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Peter D. Dion, General Manager

Thomas Boettcher, Chair
Jennifer Kallay,
Secretary
Sharon Daly
Elton Prifti
John J. Warchol

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

October 1, 2025

IN ATTENDANCE: Commrs., Chair Thomas Boettcher
Jennifer Kallay, Secretary
Sharon Daly
Elton Prifti
Jack Warchol

Peter Dion, General Manager
Mark Cousins, Finance Manager
Dave Polson, Engineering and Operations Manager
Joe Collins, Business Analyst
Olivia Tully, Business Analyst
Sara Eriksen, Facilities and Procurement Manager
Sylvia Vaccaro, Minute Secretary

PLACE: **480 North Ave., Wakefield, MA
& Zoom Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER:

Commr. Boettcher called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. He also advised the meeting was being recorded.

TOWN COUNCIL LIASON:

Not present

Public Comments

None

CHAIR REMARKS:

Commr. Boettcher thanked the Department for their participation in Wakefield's Town Day celebration. He also congratulated WMGLD on the installation of the generator and switch gear at the Energy Park. He reminded the Board that WMGLD's Open House will be on Thursday, October 9th from 4-7 pm with a dedication of the Kenneth J. Chase Community Solar Project at 6 pm. NextZero, Abode, and the Environmental Sustainability Committee will be in attendance to connect with customers. Commr. Boettcher requested the December 10th Board meeting be rescheduled. It was decided that the December meeting be scheduled for December 18th.

COMMISSIONERS REMARKS:

Commr. Daly stated that her team at National Grid is going to take a field trip to the Energy Park on Thursday, October 16th at 10am. It was noted that representatives from LightShift Energy will also be in attendance. She thanked Pete and Dave for coordinating this event.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of September 3, 2025, was minutes before the Board for approval.

A motion to accept the September 3, 2025, minutes as amended was made by Commr. Kallay and seconded by Commr. Prifti.

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

Old Business

Project Updates

Energy Park

Pete stated that the generator and switch gear were delivered in September. Milton CAT is onsite performing the interconnection and prep work for the generator. The hope is to begin testing the unit by the end of the month with the expectation of being fully functional by the end of the year. Pete noted that it will be available for peak management even if the microgrid controls are not completely installed. Mark added that the long-term financing of the Energy Park through MMWEC was progressing smoothly. The borrowing will be just under \$9 million and once completed the funds will be used to replenish the operating cash of the Department and pay for remaining Energy Park costs.

Public Power Week Open House

Olivia stated in addition to what Commr. Boettcher mentioned earlier there will be activities for the kids, such as a coloring table, face painting and touch a truck. She also said that there will be some raffles and light refreshments from Inspire Café. Olivia noted that the new Day in the Life of a Lineman video will be playing on loop during the Open House. The video was played for the Board to preview.

Board Discussion of Heat Pump Rate

Joe shared the draft tariff sheet with the Board. Commr. Boettcher inquired if a calculator could be added to the website so that customers could see what their bills would look like if they switched to the Heat Pump rate. Joe said he will talk to Jeff Morris, IT Manager about this. Commr. Daly thanked Commr. Kallay for her analysis on the Heat Pump rate. Commr. Daly added that we should make the terms more explicit. No fossil fuel means no gas cooking or hot water. Pete stated that there would be an educational piece on the rate as well as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS). Commr. Warchol commented that the contract term for this rate states that it can be terminated at any time upon notice. It does not state that the customer could switch back at any time. Joe said that the contract would be reviewed in three years. Pete remarked that staff will review the terms and propose alternative language. Discussion ensued and it was decided to eliminate the details on the frequency of review from the tariff and incorporate that language in the FAQs. Pete said that he can forward the revised tariff sheet to the Board by the end of this week and requested final Board review and comment by next Friday, October 10th. If the Board agrees to the revised tariff sheet, a hearing could be held at the beginning of the next Board meeting.

New Business

Facilities and Procurement Overview – Sara Eriksen

Sara provided the Board with the following overview of WMGLD's fleet inventory as well as maintenance projects and bids:

Fleet Inventory

Passenger Vehicles

- (4) Hyundai Santa Fe – Plug-In Hybrid
- (2) Ford Lightning –Full EV
- Ford 250 – Gas (Needs to be able to plow)

Service Vans

Substation – Gas (This will be our next replacement to a Full EV)

Gas Van – Gas
Gas Van – Full EV
Gas Van – Full EV

Heavy Duty Vehicles

WMGLD has seven Bucket Trucks. One is a Plug-In Hybrid and WMGLD has two more to replace existing fossil fueled vehicles on the way. One will be arriving in the 1st Quarter of 2026 and the second one in the 2nd Quarter of 2026.

WMGLD purchased a new 2025 Dump Truck and retired the 1997 Dump Truck.

WMGLD also retired an extra heavy duty gas vehicle as a trade-in with the purchase of a new Ford Lightning.

WMGLD will be installing two (2) dual Level 2 Charging Stations outside to accommodate our transition to more Plug-In vehicles for the Fleet. Another Dual Charging Station will also be installed inside in preparation for our two new Plug In Hybrid Bucket Trucks. The Wakefield Ave./McGrail substation will be adding another single charger in 2026.

Facility Maintenance and Projects

2024- The inside of the building has been repainted.

2025-WMGLD had our Air Duct Cleaning of all associated HVAC Ductwork. Our HVAC is noticeably running more efficiently.

2026- Plans to paint the interior of the Garage.

2026-Our next upgrade is to replace the carpeting through the first floor office.

Long Term Bids and End Dates

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| • Emergency and Permanent Paving | February 2026 (with option to extend) |
| • Vegetation Management (with option to extend) | April 2026 (with option to extend) |
| • Vegetation Management Utility Excavation and Landscaping Services | June 2026 (with option to extend) |
| • Mailing Services for Billing | August 2026 (with option to extend) |
| • Janitorial Services | September 2026 (annual contract) |

- Underground Utility and Excavation December 2027 (with option to extend)
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MEAM Annual Conference

Pete noted that the most important point that was discussed was the Governor's Affordability Bill. Representative Mark Cusack of Braintree, who is also the Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy for the House was unable to attend the meeting. Representative Cusack had stated that he wanted the municipals to provide suggested language revisions for the areas of concern. He is very municipal friendly. Pete noted that he and Mike Cloutier, Middleton Electric, Joe Sollecito, Mansfield Electric, and Jane Parenteau from MEAM have been meeting with Representative Cusack and our lobbyist TSK to review and provide edits to this bill. Our request is to take the municipals out of the individual sections that we are listed in and create a new section just for municipals. The bill process is a two-year cycle and we are only six months into the first year, so this will be a long process.

Any other matter not reasonably anticipated by the Chair.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commr. Kallay at 8:14 pm and seconded by Commr. Daly

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.