



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 December 4, 2019

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Peter Dion, General Manager, WMGLD

Maureen Mata, Executive Assistant
Mark Cousins, Financial Manager
Dave Polson, Engineering and Operations Manager
Sylvia Vaccaro, Office Manager

PLACE: WMGLD Conference Room, 480 North Avenue

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Warchol called meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. and informed the Board the meeting is recorded. No members of the public in attendance.

Chair Remarks: Commissioner Warchol had nothing specific to report.

Commissioner Remarks: Commr. Boettcher expressed his thanks to staff for last night's well attended Community Educational Forum on heat pumps and the new Incentive Program. He stated that there was good public interaction and feedback and perhaps WMGLD may conduct another forum in late Spring of 2020. Commr. Kallay discussed holding a forum for the realty community, so to assist them in educating potential buyers in home efficiency.

Town Council Comments

Not in attendance.

Secretary's Report

Approval of minutes from the November 13, 2019 meeting was before the Board for approval.

A correction to the dollar amount of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Program was noted from \$12,000.00 to \$82,000.00. A change under the 2020 Goals & Objectives was also made, so to read, three pilot programs with the addition of Peak Shaving Management program. Several other minor edits were also made.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting with the proposed changes was made by Commissioner Courcy and seconded by Commissioner Boettcher.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Project and Program Updates

Solar Program

No change

Electric Vehicle Charging

Town Council approved the original EV charging locations at their meeting on November 13, 2019

Veteran's Field

Town Parking Lot across from old bank of America
Americal

General Manager, Pete Dion stated that the equipment has been procured and expected to be installed in the next two months.

WMGLD will supply power to the handhold and Voltrek will bring it to the pedestal and make the connection.

National Grid 345 kV Project

The Salem Street project is completed. There was an addition to the scope of work involving relocation of gas main on Montrose Ave., which will be completed this month. Reconfiguration of the electric system to accommodate NGRID construction has been 90% completed.

2020 Energy Efficiency Program Roll Out

Pete Dion suggested the Board consider including windows in the revised WMGLD incentive program, as the Mass DOER Home MVP Program (Home Energy Market Value Performance) includes windows that meet the 2017 Energy Star Most Efficient criteria with an insulation U-factor of 0.20 or lower. Discussion ensued and it was decided to include windows in the revised WMGLD program.

Commr. Boettcher stated that going forward he would like to see the breakdown of the different types of rebates & incentives being issued, as well as, the data on the items being replaced (make, model, approx. age). He also informed the Board that Pete Dion had let him know that NEST is becoming problematic with demand response programs managed by MMWEC. There have been no issues to date with Ecobee and Honeywell Smart thermostats working with MMWEC's demand programs. Language may be incorporated in our marketing material that states, that if a customer wants to participate in a demand management program in the future, they may want to consider an Ecobee or Honeywell Smart thermostat.

Commr. Kallay inquired if we were restricting incentives for heat pumps based on whether it was ground or air source. It was clarified that there is no restriction on source. It was also noted that the rebate/incentive will appear as a bill credit on the customer's WMGLD account. It was agreed that WMGLD will move forward in creating marketing materials for the new program.

2020 Goals and Objectives

Commr. Courcy and Commr. Chase met with Pete Dion on Thursday, November 15, 2019 to conduct a follow-up meeting regarding the 2020 Performance Goals & Evaluation. Goals were reviewed and most determined as ongoing.

Pete Dion identified that the Quannapowitt Parkway development will not be next year considering the site is unoccupied.

He also stated that WMGLD will replace two older transformers with pad mounts and the switch gear between them at the McGrail substation. Burns substation will not be eliminated at this time. Work will continue, which will help with the global 4kV conversion.

Discussions have commenced with Steve Maio, Mike McCarthy, Dave Polson, and Joe Conway to establish guidelines for the installation of the Verizon 5g installation in town.

Commr. Kallay suggested to add the EV infrastructure work as well as, the donation of the 2017 Nissan LEAF to the Town under the major items not covered section.

Pete Dion discussed that WMGLD is anticipating direct orders from Dynamic Risk in reference to the NTSB safety recommendations and implementation.

He also stated that Grade 2 leaks will be finished in 1st or 2nd quarter of next year. The goal for grade 3 leaks is to bring the average of 85 down and will set a percentage goal for 2020-year end.

WMGLD is in discussion with the Town on the Greenwood School solar project, if this does not come to fruition WMGLD will start another initiative in this realm.

Mark Cousins, Finance Manager discussed the incentives financing proposal from Wakefield Savings Bank as 1% off their home equity rate with WMGLD paying the closing costs. He is still in talks with Wakefield Coop.

Commr. Kallay mentioned that the Greenwood School solar project may be further out than expected, and perhaps another municipal building such as the water pumping station may be considered at this time.

Operations Manager, Dave Polson suggested that he could schedule a meeting with the Facilities Director for the Town to discuss further options.

New Business

2020 Meeting Schedule

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2020 Meeting schedule and agreed upon the dates.

Strategic Plan Topics for 2020

Commercial Energy Efficiency Program

Pete Dion stated that he will roll out a commercial program early next year and present a detailed proposal to the Board in January 2020 for review and discussion.

Low Income/Elderly Rates/Energy Efficiency/Assistance

A further philosophical discussion will follow in February-March to consider the best approach to this multi-layer topic.

Commr. Boettcher stated that perhaps we can look at grants that may offer assistance for energy efficiency to those that would qualify for fuel assistance, so they may improve their home's energy efficiency and perhaps no longer require fuel assistance due to the home's increased energy efficiency.

Commr. Kallay added that if we were to receive the grant the first 3- 4 months would be used to conduct a social vulnerability assessment. (MVP) She also said that the Board would have to consider how deep do we go in identifying this segment and how do we pair our funding with the Town to coordinate services to these individuals.

Commr. Boettcher commented that might be the concept of Lead, Assist and Enable. WMGLD may not be leading these initiatives but perhaps assisting or potentially enabling certain portions of the initiatives.

Portfolio Makeup for the next 3- 5 years

Commr. Courcy expressed his concern that after reviewing the strategic plan & reports published last year it appears WMGLD falls short in identifying and addressing its portfolio makeup and its carbon footprint. He stated in the spirit of strategic planning he is not looking to put a date or specific time on it. It is to enter a discussion to see if we can bracket some targets. So perhaps adding it on the agenda for discussion over the next several months of next year.

Commr. Kallay said that she is interested in what the solutions are and the opportunities for each including costs and benefits and does it have any other attributes to note. All these choices that we have in the toolbelt plus we'll have demand response and be able to compare the different options and decide how to prioritize using them. She would like to see what a municipal solution would look like and what makes it different and unique.

Any other matter not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Commr. Boettcher stated that he feels the other Board members may appreciate a tour of the GIS and AMR system. He commended the staff on the work that they have done on this project.

Commr. Kallay also mentioned that she is interested to see what customer data fields are available in our customer service database.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:06 p.m. by Commr. Courcy and seconded by Commr. Boettcher.

Vote: Unanimously in favor of adjournment.