

## **Wendell Municipal Light Board (MLB) Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025 6:30 pm**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** MLBoard - Robert Heller, Laurie DiDonato, Lou Leelyn; MLP Manager - Ray DiDonato.

Meeting called to order 6:35 pm

**Minutes** - Approval of March 11th minutes. Robert made a motion to approve. Laurie seconds. Motion passed.

Robert conveyed information to Michael Baldino about the BEAD grant and is waiting for follow-up.

### **MLP Manager Interviews:**

A plan was made to try to ask the same questions of each candidate and cover applicants' knowledge/familiarity with budgets, spreadsheets, municipal finance, and online meetings. Also get some feel for their organization skills and ability to learn new things.

Ray Stone -

- Understood process of the build as experienced through Christine H.
- Currently serves on Board of Assessors , past town work included WRATS supervisor
- takes vacation often in summer and for a month in winter.
- Past experience included dealing with custom cars, real estate management, policy work in government program
- strengths include quick learner, good on the computer, gets along with people.

Renee Lazaras -

- Past work included paralegal for 20 years for both big firms and solo practitioners.
- Currently working full-time remotely for MBTA in public records department
- Tasks include procurement for new developments, billing and accounts receivable, working with vendors and contracts.
- Her time is flexible with remote work, even though working full time. Available to start immediately.
- Comfortable with Excel, Zoom..
- Fast enthusiastic learner

The Board decided to have a brief meeting in a week, April 15th, 6pm on zoom, to discuss candidates. Lou will reach out to candidates and let them know and that we'll be in touch if we need more info.

### **Manager Report**

- Preventative maintenance for generator has been done

- Spring ride-out with Whip City is getting set up
- Pole rental bill from National Grid has still not come- Ray contacted them about it.
- Short discussion on future rate decreases. Ray feels like we should wait to reduce the rate for a while. Laurie likes the idea of having a target stabilization fund/reserve number to determine whether we reduce the rate. One thing to note, our starting rate was based on a projected customer number (265) that we have exceeded significantly (364).
- Ray has learned that the reserve rolls back into retained earnings which was not expected - we thought it would always be available to us. This year we have \$90K in retained earnings, so we can put that in reserve, and the past reserve amount will go back into free cash. The reserve seems like it has the same utility as our emergency budget line. Reconsider a stabilization fund for the future.
- Erin has updated the budget format so it is DLS compliant.

**Operations-** 364 bills that went out for March.

**Board member potentials** - none yet.

**Next meeting-** April 15th - 6:30pm - zoom

Adjourned 7:36pm