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Jennifer Kallay , Chair  
Elton Prifti , Secretary  
Sharon Daly  
Thomas Boettcher  
Lili Allen

Peter D. Dion, General Manager

## **WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT DEPARTMENT**

### **BOARD OF GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**May 13, 2026**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Commrs., Chair Thomas Boettcher  
Jennifer Kallay, Secretary  
Sharon Daly  
Elton Prifti  
Lili Allen

Peter Dion, General Manager  
Mark Cousins, Finance Manager  
Dave Polson, Engineering and Operations Manager  
Joe Collins, Business Analyst  
Olivia Tully, Business Analyst  
Mike Capraro, 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman  
Mike McCarthy, Legal Counsel  
Sylvia Vaccaro, Minutes Secretary

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

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Commr. Boettcher called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He advised the meeting was being recorded.

#### **Members of the Public**

None

#### **Town Council Liaison**

Not present

**CHAIR REMARKS:** Commr. Boettcher welcomed Commr. Allen to the Board. He mentioned the MMWEC conference was both informative and timely. He stated that the information presented at the conference about forecasted loads of data centers was conservative. He also said that the Board will be reorganized tonight and enjoyed his tenure as Chair.

**COMMISSIONERS REMARKS:** Commr. Kallay noted that the Massachusetts Light Commission Association (MLCA) has an upcoming meeting on May 28, 2026, during which a presentation for new commissioners will be held (Commissioner's 101). The June 25, 2026 presentation will be by the Public Utilities Risk Management Association (PURMA).

She mentioned that Commr. Jean-Jaques Yarmoff from Marblehead had submitted on behalf of Marblehead Municipal Light Department (MMLD) a proposal to Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to study economics and business models for networked geothermal in MLP territories. It was accepted, and MAPC has a grant for it from Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for this work. A virtual kickoff will be held on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 2pm. He will be reaching out to MLPs to see if anyone is interested in joining this call and learning more about potential roles for different MLPs should they be interested and a timeline and scope. Pete said that WMGLD also applied for, with MMLD, a grant from Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MACEC) on a similar topic.

## **Secretary's Report**

Approval of April 2, 2026, Minutes before the Board for approval.

**A motion** to approve the April 2, 2026, minutes was made by Commr. Kallay and seconded by Commr. Prifti.

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

Approval of April 7, 2026, Minutes before the Board for approval.

**A motion** to approve the April 2, 2026, minutes was made by Commr. Kallay and seconded by Commr. Prifti.

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

## **Old Business**

### **General Manager's Report**

Pete provided an overview of recent activities.

- 100 new housing units coming online in Wakefield this year
- Gas dead main work was completed

- There was a customer issue with paving a private way following gas, water, and sewer work. WMGLD will be coordinating with the DPW. This will be added to the issues section next month.
- WMGLD participates (along with the Boylston and Marblehead MLPs) in all of MMWEC's generation projects (including Stony Brook and Peabody gas peaking plants). This has saved WMGLD ratepayers 2.1 million dollars this winter. \$436,000.00 was saved by utilizing the Peabody peaking plant.

## **Project Updates**

### **A. Energy Park**

Pete stated that the project is currently in the testing mode for the microgrid. The microgrid needs to be working properly so the Northeast Metro Tech School (NEMT) can obtain their occupancy permit. Full load testing will begin next week. He noted that the timing of the transfer has worked properly so far. He explained that the system must transition from grid-following to grid-forming inverter mode when supporting and supplying power to the high school, and that the speed of that transition is critical. He also noted that if the battery is discharged and unavailable, they must ensure the generator starts quickly and comes online properly. He stated that all these coordination issues are currently being worked through and that Vinny McMahon, Dave Polson, and PLM have spent a significant amount of time onsite and are doing a great job. He added that they currently anticipate meeting their targets. He also stated that full-load testing is planned for next week, when a load bank will be brought in to conduct testing under load conditions. Commr. Prifti inquired on the delivery date of the switchgear. Dave said that it is being delivered on May 18<sup>th</sup> and will be installed after the load testing. Pete mentioned that the MLPs from Hull and Hingham recently toured the Energy Park.

## **Law Enforcement's Use of Utility Poles**

Counsel Mike McCarthy explained that the Massachusetts Tort Claims Act provides liability immunity to the Board and WMGLD when exercising discretionary policy functions, and that this situation would fall within that category. He noted that the Board would not be exercising direct control over the cameras, as that responsibility would rest with the police department. He further explained that the Tort Claims Act generally caps liability at \$100,000. In addition, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 164 governing municipal light plants provides further protection similar to those afforded by non-profit directors, including an aggregate liability cap of \$20,000 for claiming arising from a single incident. He stated that, under these facts and circumstances, he strongly believed the Board would enjoy immunity related to the operation of the cameras on the poles. Commr. Kallay inquired if Counsel McCarthy was familiar with

proposed legislation or rulemaking regarding pole attachment, referencing language on page 37 of the board packet concerning a joint rulemaking by Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) to update Massachusetts utility pole attachment regulations. Counsel McCarthy responded that he had not reviewed any proposed or new regulations but would be happy to look at them. He added that, in general, the governing statutes would take precedence over any regulations. Pete mentioned that an MMWEC subcommittee is working on comments on this proposed regulation making sure that public utilities are protected.

## **Large Load Policy/Rate discussion**

Pete suggested that the Board invite the new Town Council Liaison to the next meeting to begin engaging in discussions with the town about large loads. He added that Joe found a conference at Boston College in the early fall that the two of them plan to attend because it focused specifically on this topic. He noted that the issue of large loads is currently on everyone's mind and continues to evolve, but from the Board's perspective, the key next step is identifying the liaison, inviting that person to a future meeting, and beginning discussions about what a potential policy might look like while also involving the town. Commr. Allen added that Everett, Lowell, and Malden all have moratoriums on data centers and inquired about who was our largest customer in that area and what their peak load was. Pete stated that we have a unique opportunity because we have some capacity and are able to design a policy that will attract a potential data center that would be beneficial to the ratepayers and not overwhelm our system capacity. He also mentioned that WMGLD's largest customer is going to be closing up shop soon.

## **New Business**

### **APPA National Conference**

Pete mentioned that the APPA National Conference is being held in Boston this year. The agenda was shared with the Board. He stated that there are options for commissioners to attend one day or all three days. Pete said that if any of the commissioners are interested in attending any part of it, please look at the agenda and let him know, as plans need to be finalized soon. He said members of the staff will attend at different times throughout the event, so WMGLD will be there for specific sessions and events. He noted that WMGLD will be hosting a tour of the Energy Park sponsored by Lightshift on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board Reorganization**

**A motion** to nominate Commr. Kallay as Chair and Commr. Prifti as Secretary was made by Commr. Daly and seconded by Commr. Prifti.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

**A motion** to nominate Commr. Allen as WMGLD representative on the Energy Sustainability Committee was made by Commr. Daly and seconded by Commr. Prifti.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

### **Draft Schedule on Goals/Objectives Reporting**

Commr. Kallay clarified that the request is not necessarily for additional mid-year reviews, but rather for an estimated schedule identifying when specific goal-related items or deliverables are expected to come before the Board throughout the year. She noted that in prior years, the Board typically conducted a mid-year review in September largely because there are usually no meetings in August. Pete stated he will pencil in updates to future agendas.

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

**A motion** to leave public session and enter Executive Session to discuss Employee Association Affiliation and General Manager Compensation and return to public session for the sole purpose of adjourning was made by Commr. Boettcher at 7:32 pm and seconded by Commr. Prifti.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

### **Executive Session**

Employee Association Affiliation  
General Manager Compensation

**A motion** to leave executive session and return to public session was made by Commr. Boettcher at 7:56 pm and seconded by Commr Prifti.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

### **Adjournment**

**A motion** to adjourn was made by Commr. Boettcher at 7:57 pm and seconded by Commr. Kallay.

**Vote:** The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.