

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Board's office located at 1700 Eaton Drive in Grand Haven, Michigan and electronically via live Zoom Webinar.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairperson Westbrook.

Present: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook.

Absent: None.

Others Present: General Manager Rob Shelley, Secretary to the Board Danielle Martin, Operations and Power Supply Manager Erik Booth, and Dan Deller as Technical Support.

24-14A Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to add item 4A "Declare Vacancy and City Clerk Announcement" to the meeting agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

24-14B Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the amended agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Period

Jeffrey Miller, 1120 S Harbor Drive, commented on the level of public attendance at a recent City Council meeting. Miller encouraged the Board to begin its meetings at 7:30 pm.

24-14C Chairperson Westbrook announced the receipt of a September 18, 2024 resignation letter from Director Hendrick. Per the BLP bylaws, the Chairperson is accepting the resignation and is declaring the vacancy. The Board Secretary will provide notice to the City Clerk. Westbrook thanked Hendrick for her service on the Board.

City Clerk Maria Boersema announced the receipt of Andrea Hendrick's resignation from the Board on September 18, 2024. Applications to fill the vacant seat will be accepted until 5:00 pm on October 4, 2024 and interviews will be held the week of October 7. Council's appointed Director will hold the seat until the next regular election in November 2025.

24-14D Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes:

- Approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024 Special Board Meeting

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- Approve the minutes of the August 15, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- Approve the minutes of the September 5, 2024 Special Board Meeting
- Receive and file the August Financial Statements, Power Supply and Retail Sales Dashboards
- Receive and File the August Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Dashboard
- Receive and File the MPPA Energy Services Project Resource Position Report dated 8/30/2024
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$3,041,610.38 from the Operation & Maintenance Fund
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$684,190.00 from the Renewal & Replacement Fund
- Approve confirming Purchase Order #23190 to Landis & Gyr in the amount of \$30,000 for the AMI annual software subscription
- Approve confirming Purchase Order #23175 to Premier Line Services in the amount of \$46,014 for fiscal year 2025 switchgear cleaning

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

24-14E Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the Purchase Orders. The Purchase Orders include:

- Purchase Order #23161 to CDW in the amount of \$15,390 for replacement computers for the control room
- Purchase Order #23172 to Van Kam in the amount of \$12,393 for a dump trailer
- Purchase Order #23176 to Irby in the amount of \$15,652 for nine metering PT's for BLP stock
- Purchase Order #23185 to Alpine Power Systems in the amount of \$6,800 for 2024 battery maintenance
- Purchase Order #23191 to Verdantas in the amount of \$75,000 for engineering services for the Beechtree & Marion rebuild project
- Purchase Order #23192 to Verdantas in the amount of \$87,000 for engineering services for the Waverly & Eastern rebuild project

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- Purchase Order #23193 to Verdantas in the amount of \$67,000 for engineering services for the Hospital & West Spring Lake Road rebuild project

The dump trailer associated with Purchase Order #23172 is not the low bid but is recommended by staff due to higher quality. GRP Engineering is now Verdantas.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

24-14F Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the ESP Amended and Restated Power Purchase Commitment Authorization as presented.

The Board approved an agreement in 2023 for an energy storage project, but the developer is facing challenges. MPPA and the developer have agreed to terminate the previous agreement and replace it with a firm capacity transaction at the same price. Staff recommends approval as the proposed solution eliminates development and operating performance risk and comes with greater financial support. As a ten year commitment, this will be presented to the City Council.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

24-14G Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the Progressive A&E proposal as presented.

If approved, this proposal will begin the engineering phases for improvements to be made to the Eaton Drive facility. The main components of the project include adding a locker room for our field workers and building a yard facility to replace lost storage space, exploring options to increase the Board room size for Board and all employee meetings, and adding an office space for HR functions.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.
Motion carried.

24-14H The BLP previously obtained an air permit for the proposed project on Harbor Island. We were granted an 18-month extension on the permit, which is now expiring. Staff recommends the Board take no action, which would allow the permit to expire. If the Board desires local generation at another location in the future, we can apply for a new permit.

Chairperson Westbrook reminded the Board that survey results indicated 82% of residential customers, and 76.5% of commercial/industrial customers desire local generation. He agreed Harbor Island is not the right spot but feels local generation should be revisited in the future.

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24-14I Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to authorize staff to spend up to \$30,000 to purchase a single drum puller replacement.

The engine failed in the machine we own, which was a 1990's model. Staff is requesting pre-authorization to act if a replacement becomes available at auction. This is not a budgeted expense.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

24-14J The General Manager provided an update on the recent power outage and improvements that have been made since.

The BLP's website saw 100,000 hits during the event and crashed from the level of traffic. Our website host has adjusted settings to be able to handle this level of traffic in the future. The Outage Management website was working during the outage, but customers were not able access it via the BLP page. A slimmed down "launching pad" which requires less data has been created and can be deployed in place of the regular website if traffic levels are very high. When the power went out, our internal phone system rebooted. The battery back up system has been upgraded to prevent the lapse in availability that the reboot caused. The text message alert system is expected to be deployed soon. This will help reduce website and phone traffic and will help customers stay informed of their outage status.

No formal action taken.

24-14K Senior staff will be attending the MMEA fall conference October 1st through 3rd in Port Huron.

No formal action taken.

24-14L Director Crum, supported by Director Welling, moved to approve the Employment Agreement for Rob Shelley.

Roll Call Vote:

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Welling and Westbrook; Opposed: None.

Motion carried.

24-14M The Board discussed Governance Training Lesson 8 "Developing a High Performance Board".

Director Knoth commented on the benefits of Board members possessing a diverse skillset. He appreciated the trainer's opinion that the best recruitment strategy is to be a well run Board with a good reputation.

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Director Welling commented on how long it can take to get up to speed as a new Board member. He feels any potential conflict of interests should be evaluated when the Council considers who to appoint to the vacant seat.

Director Crum feels the Board treats all customers the same, but would like to explore ways we could allow for input from representatives living outside of the City.

Chairperson Westbrook agreed the best recruitment plan is to be a well run Board. He felt his new member orientation process was a good experience and appreciated the informational binders and tours. He would like to see Board members get back to attending conferences.

No formal action taken.

24-14N The Board will watch Governance Training Lessons 9 and 10 for discussion at its October meeting.

No formal action taken.

24-14O Other Business

The General Manager reminded the Board that an anniversary celebration luncheon for Board members, employees and retirees is being held September 26th.

The General Manager congratulated BLP employee Trent for his promotion into the Apprentice Lineworker Program.

Public Comment Period

Jeffrey Miller, 1120 S Harbor Drive, encouraged the Board to hire a Public Information Officer to help get the BLP's story out into the community.

Adjournment

At 6:47 PM by motion of Director Knoth, supported by Director Welling, the September 19, 2024 Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Danielle Martin
Secretary to the Board

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