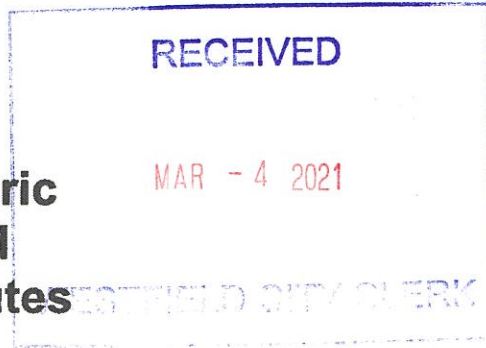


**Westfield Gas & Electric
Municipal Light Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2021**



Location: Gas & Electric Operations Center, 40 Turnpike Industrial Rd. Conference Room, Westfield, MA

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Roman stated that in accordance with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Municipal Light Board will be conducted via remote participation. The notice for this meeting invited members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting to do so by calling in telephonically to any of the numbers provided in the meeting notice. This virtual meeting will be audio recorded and, per the WG+E MLB Video Policy, the recording will be available on the WG+E website within one week. The Chairman asked if anyone, other than the Municipal Light Board, was recording the meeting. Hearing none the Chairman welcomed the public that may be listening to the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL was taken as follows:

Present: Ward #1 Commissioner, Kevin M. Kelleher
Ward #2 Commissioner, Ray Rivera
Ward #3 Commissioner, Dawn Renaudette
Ward #4 Commissioner, Francis L. Liptak
Ward #5 Commissioner, Joseph B. Mitchell
Ward #6 Commissioner, Robert C. Sacco
Appointed Commissioner, A. Edward Roman

Absent:
Present: 7 Absent: 0

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

V. REPORTS FROM THE GAS & ELECTRIC:

A. Action Required Items

- a) **General Manager Selection.** Chairman Roman opened the meeting for discussion regarding the candidates for General Manager that had been interviewed and noted that WG+E had 4 qualified candidates and, among those, 3 very qualified candidates for the position. Commissioner Mitchell wanted to clarify that for someone to be selected as General Manager they needed 4 votes from the MLB. With 4 candidates all 4 would be considered nominated so there is no need for nominations. Considering there are 4 candidates, it was suggested that on first round of voting the individual receiving the lowest number of votes get dropped from next round of votes. Commissioner Sacco agreed. Commissioner Roman indicated that 3 are outstanding candidates but one does not seem to be a fit for the WG+E. He further stated it is a very difficult decision due to each of the finalists being highly qualified. Commissioner Mitchell noted the number of candidates under consideration went from 54 to 18 to 6 to 4 and the final 4 all are good candidates. Commissioner Sacco thanked all of them for applying for the position and also stated all were good candidates and the MLB is now faced with a very difficult decision. Commissioner Kelleher noted that one could make an argument for or against each of the candidates. Commissioner Rivera indicated he has received feedback from non-commissioners and doesn't want to make a rash decision and may consider input from the employees. Commissioner Rivera made a motion to delay the decision until next week. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Liptak indicated the MLB represents the employees and it is the MLB's decision. Commissioner Rivera stated that since it is such an important decision, it can't hurt to receive additional input for consideration. Commissioner Mitchell indicated it is a major decision and each MLB member represents the ratepayers and those in their respective wards. Employees don't have a say in the decision, it's the duty of the MLB to make the decision. Commissioner Renaudette indicated she had received text messages and phone calls from people, some of whom she doesn't know and she's unsure if a delay wouldn't make the decision easier or harder. Commissioner Sacco noted that some Commissioners are ready to make a decision and some need a little more time. Typically, the MLB has allowed its members sufficient time to make such a major decision. The magnitude of this decision is such that he's willing to wait for other Commissioners to get to a point that they're comfortable making the decision. Commissioner Renaudette indicated she had no objections to a delay. Commissioner Rivera stated more time would be beneficial. After discussion by a 4-3 vote it was:

VOTED: To recess and delay the decision on the General Manager position until next week, with a meeting on Thursday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m.

The MLB continued its discussion on process. Commissioner Renaudette indicated a discussion of the candidates is needed before a vote. The Chairman indicated that each MLB member would have an opportunity to speak but is not required to speak. Further, he recommended there would be no opportunity for rebuttal, rather than have

opposing views voiced in a discussion he recommends each can make a statement then move forward. Commissioner Sacco stated there should be discussion about the candidates prior to the vote. He and Commissioner Mitchell recommended each Commissioner have the opportunity to speak should they wish to. When it becomes time to vote, each MLB member will pull a random number to determine the order of voting. Once the voting is completed, the Chairman will contact the successful candidate. Commissioner Sacco indicated the vote would be to hire a candidate subject to successful contract negotiations. Commissioner Renaudette noted that the current Manager's retirement date is fast approaching and the successful candidate may have to give their current employer a 4 week notice, so the MLB should not delay too long to allow for an orderly transition. Manager Contrino indicated his current retirement date is March 19th, but he is willing to work with the MLB to allow time to make its decision and time to assist in the transition. Commissioner Mitchell wanted to clarify that if someone has 3 votes and two have 2 votes, the candidate having 3 votes would move on to the next round and the MLB would vote on those with 2 votes to determine which of those 2 moves on. After the selection is made the MLB will go into Executive Session to discuss strategy as to contract negotiations. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will receive a draft copy of a proposed contract. The MLB will meet with that candidate on Wednesday, February 24th, at 6:00 p.m. to commence contract negotiations in Executive Session.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

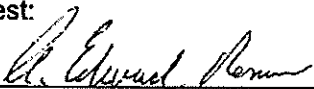
On the motion of Commission Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell it was unanimously:

VOTED: To adjourn the regular meeting of the Municipal Light Board meeting.

Chairman Roman declared the regular session portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD.

Attest:


A. Edward Roman, Chairman

Documents presented at February 12, 2021 meeting - None