difficult to police, however if loads that were added to the TOU meter appear in the on-peak window, they would incur a penalty. He also noted that there would not be an impact on the Town's EV chargers at this time, however, if it could be under consideration when and if we look at a commercial version of this rate. Mr. Leiber suggested the utility have the ability to declare additional peak times and a means of communicating this to customers. Mike Thater inquired if he made the capital investment and had a second meter installed and then WMGLD changed the program would it be possible to be grandfathered in and stay at this rate. Commr. Boettcher noted that this would be taken into consideration. Paula Barrett inquired as to why a second meter is needed since her EV charger is monitored. Pete explained that the second meter is needed because it will track just the EV charging for billing purposes and will be displayed as a separate line item on her bill. Julie Smith Galvin asked how her meter will be curtailed under this new rate. Commr. Kallay

clarified that this rate is different than the Connected Homes program. She would have to choose between the two as she would not be able to participate in both. The meter would not control charging, the customer would by programing their charger. Willam Reading inquired if the load the EV pulls would have an effect on this program. He also inquired if the utility would be able to provide real time load information off his meter for historical data. Pete stated that the load would not matter for the program. The load would affect the electrical service only and right now there is no cap to the load. Pete stated that WMGLD offers a product that would provide this real time data called Sense.

Commr. Boettcher noted that this new TOU rate and our current programs are optional. Customers are not required to participate in any program if they choose not to. A question was asked if WMGLD would accept a returned charger, so the customer would be able to take advantage of the \$1000 incentive. Pete noted that this has not been contemplated as it is a used charger. Commr. Kallay stated that it would be taken under consideration. She thanked the public for their excellent information that will provide the Board with a lot to discuss at the next Board meeting.

**A motion** to close the special hearing and resume to the regular meeting and return to our regular meeting agenda was made by Commr. Boettcher and seconded by Commr. Warchol.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	Commr. Boettcher	Aye
	Commr. Warchol	Aye
	Commr. Kallay	Aye
	Commr. Courcy	Aye
	Commr. Prifti	Absent

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

**CHAIR REMARKS:**

**None**

**COMMISSIONER REMARKS:**

Commr. Boettcher informed the Board that in December 2022, the Town of Wakefield was accepted as a Green Community. He extended his thanks to Commr. Kallay and WMGLD staff for their efforts in helping to achieve this goal. He also noted that the Secretary of State promulgated the updated Stretch Code and Specialized Opt-In Code which provides specific pathways to help communities achieve the Net 2050 goals. The Opt-In code would require a Town Meeting vote to adopt, but the updated Stretch Code is automatically adopted.

### **TOWN COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS:**

Mike noted his disappointment that WMGLD's ARPA requests were not fulfilled. ARPA is ongoing so he recommended that instead of focusing on projects, perhaps the focus should be on assisting WMGLD customers in paying their WMGLD bills.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Approval of the minutes included in the Board book from the December 7, 2022, meeting was before the Board for approval. Commr. Kallay submitted several edits that did not make it into the Board book in time, so approval of the minutes was tabled for this meeting. Amended minutes will be presented for approval and vote at next month's Board meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Project Updates**

##### **Energy Park**

Pete noted that there have been ongoing meetings with the Conservation Committee. He stated that WMGLD has committed to plant 128 trees, however, the Conservation Committee stated that planting 128 trees in single locations would not replace lost canopies. The Mapleway playground site was identified as a potential area to replace lost canopy and on January 2, 2023, the WMGLD walked the site with representatives from the Conservation Commission. He stated that he will attend their next meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Pete mentioned that he had a productive meeting with the Assistant Secretary of the State's Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs to discuss the Home Rule Petition. He explained that a draft of the Site Alternative Analysis has been updated and will be shared with the State, so they can review and provide feedback. Commr. Kallay inquired if the Site

Alternative Analysis would be shared on our website. Pete said that as soon as the documents are completed, they will be shared on our website.

## **2. Winter Supply Update**

Pete mentioned that on the gas side, back in December we had not received a new allocation of capacity from National Grid because in November and December we were still operating on the 2021 model because we did not have a full year on the new model. Mark Roberts suggested to hold off on requesting capacity reallocation. After the November numbers were available, Mark had a discussion with National Grid and we received an additional capacity allocation. We anticipate more to be added once the December numbers are finalized. Pete deferred to Matt Ide to explain the recent capacity issue that occurred on December 24, 2022 with the electric supply side. Matt explained that this was an ISO New England issue and not a Wakefield issue. The cold weather inverted prices so units that were normally supplied by natural gas were dispatched on oil. He stated that we went into Christmas Eve with a generation stack with a higher percentage of oil units that have lower capacity factors. As things progressed, loads were higher earlier in the day than forecasted, and even though they levelized as the day went on, the region had about 2100-megawatt generation capacity that tripped. These were the older oil units. That loss burned thru the capacity reserve, creating a capacity scarcity condition. In addition, Hydro Quebec was supposed to supply 1100-megawatts, but transmissions issues in Quebec as well as higher loads in Quebec prevented that support from materializing. As a result, all the reserves were used to generate electricity to satisfy the demand for about 3 hours. The situation cleared itself about 9 PM on Christmas eve, when overall demand decreased and acceptable reserve could be reestablished.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Carbon Based Incentives - Bill Bullock, MMWEC**

Bill stated that the Carbon Based Incentive model was a result of a strategic review of the efficiency program at the end of 2021. He stated that we realized that we needed to shift the focus from reducing all electric use to becoming a decarbonization program. We needed to quantify what the carbon reductions were based on the traditional incentive programs. He said

that they applied for and received a grant from American Public Power (APPA). This grant enabled them to conduct the study and build a model to evaluate incentives and make any necessary adjustments to optimize carbon emission reduction. The model is based on grid emission factors, so any utility can use the model based on their power portfolio and look at carbon emissions associated with that based on the non-carbon portion. The utility can look at their target and how they expect to reduce carbon emissions. This enables us to analyze the reduction in carbon emissions based on achieving the target in the Energy Efficiency and Next Zero programs. The result of the model provides both the electric savings of each measure but also the customer savings. The MLP revenue impacts electric mostly on oil and propane conversions, but the model considers natural gas conversions. The goal is to look at both economic and carbon impact on a dollar per ton reduction so we can adjust the incentives. Bill commented that to no one's surprise heat pumps were very good on a dollar per ton cost reduction for carbon but also have a positive economic impact on the utility by increasing electric sales. The model is available to WMGLD to use to evaluate their incentive program. Commr. Kallay inquired as to what the next steps would be. She noted that some of the incentives in the model are similar to WMGLD's current offerings while some are different. Bill noted that he would be happy to review WMGLD's incentives in a year and make recommendations based on the model.

### **MEAM By Laws**

Commr. Kallay stated that last fall she and several MLP Commissioners became aware that MEAM (Massachusetts Electric Association of Massachusetts) was in the process of updating their bylaws. A group of Commissioners met to decide if they wanted to provide input. Pete, who is President of MEAM, advised the group of Commissioners that MEAM had been meeting with Counsel to review potential changes and would be consider any recommendations from the group of commissioners in their discussions. She stated that the commissioner group's recommended changes were shared with MEAM and a red lined copy is included in the board book. She noted that it is a difficult process to inform all the commissioners in the 41 utilities that comprise of MEAM but they are reaching out to all the commissioners they know to ask if they are in support of the recommendations and if so to sign the recommendations, as well as share any suggestions. Commr. Warchol inquired as to what specific concerns the group had with the By Laws. Commr. Kallay said that she believes it would be beneficial to receive both general and policy information from MEAM on a more regular basis. She noted they are looking for more consistent communication. Pete stated that it is the

responsibility of the General Managers from the MLP's to update their Boards on these matters. He also stated that MEAM is in the process of clarifying the proxy process in the event a General Manager cannot be present when a vote is taken. Commr. Boettcher noted that Pete has always kept this Board up to date with any changes at MEAM. Pete noted that the core principle of MEAM is that all 40 utilities maintain local control. He noted that what maybe important to WMGLD may not be important to other MLPs. The times in the past that we have rallied as 40 municipalities is when we have faced legislation challenges, such as the recent Climate Bill. He explained that MEAM recently enhanced the role of Executive Secretary and hired Jane Parenteau for this enhanced position. She will have her hand on the pulse of more real time issues and legislation. She will be sure that our lobbyist and others from MMWEC and ENE are all on the same page. Pete will share the recommended changes available for the Board by this Friday so it can be reviewed ahead of MEAM's meeting next Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

**Any other matter not anticipated by the Chair**

None

**Executive Session**

**A motion** to move into Executive Session to discuss legal strategy was made by Commr. Boettcher and seconded by Commr. Warchol at 8:18pm.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	Commr. Boettcher	Aye
	Commr. Warchol	Aye
	Commr. Courcy	Aye
	Commr. Kallay	Aye
	Commr. Prifti	Absent

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:45pm for the sole purpose of adjourning.

