BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA-UPDATED
November 17, 2026– 5:30 PM
1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, Michigan
REO Town Depot

BWL full meeting packets and public notices/agendas are located on the official website at https://www.lbwl.com/about-bwl/governance.

1. **Roll Call**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Pennies for Power Check Donation Presentation**

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2026

5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
   Members of the public are welcome to speak to the Board on any agenda subject. Anyone wishing to comment on any matter not on the agenda may do so immediately prior to adjournment. Each speaker will have 3 minutes to speak to the Board.

6. **Communications**
   a. Electronic mail from Darryl Mangles re: Customer Bill
   b. Electronic mail from Rina Risper re: BWL Fleet Vehicle
   c. Electronic mail from Alison Peeler re: Customer Bill
   d. Electronic mail from Elaine Fischoff re: Renewable Energy

7. **Committee Reports**
   a. Committee of the Whole Meeting (November 10, 2026) Sandra Zerkle, Chairperson
   b. Finance Committee Meeting (November 10, 2026) Tony Mullen, Chairperson

8. **Manager's Recommendations**

9. **Unfinished Business**

10. **New Business**

11. **Resolutions/Action Items**
    a. Retirement Plan (RPC) Resolution
    b. Information Technology (IT) Policy Resolution
    c. 2027 Regular Board Meeting Schedule Resolution

d. FY2026 Audited Financial Statement of the Enterprise Fund & Pension Fiduciary Funds Resolution

12. Manager's Remarks

13. Commissioners' Remarks

14. Motion of Excused Absence

15. Public Comment

Members of the public are welcome to speak to the Board on any Board of Water and Light subject. Each speaker will have 3 minutes to speak to the Board.

16. Adjournment

Agenda posted on website/building 11-13-2026

2026 Board Meeting Notice/Schedule Posted in the Lansing State Journal 01-02-2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT

September 15, 2026

The Board of Commissioners met at the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. This meeting was publicly notified for 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson David Price called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Corporate Secretary, Lavella J. Todd, called the roll.

The following Commissioners were present: Chairperson David Price; Commissioners Beth Graham, Chris Harkins, Semone James, DeShon Leek, Tony Mullen, Dale Schrader, and Sandra Zerkle.

Corporate Secretary Lavella Todd declared a quorum.

Chairperson David Price asked Commissioner Harkins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Price announced that through this year's BWL Hometown Power 5K, the BWL raised over $15,000 for the Pennies for Power program and asked members of the 5K committee: Calvin Jones, Kim Wadaga, and David Luc, to join him at the podium to present the check for $15,551.98 to Andrea Rennells of St. Vincent de Paul.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Dale Schrader, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 28, 2026.
Action: Motion Carried.

Commissioner Harkins requested the minutes be corrected to reflect the accurate title from US Rep Angela Witwer to State of Michigan Rep Angela Witwer.

Motion by Commissioner Chris Harkins **Seconded** by Commissioner Tony Mullen to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 28, 2026 with the corrected title for State of Michigan Rep Angela Witwer.
Action: Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public Comment.

COMMUNICATIONS

Electronic mail from Carla Jones re: BWL Fleet Vehicle. *Referred to Management. Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Mary Patenge re: BWL Rate Increase. *Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Flo Barren re: BWL Rate Increase*. Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Jeff Keener re: BWL Rate Increase*. Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Savanna L. re: Requesting Call Back. *Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Daniel Gallant re: BWL Rate Increase. *Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Timothy Wagner re: Electric Mower Rebate. *Referred to Management. Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Nicole Kelley re: BWL Storm Restoration. *Referred to Management. Received and Placed on File.*

Electronic mail from Sally Ford re: Customer Bill. *Referred to Management. Received and Placed on File.*

Public Power Week Proclamation from Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Chairperson Price presented a communication received from Governor Gretchen Whitmer who has designated Oct 4-10, 2026 as Public Power Week in the State of Michigan. He proceeded to read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, public power utilities are non-profit, community-owned and operated utilities, regulated directly by the city and the customers they serve; and,

WHEREAS, 40 public power utilities operate in Michigan providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to nearly 300,000 homes, businesses, schools, social services, and government agencies; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan's public power utilities employ nearly 2,000 employees in roles from line workers to customer service representatives, who live, work, and give back to their communities serving as a valuable community asset; and,

WHEREAS, public power utilities contribute to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness; and,

WHEREAS, public power utilities provide the most reliable power in the state, ensuring that residents can depend on their utility when they turn on their lights; and,

WHEREAS, public power utilities save Michigan residents and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars each year; and,

WHEREAS, during the week of October 4-10, we recognize the people behind public power at our state's municipal utilities for their contributions to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim October 4-10, 2026 as Public Power Week in Michigan.

Chairperson Price announced that in Honor of Public Power Week, the BWL will be hosting the following events:

-Oct 5: 11:30-1:30 pm customer appreciation day in the HACO lobby
-Oct 6: Employee volunteer day (employees will clean up Woldumar Nature Center)
-Oct 7: 10:00 am BWL hosts Storytime at the downtown Lansing Library
-Oct 9: Kids coloring contest winner will be announced

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Chairperson Dale Schrader presented the Human Resources Committee Meeting Report:

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2026

Human Resources Committee: Dale Schrader, Committee Chairperson; DeShon Leek, David Price, Sandra Zerkle; Alternates: Chris Harkins, Tony Mullen

The Human Resources Committee of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Committee Chairperson Dale Schrader called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

The following members were present: Commissioners, DeShon Leek, David Price, Dale Schrader and Sandra Zerkle.
Absent: None.

The Corporate Secretary declared a quorum.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Commissioner DeShon Leek, **Seconded** by Commissioner Sandra Zerkle, to approve the HR Committee meeting minutes of May 12, 2026.
Action: Motion Carried.

2027 PA 152 Healthcare Premium Sharing Update
Dan Barnes, Director of Human Resources (DHR), presented the 2027 PA 152 Healthcare Premium Sharing Act. DHR Barnes provided three options to the Commissioners either comply with PA 152 and limit expenditures on healthcare cost based on a schedule of dollars provided in the Act using the Hard Cap as updated annually every April, limit expenditures on health care cost based on an 80/20 percentage split, requiring a majority vote; or exempt itself entirely from the Act and choose some other percentage of premium sharing, requiring a 2/3 vote. DHR Barnes stated that the resolution is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2027, and needs to be approved annually. DHR Barnes then provided an overview of the healthcare plan options available to BWL employees and the affordability provisions.

Commissioner Zerkle questioned if the BWL decided to opt out of PA 152 instead of using the 80/20 hard cap option, would BWL have to cut any benefits above the cap?

DHR Barnes stated that if the BWL opted out of PA 152, employees would be responsible for costs above the hard cap.

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Sandra Zerkle, to forward the 2027 PA 152 Healthcare Premium Sharing Resolution to the full board for consideration.
Action: Motion Carried.

Other
No other business.

Adjourn
Chairperson Dale Schrader adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dale Schrader, Chairperson
Human Resources Committee

Committee of the Whole Chairperson Sandra Zerkle presented the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2026

The Committee of the Whole of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1203 S Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners Beth Graham, Chris Harkins, Semone James, DeShon Leek, Tony Mullen, David Price, Dale Schrader, and Sandra Zerkle.
Absent: None.

Corporate Secretary LaVella Todd declared a quorum.

Public Comments

Elaine Fischoff, BWL customer and Lansing resident, praised the BWL for the 10 MW solar array project being established at the former Erickson plant. Fischoff also mentioned an upcoming public hearing on the coal ash pond remedy. She requested notice of meeting be included on social media, the BWL website, and distributed to the community prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Dale Schrader, **Seconded** by Commissioner David Price to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of July 14, 2026.
Action: Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) Update

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Scott Taylor presented the Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) update. Implementation of the new Liability Driven Investing is substantially complete with modest additional rebalancing occurring over time as additional liquidations from real estate investments occur. CFO Taylor also provided an update on the defined contribution 401(a) and Deferred Compensation 457(b) plans. He noted that participant agreements for each new investment option were signed by all parties and fully executed in August. A participant communication went out the last week of August and the scheduled transfer/availability date for the new funds will be October 9, 2026.

CFO Taylor then provided an Administrative Activity Update. Asset Consultant Group, the primary consultant for the DB and VEBA plan had a staffing update. Nathan Burk resigned from ACG in July, being replaced by Patrick Miller and George Tarlas who have been working with the RPC. CFO Taylor also provided an update on the VEBA Administrative Services Agreement Reimbursement. Based on sufficiency of funding and investment performance, the RPC approved the FY 2026 Q4 reimbursement from the VEBA plan to the BWL in the amount of $5,680,162.

CFO Taylor provided an update on the Nationwide contract. Nationwide presented an offer of revised pricing terms should the RPC choose to extend the contract prior to expiration at the end of the calendar year. The RPC reviewed the updated terms along with Captrust's recommendation and determined it would be in the best interest of the plan and participants to enter into a new five-year contract with Nationwide upon expiration of the current contract. The new contract is under review and expected to be executed by the end of September.

Safety and Health Policy Revision and Resolution

Dan Barnes, Director of Human Resources (DHR), provided an update to the Safety and Health Policy. Minor changes to the policy were presented to the Committee such as adding scope and purpose. DHR Barnes stated the policy serves as a guideline, along with the safety manual, on how the BWL operates safely within the community. The Safety and Health Policy Resolution was reviewed by BWL safety professionals and executive staff. DHR Barnes requested the Safety and Health Policy Resolution be forwarded to the full Board for consideration at the upcoming Regular Board Meeting.

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Semone James, to forward the Safety and Health Policy Resolution to the full board for consideration.
Action: Motion Carried.

Carbon Neutrality Program Results for Calendar Year 2025

Jennifer Binkley-Power, Manager of Energy Planning and Decarbonization (MEPD), provided an update on the Carbon Neutrality Program Results for Calendar Year 2025. The carbon neutrality programs consist of energy optimization programs, such as rebates, customer owned solar, electric vehicle charging, and demand response programs. MEPD, Binkley-Power went on to discuss the Hometown Energy Savers Programs, which includes residential home energy visits, appliance recycling, small business programs, commercial and industrial programs, energy education for K-8, and pilot programs.

Commissioner Zerkle asked if anyone can qualify for a Home Energy Visit?

MEPD, Binkley-Power responded the BWL targets income qualified homes, but any customer is welcome to participate.

MEPD, Binkley-Power stated in 2025 the department conducted 361 home visits, 297 of those visits being income qualified homes, with a total of $272,592 worth of energy saving measures installed. The BWL also provides appliance replacements as budget allows.

MEPD, Binkley-Power shared BWL has 2.5% energy savings compared to 2025 retail sales, 1% over the BWL target while remaining under budget. The energy optimization portfolio performance overall gross KWH saved was 54,849,332 with a budget of $3,339,774 spent. She then provided a list of prominent 2025 projects and the energy savings and incentives provided.

Commissioner Schrader asked if a landlord could request a Home Energy Visit?

MEPD, Binkley-Power confirmed landlords can request Home Energy Visits for households with a threshold of 80% AMI which is what most service agencies around Lansing use to define low-income.

Commissioner Mullen noted most of the savings are comprised of commercial and industrial customers and asked if there is a way to refocus BWL's advertisement on low-income families?

MEPD, Binkley-Power, responded the BWL works with multiple agencies to assist with advertisement to low-income households such as Habitat for Humanity, Capital Area Community Services, and Lansing Housing Commission. She also stated that due to new legislation starting in 2026, the BWL needs to increase its low-income focus because 25% of the portfolio budget must be spent on low-income customers by 2029 and BWL currently spends about 15-18% on low-income depending on the project year. MEPD, Binkley-Power reiterated low-income households are the majority of BWL's focus.

Commissioner Zerkle shared she has opted to receive her bill electronically resulting in a $5 savings, and asked how customers received program advertisement electronically?

Commissioner James confirmed that Commissioner Zerkle received a $5 saving when opting in to electronic billing.

AGM Shawa confirmed BWL customers may elect to opt-out of receiving a paper bill and receive a $5 per month savings.

MEPD, Binkley-Power, stated social media posts, email campaigns, as well as community events are utilized to provide program information to BWL Customers.

Commissioner Semone James asked if they or someone they knew wanted to take advantage of these programs, what they would do?

MEPD, Binkley-Power responded by sharing the BWL website contains phone number and email address for complete program information. She also noted events such as BWL resource fair, City of Lansing Resource Summit, and Southside Community Coalition.

MEPD, Binkley-Power stated the BWL is a part of Michigan Saves which is a dedicated network of authorized contractors as well as MEECA, Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association. The BWL was awarded the 2026 Utility of the Year award from MEECA.

MEPD, Binkley-Power, went on to discuss grants and other initiatives her department participates in. She also informed the Committee about customer-owned solar and noted that residential customer-owned solar has slowed down due to the fact that there is no longer a 30% tax credit for customers.

Commissioner Schrader confirmed the 30% federal tax credit for residential owned solar customers in 2025 was no longer available.

MEPD, Binkley-Power affirmed the 30% federal tax credit was removed with the creation of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

MEPD, Binkley-Power shared on the Electric Vehicle rebate program offered to commercial and residential customers.

Commissioner Harkins questioned if the changes at the federal level were affecting the Electric Vehicle programs?

MEPD, Binkley-Power responded there had not been a big impact on electric vehicles, as electric vehicle prices have come down.

MEPD, Binkley-Power went on to discuss BWL's demand response program where residential electric customers help BWL manage energy consumption during times of high demand or grid stress.

2026 Integrated Resource Plan Update

Jennifer Binkley-Power, Manager of Energy Planning and Decarbonization (MEPD), provided an update on the 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). An IRP is twenty-year plan to meet all customer energy demands at the lowest cost while ensuring affordability, reliability, and sustainability and that is not an operations plan, but a roadmap. MEPD, Binkley-Power stated the reason for an IRP is to assist with long-term planning but that it is also stated in BWL Policy A1-09 that it is the best practice to perform one every 5 years. The new legislation updates the renewable energy targets and creates a Clean Energy Standard. Binkley-Power, MEPD, stated the BWL must be 50% renewable by 2030 and 60% by 2035 with a 100% clean energy standard by 2040. MEPD, Binkley-Power went on to discuss what qualified as clean energy which, consists of nuclear, gas with carbon capture sequence, solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, landfill gas, and energy storage.

Commissioner Mullen asked for an update on carbon capture and its feasibility by 2040?

MEPD, Binkley-Power responded that carbon capture is not feasible on a large scale and that the technology is not reliable at this time.

GM Peffley also responded that he believes they will transition to small nuclear reactors or fusions. He stated there are other technologies, such as batteries, that are advancing quicker.

MEPD, Binkley-Power then provided a visual of where the BWL needs to be to hit Clean and Renewable Energy Compliance targets and discussed the process of completing the IRP

starting with community engagement through open houses, online surveys, and key stakeholder meetings. Next steps were to gather data and put it into the Ascend Analytics Power Simm model.

MEPD, Binkley-Power provided five different scenarios for the 2026 IRP along with a summary of the results. She then provided a 20-year outlook graph for each scenario and sensitivity and what would be needed to achieve each of those scenarios and sensitivities. She stated that scenario 1.1 is the recommended course of action that allows the BWL to continue to meet the growing customer demand for energy at the lowest cost while complying with all state and federal laws. MEPD, Binkley-Power, stated the BWL will start a 3-5 year cycle for completing IRP's to account for changing technology and polices. She also stated the department plans to study and monitor the evolution of qualifying technologies like nuclear, carbon capture, and battery. Binkley-Power stated that scenario 1.1 recommends adding 280 MW of wind resources before 2035. She also stated the BWL should evaluate Renewable Energy Credit (REC) purchases. Lastly, she stated the BWL should continue with local solar array planning, design, and development. Binkley-Power stated the full IRP will be published later this week on their website.

Commissioner Leek asked if there was any update on battery storage achievements?

GM Peffley responded that a few options were being explored such as a grant to place batteries at DEP but were put on hold due to tariffs. GM Peffley stated BWL and LG are in early talks on partnering to test their batteries at a BWL site. He also stated that the BWL continues to monitor this technology.

Commissioner Leek asked how long a battery will store energy before it needs to be returned to the grid?

GM Peffley responded a battery can hold storage, but they discharge over 4 hours max. He stated that the energy planning department is regularly looking into updates. He then requested Kellee Christensen, Director of Strategic Planning and Development (DSPD) provide more details.

DSPD, Christensen stated the department adamantly studies battery technology. She stated they have discovered batteries that hold up to 10 hours of storage that are just coming online. She reiterated that the entire department is constantly reviewing new technology and keeping an eye out on any updates. She also stated that is an example as to why they may need to do another IRP sooner than later.

GM Peffley added he thinks it is important that DSPD Christensen's department provide a detailed plan on how to keep the BWL compliant and that wind is the key.

Commissioner Harkins shared the level of detail and sensitivity work is tremendous and he is very impressed. He praised MEPD Binkley-Power for the presentation and noted that he appreciated that she mentioned this is a road map not an operation's plan.

DSPD, Christensen thanked Commissioner Harkins for his praise and reminded the Committee that the full IRP will be available on their website later this week.

Commissioner Schrader expressed his appreciation for the department and the work they are doing. He stated he looked forward to the bright future ahead.

Commissioner Zerkle also thanked MEPD Binkley-Power and noted that her department is very much in the eye of the public right now. She also stated she asked GM Peffley to include a note to the City Council that environmental issues are an important consideration and priority for the Board of Commissioners.

Environmental Compliance Overview

Lori Myott, Manager of Environmental and Reliability Compliance Department (ME), presented an Environmental Compliance Overview. She stated the compliance department consists of 17 staff members dedicated to various regulatory functions. ME, Myott stated the team includes engineers for reliability compliance, chemists in the laboratory for drinking water and other analyses, technicians for field work and emergency response, and environmental compliance staff focused on regulations regarding air, wastewater, waste, drinking water, land, and dam safety.

ME, Myott provided an overview on compliance versus compliance culture. She stated a strong compliance culture is shared across the entire organization. ME, Myott stated that a strong compliance culture is important to mitigate risk, improve operation efficiency, reputation, and employee engagement. ME, Myott provided high level citation of all the environmental regulations. She stated that environmental regulations are necessary to protect natural resources and public health. ME, Myott stated that our operations are regulated by state, federal and local regulations. She also stated that some regulations require permits for facilities. ME, Myott also provided a list of some of the required formal plans that are developed to meet requirements.

ME, Myott presented an example of a significate project plan for Erickson coal combustion residual impoundments. She walked the committee through the roadmap stating that the BWL completely removed the impoundments in June 2024 to eliminate further groundwater risks at the source. Currently there are 42 monitoring wells providing data used to provide data on groundwater conditions and the team is currently evaluating potential remedies for ensuring groundwater meets regulatory standards. ME, Myott then provided a list of some upcoming regulatory changes.

GM Peffley discussed the difficulty of managing regulations and operations plans when federal regulations change due to shifts in political climate.

ME, Myott stated that having strong regulatory expertise in-house helps the company navigate these changes.

Commissioner Schrader commended ME, Myott on the presentation.

NERC Compliance Update

Caitlin Chavez, Supervisor of Reliability Compliance (SRC), presented a Reliability Compliance update. She stated that mandatory reliability standards were established following the 2003 blackout and the Energy Policy Act of 2005. FERC selected The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to develop, oversee, and enforce comprehensive reliability standards. Non-compliance with these standards can result in penalties of up to one million dollars per day per violation. She stated that standards are divided into operations and planning functions, and critical infrastructure protection (CIP) for cyber and physical security.

SRC, Chavez provided a NERC functional model for review that included compliance functions, reliability service functions, and planning and operating functions. She stated that as of today the BWL is registered for all blue functions presented because it owns transmission, distribution, and generation assets. She stated that a recent NERC change created a category 2 generator owner and operator status for entities with facilities with large-scale limits. BWL currently has no generation that falls under the new Category 2 requirements.

SRC, Chavez explained how BWL's compliance scope grew significantly from 27 standards in 2008 to over 52 operations and planning standards and 13 CIP standards today. She stated the number of individual requirements has increased from 57 in 2008 to approximately 220 for operations and 46 for CIP today. NERC periodically rewrites standards, such as consolidating eight transmission operations standards into four in 2017.

SRC, Chavez stated that in 2024 an operations and planning audit resulted in zero findings for BWL's transmission operations registration. Last summer, a CIP audit resulted in five findings, primarily related to documentation and control-based checklists. She stated they anticipate another operations and planning audit in the fall/winter of 2027 and another CIP audit in fall/winter 2029.

SRC, Chavez, presented some upcoming NERC projects. She stated new standards for inverter-based resources like wind, solar, and battery storage are becoming effective this October. She also stated NERC is developing a new registration category for computational loads to manage the rapid growth of data centers. A new CIP standard regarding internal network security monitoring will become effective in October of 2028. This new standard

required continuous tracking and logging of all electronic communications within protected perimeters.

Commissioner James commented that the Environmental Department was doing a great job.

Commissioner Harkins asked about the BWL's relationship with NERC?

SRC, Chavez responded by providing a detailed overview of the NERC Standards Development Process.

Commissioner Schrader commented on the numerous compliance and regulations BWL must follow and thanked SRC Chavez for her presentation.

Commissioner James requested to discuss the upcoming Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. She stated September 15th was not a standard committee meeting day, and stated her employer has her traveling on non-standard days. Commissioner James stated that if meetings were to continue to be scheduled on non-standard days, that she may not be able to attend, and asked if this would be reoccurring?

Commissioner Mullen responded the reason for the Finance Committee Meeting being held on September 15th was due to the amount of time required to conduct the HR, COW and Finance Committee Meetings on the same night. He stated this will not be a regular occurrence.

Commissioner James requested an excused absence from the Finance Committee Meeting on Tuesday September 15, 2026 as she will be unable to attend due to work travel.

Other

No other business.

Adjourn

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Zerkle, Chairperson
Committee of the Whole

Finance Committee Chairperson Tony Mullen presented the Finance Committee Meeting Report:

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026

Finance Committee: Tony Mullen, Committee Chairperson; Beth Graham, Chris Harkins, Semone James; Alternates: David Price, Dale Schrader.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters – REO Town Depot, located at 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Finance Committee Chairperson Tony Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked the Acting Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners Beth Graham, and Tony Mullen; Alternates: Commissioners David Price, and Dale Schrader. Also Present: Commissioner Sandra Zerkle.
Absent: Commissioner Chris Harkins and Semone James.

Acting Corporate Secretary Lilly Speers declared a quorum.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham, to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes of July 21, 2026, as presented.
Action: Motion Carried. The minutes were approved.

YTD Financial Summary
Manager of Accounting, Finance, and Planning(MAFP) Ying Yan presented the Preliminary Financial Summary for FY2026, reporting that days cash on hand are in a good position at 218 days compared to the target of 170 days. She noted that retail revenue is 1% over budget due to stronger commercial sales volume, she also stated BWL is 14% over budget for wholesale revenue. MAFP, Ying stated that the BWL finished FY2026 with $36,954,830 net income which is $12,171,661 over budget, finishing the year strong. She then presented the O&M and Capital Budget. MAFP, Ying stated the CIP Capital Budget was $35,024,627 over budget driven by the DEP overhaul on CTG2 and 3. The new energy budget was $63,541,066 under budget due to the DEP Battery Project and Watertown Solar Project that was put on hold. Return on assets outperforms the 4.02% target at 4.39%.

Commissioner Mullen questioned if the values provided in the Financial Summary were for the budget for the whole FY2026?

MAFP, Ying responded that the Financial Summary covered the full 12 months for FY2026. (inaudible)

Commissioner Schrader asked for clarification on what caused the new energy capital budget to be under budget?

MAFP, Ying responded that the difference in budget to actual was due to the delay in the DEP Battery Project and the Watertown Solar Project.

GM Peffley stated the DEP Battery Project is on hold due to tariffs.

MAFP, Ying continued to present the Financial Summary ratios, she stated metrics outperformed industry benchmarks except Debt to Total Assets ratio due to the outstanding revenue bonds. She stated this ratio will decrease as the BWL pays off those bonds. Employee headcount is under budget by 57 employees, with 26 full-time temporary employees supplementing the vacancies. MAFP, Ying presented the payroll data and benefits cost. Benefit costs came in 1% over budget due to higher healthcare claims. MAFP, Ying also shared some financial highlights for the first month of FY2027.

Commissioner Mullen questioned why the health and Rx benefits cost were over budget when the expectation was there would be a cost savings with the new union contract and all bargaining employees switching insurance plans?

MAFP, Ying responded that this is due to timing. We continue to process runout claim payments for bargaining-unit employees under their previous plan. The cost savings has been reflected in the FY2027 budget.

FY2026 Environmental Compliance Audit Results

Director of Internal Audit(DIA), Elisha Franco presented an update on the FY2026 Environmental Compliance Audit Results. The scope of the audit was to evaluate whether BWL has an effective process for maintaining compliance with applicable environmental regulations and internal sustainability policies. The audit was carried out in compliance with the Global Internal Audit Standards. DIA, Franco, reviewed the scope exclusions that were not reviewed in the audit. DIA, Franco, reviewed three main objectives with this environmental audit. She reviewed who was responsible for environmental compliance, if the BWL was compliant with all regulations, permits and environmental laws, and any internal controls, reporting and training.

DIA, Franco presented the four audit themes including establishing compliance oversight, sustainability and compliance agreement, decentralized compliance management, and

documentation and knowledge transfer. The audit identified five areas of improvement, all being process improvements. DIA, Franco reviewed the five improvement recommendations with the committee along with the solution.

Commissioner Schrader asked the consequences of the audit findings?

DIA Franco responded by providing an example of a process improvement audit finding stating some documentation storage just needed a better process, no consequences were needed.

DIA, Franco, stated the overall opinion rating of the audit was sufficient with no critical or high-level risk areas identified. Controls are generally effective, with minor improvements needed and limited risk exposure. DIA, Franco, stated the full report was provided via email in July, and a hard copy was available in tonight's information packet.

FY2026 Internal Audit Strategy Update

DIA, Franco, presented the FY2026 Internal Audit Strategy Update which includes a plan for improving the Internal Audit Department as well as the results of the departments FY2026 Performance Review. DIA, Franco stated the department made meaningful process in FY2026 while identifying a few areas of improvement. DIA, Franco provided an internal audit cycle graphic on how the department works alongside the IIA Global Internal Audit Standards. She presented the Internal Audit Department Strategy which is a multi-year forward looking roadmap that outlines key strategic initiatives Internal Audit will pursue. She stated the strategy is organized around three areas Governance, Methodology, and Technology. DIA, Franco went into detail on the Internal Audit Departments progress for each strategy areas and where the department is headed in FY2027. For the technology strategy, the department plans to use Optro to assist in document retention which will expand Optro analytics usage in FY2027. DIA, Franco also stated she will be attending an Internal Audit AI Bootcamp which includes research into how AI is currently being used in internal audit functions, ways it can support work and how to use AI appropriately. She stated she is working with BWL management to understand how the BWL plans to utilize AI and what guidelines are in place.

Commissioner Schrader asked DIA Franco to elaborate on what Optro Analytics was and its functions.

DIA, Franco responded that Optro is a function within the Optro software system to analyze data. She stated you can build the build your own parameters within the program and Optra will review the data you have collected and search for those parameters.

Commissioner Price asked if the Optro Program was AI?

DIA, Franco responded there is currently not AI capabilities within Optro that have been purchased. It is available for an extra cost, but BWL does not have that functionality currently.

DIA, Franco continues with the Internal Audit Strategy plan for FY2028-FY2029 which included an External Quality Assurance Assessment. She presented a FY2027 roadmap with a detailed plan for the first 30, 60, and 120 days of FY2027.

(inaudible)

FY2026 Quality Assurance and Improvement Program (QAIP) Update

DIA, Franco presented the FY2026 Quality Assurance and Improvement Program Evaluation. QAIP is a continuous program designed to evaluate and improve Internal Audits effectiveness and value to the organization. It includes three key components, ongoing monitoring, periodic self-assessment, and External Quality Assessment. Ongoing Monitoring Evaluates Internal Audit's effectiveness and value through annual performance measurements evaluations. Periodic Self-Assessment evaluates Internal Audit's conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards through a comprehensive self-assessment. External Quality Assurance Assessment evaluates Internal Audit's conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards through an independent assessment conducted at least once every five years.

DIA Franco reviewed the 16 performance measures that were tracked in FY2026. There were 14 measures that were on track, 1 measure at risk, and 1 measure off track. DIA Franco reviewed the performance measures in detail stating that management accepted the audit recommendations, audit hours remained close to budget, training requirements were met, and high-risk areas were covered.

Commissioner Mullen questioned the use of AI in the data analytical tools the Internal Audit Department uses. He questioned the strain AI might have on operations due to the amount of data it will be able to review. He stated a lot of people are not comfortable with AI and the more the BWL discusses how they plan to use AI the better. He stated that Optro might not have AI capabilities, but it could in the near future. He stated AI is the future, and he would like to discuss sooner than later how involved with AI the BWL plans to become.

GM Peffley stated that management and the Internal Audit Department work alongside each other to review the scope of the audit findings and an acceptable timeframe for those audit findings to be solved.

DIA Franco stated she plans to attend the Internal Audits IA bootcamp to understand how others are using AI to assist their companies as well as work with management and review their AI parameters for Internal Audit use of AI. She also stated the Optro does have an AI capability, but they have functionality turned off.

Commissioner Schrader stated he understood AI could create a burden, generating more data to analysis but that people can be trained on how to effectively use AI.

Commissioner Zerkle stated that it is important to stay updated on AI as it can be very dangerous.

GM Peffley responded that the Information Technology(IT) Department at the BWL reviews and studies AI and continues to provide updates on how it affects the company and its employees.

DIA, Franco, continued to review the At-Risk and Off-Track performance measures. The average post-audit feedback was 77.76% compared to the 80% target. For the Data Analytics Usage measure, none of the six FY2026 audits utilized data analytics tools. Opportunities to use Optro Analytics were considered during development of the FY2027 Internal Audit Work plan.

DIA, Franco presented the Internal Audit Department Maturity Level provided but the IIA. It consists of five ratings from ineffective to optimized. This is an overall view of how established the department's processes are. For FY2026 the Internal Audit Department was rated partially effective, in FY2027 it was rated Effective, and for FY2028 the target is sustainable.

Commissioner Price questioned when the Internal Audit Department will have an external review?

DIA, Franco, stated the external review for the department will take place in FY2028.

Internal Audit Status Report

DIA, Franco presented the Internal Audit Status Report which included the completion of the FY2026 Billing Audit and FY2026 Environmental Audit. The FY2027 Accounts Payable Audit is currently in progress with 30 procedures to perform. DIA, Franco, presented a budget update on hours worked by Plante Moran and BWL Staff on the two complete audits. She provided an issues status update with 7 open issues.

DIA, Franco provided an update on the FY2027 audit work plan with accounts payable kicking off in July. She noted that due to BWL reorganization the Enterprise Risk Management audit and Vendor Selection audit may switch in the schedule. DIA, Franco provided an update on the department with the AI Boot Camp coming up in FY2027.

Board Approval of July/August 2026 Business Meal Expense Forms

Committee Chairperson Tony Mullen presented four Business Meal Expense forms for review and approval consideration by the Finance Committee, as opposed to the designated Commissioners, due to a delay in the established processing procedure.
(Inaudible)

Acting Corporate Secretary(ACS), Speers added per BWL Business Meal Expense Policy, approval for the purchase of business meals must be signed off by the Finance Chair and one Finance Committee Member prior to the business meal date. Due to the changing of the chairperson, the forms were not able to be signed off prior to the event. The Corporate Secretary is requesting the Finance Committee review and approve the forms to be signed off post business meal date.

Commissioner Price commented that double approval seems redundant since the Board approves the budget for the Office of Corporate Secretary in the beginning of the year and must sign off on each meal approval as well as the Monthly P-Card Report.

(inaudible)

Commissioner Mullen stated that receiving approval for business meals is a common practice.

ACS, Speers stated that the Business Meal Expense Form Policy is required by all BWL Employees.

Commissioner Mullen stated that if this is the BWL Policy then the Board of Commissioners will follow it.

(Inaudible)

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham, to allow the July/August Business Meal Expense Forms to be signed off post business meal.
Action: Motion Carried. Business Meal Expense Forms will be sent to the designated individuals for required signatures.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner Schrader followed with comments on the multiple layers of approval in place.

AGM Shawa stated that the Business Meal Expense Policy was put in place to support responsible meal costs. . She stated when these changes were brought to the Board and they opted to follow the same policy as BWL Employees. AGM Shawa confirmed only one

signature is required for Business Meal Expenses and if they wanted to change the process they could.

Commissioner Mullen stated it's important to follow the BWL Business Meal Expense Policy. However, requiring two signatures on the Business Meal Expense Form seems unnecessary.

Commissioner Graham states she thinks the business meal expense form should still require two people.

(inaudible)

DIA Franco stated it would be beneficial to have a process and timeframe for Finance Chair approvals during the transition from one Finance Committee Chair to the next.

Commissioner Zerkle stated that they did not want to overcomplicate the situation.

AGM Shawa clarified that pre-approval for Business Meals is required for employee meal purchases only to substantiate that the employee is giving up their personal lunch period for a business reason.

Commissioner Mullen reiterated the need to table this discussion until November. He also stated he wanted to discuss the documents regarding Proposed Finance Committee Governance Review Form that were sent by Commissioner James to the Finance Committee. He stated he does not believe he has the time as Committee Chairperson to complete the requested documentation. He stated he assumes the BWL is already following most of these requests. He stated he would like to discuss these requests in November as well.
Commissioner Zerkle stated the forms were unnecessary and the time to complete said requests would be costly.

Commissioner Price stated that he believes Commissioner James was requesting additional documentation in response to a few public comments during the public rate hearings.

(inaudible)

Commissioner Mullen suggested making a public disclaimer stating the Board is prohibited from responding to public comment(s) at Committee and Regular Board Meetings, though there are hours of review and discussion.

Commissioner Price stated the review, and discussion happens during the committee meetings.

Commissioner Schrader reiterated the requested documentation should not be required and stated he wished to discuss this further with Commissioner James present.

(inaudible)

Commissioner Price stated, as chairperson, during the voting of the resolutions he will add a disclaimer that the corresponding resolution was reviewed during the specific committee meeting.

Commissioner Mullen reiterated that the Business Meal Expense Approval Form signature requirements and the requested additional Finance Committee documentation suggested by Commissioner James will be discussed in more detail at the November Finance Committee Meeting.

Other

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham for excused absences for Commissioners Chris Harkins and Semone James.
Action: Motion Carried.

Adjourn

Chairperson Tony Mullen adjourned the meeting at 6:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Mullen, Chairperson
Finance Committee

MANAGERS RECOMMENDATION

There was no managers recommendation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2026-09-01

PA 152 Health Care Premium Sharing

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Snyder, on September 27, 2011, signed legislation known as the "Public Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act," Public Act 152 of 2011 (the "Act") limiting the amount public employers may pay for government employee medical benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Act took effect January 1, 2012 and applies to all public employers including the Lansing Board of Water & Light; and

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

1) Section 3 - "Hard Caps" Option - limits a public employer's total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
2) Section 4 - "80%/20%" Option - limits a public employer's share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body; or
3) Section 8 - "Exemption" Option - a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desire to maintain premium sharing at 20% for all active employees for medical benefits effective January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners by a majority vote has decided to adopt the 80%/20% option as its choice of compliance under the Act; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Lansing Board of Water & Light elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the 80%/20% option for the medical benefit plan coverage year January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

Motion by Commissioner Dale Schrader, **Seconded** by Commissioner Chris Harkins to approve the PA 152 Health Care Premium Sharing Resolution at a Board meeting held on September 22, 2026.
Action: Motion Approved.

RESOLUTION 2026-09-02

Revised Safety and Health Policy

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners ("Board") adopted a Safety and Health Policy ("Policy") on January 26, 2006 (Resolution 2006-01-10) as a result of an audit of the BWL's safety culture performed by the National Safety Council; and

WHEREAS, the Policy recognizes the BWL's responsibility for providing a safe working environment for its employees, contractors, customers and the general public and to that end established a comprehensive safety and health program that:

- Complies with all governmental rules and regulations.
- Promotes safety awareness among all employees through training.
- Provides safety equipment necessary for the safe completion of a task.
- Develops and implements a continuous improvement process to identify and eliminate unsafe conditions or acts.

WHEREAS, this overarching policy based on the 2006 Resolution is now embodied in the BWL Safety and Health Program ("Program") that is detailed in the BWL Safety Manual and related Program materials, which need to be modified from time to time to adapt to new circumstances and regulatory changes; and

WHEREAS, the BWL's culture at its core has always revolved around safety and the importance of it being observed as job one, which has resulted in the Program being nationally recognized and awarded by entities like the American Public Power Association; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the need for prompt updates to the Program, Management recommends that the Board expressly delegate authority to make such operational changes to the Program, including its underlying operational policies and Safety Manual, to the General Manager pursuant to the General Manager's role and responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the BWL; and

WHEREAS, BWL staff has conducted a review of the Policy and determined updates are appropriate for clarity and to bring it in conformance with BWL's policy format to include a scope and purpose.

THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve and adopt the revised Safety and Health Policy.

Motion by Commissioner Sandra Zerkle, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham, to approve the revised Safety and Health Policy at a Board meeting held on September 22, 2026.

Action: Motion Approved.

MANAGERS REMARKS

Golf 4 Charity took place on August 14, 2026, and raised $80,000 for charities, including $25,000 donated to Pennies for Power, Magic of Literacy, and Boys & Girls Club of Lansing. $5,000 was donated to LINKS incorporated.

BWL 5K was held on August 8, 2026.Over 200 runners attended and raised over $15,000 in sponsorships to benefit Pennies for Power.

We hosted the Quarterly Engagement Meeting with Lansing Township on August 25, 2026 as required by the revised City Charter to interact with customers on BWL matters

The next Quarterly Engagement Meeting will be hosted with Delhi Township on October 4.

We hosted Citizens Academy for a tour of Dye Water Plant and a presentation about BWL on 9/1.15 people attended. Citizens Academy provides an opportunity for City of Lansing residents to engage and learn more about the role the city plays in their everyday lives and teach residents about local government operations.

Our 19th year of 1st STEP program kicked off. Student and parent orientation to learn about opportunities available was on 9/9.Our Open House will take place on October 10, 2026, for Students and Parents to learn more about the program.

Staff attended Councilmember Kost's constituent meeting on September 12, 2026, to talk about tree trimming work planned for an area in the ward.

Staff held a Celebration of Diversity panel on September 17, 2026, to celebrate our rich diversity. The panel featured 3 employees who shared their diverse experiences.

Some staff members are attending the upcoming MMEA Fall Conference.

COMMISSIONERS REMARKS

Commissioner Mullen shared that the committee members review and discuss agenda items at length in committee meetings and due to such lengthy discussions, commissioners do not have a need to have further discussion during Regular Board Meetings.

Commissioner Zerkle agreed with Commissioner Mullen's statement.

MOTION OF EXCUSED ABSENCE

There are no excused absences.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Smalligan thanked the BWL for publishing their 2026 Integrated Resource Plan. He stressed the importance of regular, public engagement as the plan moves forward. He also

referenced the BWL rate increase, stating that the City of Lansing owns an energy utility to benefit society. He stated CAFE will make a $100 donation to Pennies for Power every time a commissioner votes no on a BWL rate increase.

Dominique Step, a BWL customer, asked the board what they plan on doing outside of the rate increase, to help families that are struggling. She stated that customers are in a serious situation, and people are struggling to pay their bills.

Natasha Akinson, BWL customer, stated that people are struggling with housing, groceries, and gas and the BWL does not support the working class with the rate increases. She also stated she understands there are resources to help low-income families, but those resources only go so far.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson David Price adjourned the meeting at 5:56 PM.

LaVella J. Todd, Corporate Secretary
Preliminary Minutes filed (electronically) with Lansing City Clerk 09-24-26
Approved by the Board of Commissioners: 11-17-2026
Official Minutes filed (electronically) with Lansing City Clerk: 11-XX-2026

Submitted on Mon, 10/05/2026 - 10:43 AM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Select a Commissioner:
All Commissioners

Name
Darryl Mangles

Street Address
Lansing, Michigan. 48906

Message
About a year ago, my power mask came down Lansing Board of lot water and light gave me a loan to get that fixed that loan made my bill go from $150 a month over 300. I've been struggling all year to get that paid off now I'm down to have it paid to only $160 left of that final $3000 loan and because I've struggled for the year my power's been shut off twice now I'm down to $160 left to pay and they've billed me $775 for a deposit. I've been struggling to pay the amount already and board of water and light solution is to add $775.to what I already can't pay I'm asking if that $750 deposit be removed because as soon as my bill for the power mask coming down is caught up the loan is paid off my bill will go back to normal and we won't have any issues going forward so that deposit is just a barrier to me. Thank you 😬

Submitted on Fri, 10/16/2026 - 12:11 PM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Select a Commissioner:

All Commissioners

Name
Rina Risper

Street Address
Lansing , Michigan. 48906-4723

Message
Dear Commissioners,
I first want to thank Dale Schrader for helping us get the streetlights restored on W. César E. Chávez Avenue between Seymour and Washington. They had been out for some time, and our neighbors can now feel safer with the illumination they provide at night. This is a very walkable neighborhood, and functioning streetlights make a meaningful difference.
However, an incident this morning raised a serious concern about pedestrian safety. On October 16, at approximately 9:37 a.m., I was walking my dog when I observed a Lansing Board of Water & Light truck traveling south on Washington from Willow to W. César E. Chávez Avenue. The truck's license plate number was 104-438.
The driver appeared to be traveling quite fast as he approached the stop sign. He did not come to a complete stop, instead rolling through the intersection at high speed and making a left turn onto W. César E. Chávez. I shouted for him to stop. He looked directly at me and continued driving. He was wearing a cap so I could not see his face, Had I not been alert and exercised caution, I fear I could have been struck or killed. With considerable construction underway in the area, drivers need to pay particular attention to pedestrians. As gas prices rise, more residents may choose to walk. Whether people are walking for transportation, exercise, or simply taking their dogs outside, they deserve to feel safe crossing neighborhood streets. Please review this incident and address it with the appropriate LBWL personnel. I would appreciate a response explaining how this concern will be handled and what steps will be taken to reinforce safe driving practices.
Thank you for your time and attention.
Sincerely,
Rina Risper

Submitted on Thu, 10/22/2026 - 10:40 AM
Submitted by: Anonymous
Submitted values are:

Select a Commissioner:
All Commissioners

Name
Alison Peeler

Street Address
Lansing, Michigan. 48910

Message
I am writing to you not just as a resident of Lansing, but as a live case study of a municipal utility and social safety net system that is fundamentally broken and actively endangering vulnerable citizens.
Just recently, my household was hit with an overwhelming financial cascade: turning 65 and transitioning into Medicare resulted in an automatic deduction of nearly $200 per month from my Social Security, while simultaneous policy changes resulted in my food assistance being cut off entirely. In a single month, our household took a hit of over $500. Because of this sudden, involuntary loss of income, I could no longer maintain our Board of Water & Light (BWL) payment plan. When I tried to work with BWL to adjust or reset the plan, I hit a rigid wall: because of past plan defaults, they refused to even talk to me about setting up a new one. The only reason my utilities weren't shut off—leaving my husband, who relies on electrical medical equipment for his feeding tubes, in immediate life-threatening danger—was due to direct intervention by a City Council member. Without that extraordinary intervention, we would be staring down a shutoff, exorbitant reconnection fees, new security deposits, and the ultimate risk of property red-tagging right at the onset of winter. Even with a temporary reprieve, the secondary safety net has completely collapsed. I have been trying to work with St. Vincent de Paul for emergency gap funding, but their funds are entirely exhausted. They are telling vulnerable residents to call back every day to see if money appears—a grueling, hopeless cycle for anyone in crisis.
This is entirely unacceptable. Residents should not have to rely on personal relationships with elected officials or win a daily lottery of depleted charity funds just to keep life-saving power running. I urge the City Council and BWL leadership to treat this as an urgent systemic crisis and implement immediate reforms:

1. Eliminate permanent "lockout" rules on payment plans when residents experience documented, involuntary income cliffs (such as benefit cuts or Medicare deductions).
2. Establish automatic, standardized protection holds for households with registered medical equipment, removing the bureaucratic hurdles that threaten lives.
3. Create a coordinated, transparent safety net pipeline between the city, utilities, and local emergency agencies so families aren't abandoned to dead ends.
We need a system that prevents crises, rather than one that compounds them through administrative penalties.

Submitted on Mon, 11/16/2026 - 5:30 PM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Select a Commissioner:
All Commissioners

Name
Elaine Fischhoff

Street Address
Lansing, MI. 48910, Michigan. 48910

Message
I applaud your increasing emphasis on renewable energy. I just wish you would acknowledge that there is a climate crisis, not just that Michigan law has set renewable standards.
Commentary
How the election results may have saved the planet
Dr. Martin Kushler
Dr. Martin Kushler
November 12, 2026 2:47 pm

The Michigan State Capitol, visible through wildfire smoke. July 16, 2026. | Photo by Katherine Dailey/Michigan Advance.

Among all the reasons to celebrate the wonderful midterm election results, I would particularly like to emphasize how they have literally created an opportunity to save mankind's future on this planet — that is, by stopping Trump's race toward climate destruction and allowing the United States to once again become a leader in positive climate policies. This could not be more timely. Let me explain.

First, some data on the extent of the climate crisis.

While the issue of climate change unfortunately received almost no attention during the election campaign (in part due to some dubious recommendations by campaign advisors for "climate hushing"), one might have still noticed the almost weekly occurrence of

climate-related weather disasters throughout the year … both in the U.S. and around the world.

The evidence that massive global climate change is happening is absolutely incontrovertible. Every year now brings new temperature records, and just this past October was globally the warmest October ever recorded. Atmospheric CO2 rating on Election Day (Nov. 3, 2026) was 428.84 ppm, continuing a pattern of record-high ratings (vs. about 280 ppm in "pre-industrial" times). CO2 ratings have now been climbing every year for decades, with trends increasing from less than 1.0 ppm/year in the 1960s to over 2.5 ppm/year in the 2020s.

Indeed, climate scientists are warning that Earth's "life support systems" are breaking down, and that "The climate emergency is already here." A new United Nations report concludes that we have already missed the original goal of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, with urgent and stringent cuts to greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., 18% by 2030 and 45% by 2035), we could limit the increase to a level of 1.7-1.8°C and return to 1.5°C by the end of the century.

This is where the crucial importance of the recent U.S. election comes into play. As the world's largest economy, the United States is positioned to have a massive influence on world policy and actions regarding climate. Hence the positive actions that President Biden took toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions were vitally important … and, in contrast, the immensely negative steps during Trump's second administration are tremendously damaging.

It is no exaggeration to say that if the U.S. continued Trump's recent path regarding climate-related actions, those urgent savings targets would be completely unfeasible. Indeed, Trump's actions to undermine climate policy and increase greenhouse gas emissions are so numerous and so extensive that it is not possible to summarize them all in one editorial. But here are a few examples.

In terms of international agreements, Trump not only has withdrawn (again) from the Paris Agreement, but also from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Domestically, Trump has pursued an incredible list of actions to support, finance and deregulate coal and oil interests, while also removing funding and blocking development of wind and solar energy projects. (Trump actually said in January 2026, “My goal is to not let any windmill be built.”)

This past September, Senators Schumer and Whitehouse released an extensive report detailing the dozens of ways that the Trump administration has rewarded the fossil fuel industry for its huge support of Trump’s presidential campaign. Some examples include:

26 senior officials across EPA, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) previously worked for fossil fuel or other polluting industries.
Trump weaponized his EPA, DOE, DOI, DOJ, etc., on the fossil fuel industry’s behalf — from canceling grants for renewable energy projects on false pretexts to leasing swaths of public land to fossil fuels.
Trump attacks clean energy to take out fossil fuel’s competitors: The Trump administration attacks fossil fuel’s competitors, especially wind and solar. More than $1.8 billion in taxpayer funds have been paid to companies to cancel wind projects, and over 160 projects are frozen.
Among the most consequential of Trump’s many actions is his rescinding of the “endangerment” finding by the EPA, that was the core basis for the government to be able to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

States can also be important leaders in advancing climate action. In that regard, the 2026 election is also very significant in that it produced five new states that now have Democratic “trifectas” (i.e., Democrats control the governorship as well as both chambers of the legislature). Michigan is one of those five states (the others being Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin).

The existence of Democratic trifectas has become very important, due to the unfortunate shift in the Republican Party under Trump to be against any pro-climate policies.

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The Michigan story in that context is very illustrative. Back in 2023, when Michigan had a Democratic trifecta, we passed a very significant legislative “climate” package. It established for the first time a clear state policy relating to climate change, as well as making some important additions to Michigan’s landmark renewable energy and energy

efficiency law (PA 295 of 2008).

When Michigan passed that climate policy package in 2023 (PA 235 to strengthen the renewable energy requirement and PA 229 to strengthen the utility energy efficiency standard), not a single Republican voted in support of either of those pieces of legislation. Since the Republicans captured control of the Michigan House of Representatives in 2024, not a single piece of climate-friendly legislation has been passed. Re-establishing a Democratic trifecta in Michigan and those other key states should provide excellent opportunities for advancing pro-climate policies.

Bottom line: We are at a crucial crossroads for the future of this planet. With these outstanding election results, we've been given an opportunity to reverse our current path toward a climate crisis. Among the many issues that our newly elected representatives need to deal with, let's hope that they make sure that one of the priorities is the climate.

Postscript: It is important to note that the primary policy solutions to the climate challenge … renewable energy and energy efficiency … are both cheaper than fossil fuels, and also create more local jobs. So saving the climate is also good economic policy.

Let's get to it!

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2026

The Committee of the Whole of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1203 S Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners Beth Graham, Semone James, DeShon Leek, Tony Mullen, David Price, Dale Schrader, and Sandra Zerkle. Commissioner Chris Harkins arrived at 5:38 P.M.
Absent: None.

Corporate Secretary LaVella Todd declared a quorum.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Semone James, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of September 1, 2026.
Action: Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

Public Power Contest Winner Recognition
Chairperson of the Board David Price presented certificates of recognition to three of the five Public Power Week Coloring Contest Winners: Kylan Crusoe, Jia Qi He, Reese Morgan, Sebastian Nardoni, and overall winner Malachi Reed.

Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) Update

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Scott Taylor presented the Retirement Plan Committee (RPC) update. Defined Contribution 401(a) and Deferred Compensation 457(b) successfully implemented and launched the replacement investment options. As of October 9, 2026, the new funds became available and the transfer of account balances from prior funds was complete. CFO Taylor provided an administrative update on the Defined Contribution and Deferred Compensation Plans. The new Nationwide contract was fully executed on October 2, 2026, and the new 5-year agreement becomes effective beginning January 2027. He noted that participants fees will reduce from $20 to $15 per participant per account per year.

CFO Taylor provided a general RPC update. Due to pending organizational changes, the RPC reviewed and voted to formally propose a charter update and membership resolution to be reviewed and forwarded to the full board for approval. Primary updates include replacing the Executive Director of Human Resources and the Manager of Accounting, Finance, and Planning with the appointment of an employee from the Human Resources department and the Finance department respectively, selected by the General Manager.

Commissioner Mullen stated as the charter stands the Board of Commissioners have a voting member and non-voting member on the RPC Committee but does not recall how it was determined who filled those roles.

Commissioner James stated it was a nomination that was voted on by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Mullen asked when those nominations took place.

Commissioner James could not recall the exact date of the meeting where those nominations took place but stated they were about two years ago.

Commissioner Mullen stated he would like the process of selecting the Board of Commissioners RPC Members documented somewhere. He stated its important to determine how often they are appointed and who gets appointed in a resolution.

Commissioner James stated the last internal auditor determined in a report how the RPC committee would be established and the process of selecting members for that committee. She stated the documentation should be available in that report as well as the resolution that was approved with it.

Commissioner Price stated that Commissioner James was correct. The positions on the RPC committee were determined after an audit report was conducted by the previous internal auditor. He stated that he and Commissioner James were nominated to the RPC committee at the same meeting that the report was given to the commissioners. He suggested the appointment of the Board of Commissioners RPC members could be reviewed annually at the organizational meeting when the other committee assignments are determined. He stated this change can be updated in the Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure.

Commissioner Mullen stated he liked this idea.

Commissioner James stated the current process for the Board of Commissioners RPC members that are appointed is they serve until they either resign or are no longer a member of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Zerkle asked if this process was in the Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure?

Commissioner James stated this process is not documented in the Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure but could be added.

Commissioner Price suggested only one Board of Commissioner appointee be on the RPC Committee. He stated no other appointee has a backup on the committee and that as a non-voting member backup member he rarely participants in voting.

Commissioner Harkins stated he is opposed to an even number voting committee, with the RPC Committee currently having seven members. He would not suggest removing one of the Board of Commissioner's appointees.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner Price stated the additional Board of Commissioner appointee to the RPC committee doesn't vote.

Commissioner Mullen stated the charter references that member would break a tie vote.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner Mullen stated the importance of documenting the process of appointing these members, regardless of what the process is. He reiterated his desire to have the process documented in the Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure.

Commissioner Harkins questioned how they would go about facilitating any changes to the appointment process going forward?

Commissioner Mullen suggested that Corporate Secretary LaVella J Todd provide the Board with the resolution that appointed the current Board of Commissioners RPC members to review. Then going forward in a few months, they can continue the discussion of documenting the appointment process.

Commissioner Zerkle stated that the Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedures are currently being updated and she does not want to overcomplicate the update process.

Commissioner James reiterated the importance of the RPC Committee and responsibility the committee has. She stated its importance that the Board of Commissioners has appropriate representation on the RPC Committee.

Commissioner Price agreed it is important to have a Commissioner on the RPC Committee.

Commissioner Mullen reiterated the desire to table discussion until they reviewed the current resolution.

Commissioner Zerkle suggested that after the resolution appointing the Board of Commissioners RPC members is reviewed to provide comments on the desired process changes to Corporate Secretary LaVella J Todd and she will relay them to the subcommittee updating the Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure.

Motion by Commissioner Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Leek to strike a second voting Board of Commissioner Member from the RPC Committee.

Commissioner Harkins disagreed with the removal of the second voting member and stated it would need to be removed from multiple places within the resolution.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner Price amended his motion to strike all references to a second voting Board of Commissioner Member from the RPC Committee.

Commissioner James questioned with the removal of the second voting member how would the committee break a tie vote? She stated, when necessary the role of the second voting member is to break a tie vote.

Commissioner Graham stated she believes they should keep the charter how it currently is and review the resolution appointing the members first.

Commissioner Price stated he does not believe there has ever been a need for a tie breaker.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner James stated that she thinks the RPC committee should keep its seven members. However, if there was a tie it could be brought to the Board of Commissioner for a decision.

Commissioner Schrader stated he thinks there only needs to be one commissioner on the RPC committee and if there was a tie to follow the same process as the city council and if a tie, the vote fails.

Commissioner Price liked the idea.

(Inaudible)

Motion by Commissioner Price , **Seconded** by Commissioner Leek to strike any reference to a second voting Board of Commissioner Member from the RPC Committee.
Action: Motion Failed.

Commissioner Zerkle stated she will work with Commissioner Price and Commissioner James to provide an update on this discussion and bring it back before the committee at a later time.

(Inaudible)

Motion by Commissioner David Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Semone James to approve the Retirement Plan (RPC) Resolution as it currently stands and forward it to the full board for consideration.
Action: Motion carried.

Information Technology (IT) Update

Chief Information Officer (CIO) Vern Myers provided an Information Technology (IT) Update. CIO Myers provided the IT Organization Structure as well we the Mission and Vision of the department. CIO Myers highlighted IT accomplishments including cost optimization, completion of the M365 Migration, Infrastructure modernized, and cyder risk management.

CIO Myers stated through financial stewardship the IT department was able to save $835K from their budget, exceeding the $500K target. This goal was made possible through circuit cleanup, storage expansion avoidance, vendor leverage, application rationalization, and ongoing discipline like licensing cleanup.

Commissioner Mullen asked for clarification on what upskilling reduced vendor reliance means?

CIO Myers stated that the IT department occasionally has to bring in vendors for skillsets that his department does not possess, but with ongoing training the department was able to eliminate some vendors where BWL personnel could be utilized.

Commissioner Harkins clarification on the $500K target savings and where the $835K saving would be reflected in the budget?

CIO Myers stated this savings directly impacts his IT department budget. However, with these savings there are still other uses inside his budget for this money as most software, technology, and systems flow through his budget.

Commissioner Schrader asked for clarification on the application rationalization and some examples of applications that were retired.

CIO Myers stated that BWL has initiated a comprehensive application review to assess whether all 300-plus applications currently in use are necessary and to identify any overlapping or duplicated functionality. He used Paperclip as an example.

CIO Myers continued his update discussing infrastructure improvements. He stated the IT department is always looking to increase resilience, capacity, and supportability. He went into detail regarding his departments plans to complete those goals including data center resilience, computer modernization, and operation visibility.

CIO Myers provided an update on the department's operating model for cybersecurity. The IT department monitors daily threats and vulnerability tracking as well as working with vendors to review potential threats. CIO Myers provided an in-depth update on the IT departments defenses to an attack chain. He stated an attack must pass through every stage. BWL only needs one control layer to interrupt progress and reduce business impact. He provided detailed examples of how the department continues to monitor every stage of an attack and how to prevent attacks. He noted no single control has to be perfect. Each independent layer is another opportunity to stop the attack before impact.

CIO Myers stated the IT department's current priority is their Data Center move. The move addresses current constraints while creating room for future compute, security and application growth. He stated reduction of locations, avoids a larger purchase, and the current UPS does not allow time for the generator to start.

(Inaudible)

Commissioner Schrader asked for clarification on UPS?

CIO Myers stated that means an Uninterruptible Power Supply. If the BWL were to lose power to the data center this move would allow for a UPS that will stay on long enough for the generators to kick on so that everything doesn't shut off.

Commissioner James stated it was akin to a battery.

(Inaudible)

CIO Myers provided an AI update. He stated the IT departments approach to AI separates opportunity from risk and aligns each workload to the appropriate environment. He went into detail on the departments next steps to prepare for AI which consists of securing the foundation, route workloads, and building an adoption. He stated the department has already completed two permissions and data access audits. He stated they are currently reviewing AI training for employees to accompany these new AI tools.

Commissioner James questioned if Copilot would be a part of a closed system with Microsoft365? And would there still be the threat of data being exposed in a closed system?

CIO Myers stated despite this being a closed system there are still additional configurations needed so that what Copilot calls work IQ is still protecting the data being shared while having an internet search functionality. CIO Myers stated the IT department also worked with Legal to make sure they were covered from a privacy perspective with Copilot.

Commissioner James stated that she uses Copilot in her employment at the State or Michigan and believes it is safe as it is a closed system. She asked for an estimated timeline for the implementation of Copilot for BWL employees.

CIO Myers stated he did not have an exact date. He stated he has a pilot group within IT testing the tool and that they are working with the training department to build the champions who will help expand the training throughout the company. He hopes to have Copilot rolled out to champions within the next month.

CIO Myers provided an example of another CIO whose team was able to destroy their whole intranet page using two prompts. He reiterated the need for caution and proper training in any use of AI to prevent financial barriers and threats.

CIO Myers presented the AI Roadmap. He stated the guiding principle was to balance risk with value and to favor correctness and trust over raw speed. Within the roadmap the IT department plans to review capability, roll out Copilot to BWL Champions, manage automation, and manage

agents. CIO Myers also plans to track entitlements, usage, unit cost, budget thresholds and value realized. He provided an example of a company exhausting an annual AI budget within four months when per-request consumption was not understood.

(inaudible)

Information Technology Policy

Chief Information Officer, Vern Myers, provided an update on the Communications Technology Policy TI-01. He stated the purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines for the provision and use of BWL communication technologies to support business operations and ensure reliable connectivity. Updates include adding purpose section and minor tweaking in communication examples; terminology and scope were standardized, Business-use language was strengthened, governance and document administration clarified.

CIO Myers provided a list of additional IT operational policy's that support the Communications Technology Policy including the AI Usage Policy that is currently in development. CIO Myers also shared the resolution accompanying the updated Communications Technology Policy.

Commissioner Schrader asked for clarification on the section that indicated there is no expectation of privacy using BWL communications technologies?

GM Peffley stated that any BWL employee using BWL technology waives any right to privacy and is open to monitoring by the IT department.

(inaudible)

Commissioner Harkins verified this was always in the communications policy, the update is to strengthen the wording of the policy.

Motion by Commissioner Tony Mullen, **Seconded** by Commissioner Beth Graham to approve the Information Technology (IT) Policy Resolution and forward it to the full board for consideration. **Action**: Motion carried.

2027 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Committee of the Whole Chairperson Sandra Zerkle presented the Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2027.

Motion by Commissioner Tony Mullen, Seconded by Commissioner Beth Graham, to approve the Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2027 Resolution and forward it to the full Board for consideration.

Action: Motion Carried.

Other

GM Peffley invited the Board of Commissioners to participate in a ceremony for the Sheep Lake Lansing Solar site. The event takes place on November 18, 2026. GM Peffley shared there are other community members who have been invited to participate in this event. He stated the BWL is the first utility in Michigan to utilize sheep.

Adjourn

Chairperson Sandra Zerkle adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra Zerkle, Chairperson
Committee of the Whole

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2026

Finance Committee: Tony Mullen, Committee Chairperson; Beth Graham, Chris Harkins, Semone James; Alternates: David Price, Dale Schrader.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters – REO Town Depot, located at 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

Finance Committee Chairperson Tony Mullen called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners Beth Graham, Chris Harkins, Semone James and Tony Mullen; Alternates: Commissioners David Price, and Dale Schrader. Also Present: Commissioner Sandra Zerkle.
Absent: None.

Corporate Secretary LaVella J Todd declared a quorum.

Public Comments
There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Commissioner Beth Graham, **Seconded** by Commissioner Tony Mullen to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes of September 15, 2026, as presented.
Action: Motion Carried. The minutes were approved.

Baker Tilly External Audit Report
CFO Scott Taylor introduced Ying Yan Director of Accounting, Finance, and Planning who assisted with the audit as well as Principal from Baker Tilly Jodi Dobson who presented the Baker Tilly Audit Report. Ms. Dobson presented and highlighted the external audit report which included an audit overview, observations and recommendations, and required communications to the governing body. The financial statements included the auditors' report, management and discussion analysis, Enterprise fund statements, pension and OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) trust statements.

Ms. Dobson reported that there were no deficiencies in internal controls and that the BWL and all three pension plans received unmodified audit opinions, which is a clean opinion and the highest level of assurance. Operating revenues grew 7.3% to $34.4 million driven mainly by electric utility sales volumes which account for 82% of total revenue. Operating expenses grew 3.5% due to higher administrative costs and return on equity obligations. All debt coverage requirements were met with a strong anticipated debt service ratio between 2.22 and 2.64 over

the next six years. Both the Defined Benefit plan(131.32%) and VEBA plan(132.57%) are fully funded.

Commissioner Zerkle stated the employees should be proud of their work.

Ms. Dobson reported new GASB standards GASB 104 and GASB 103. GASB Statement 104 was implemented to provide more granular detail regarding intangible assets and capital assets held for sale within footnotes. GASB Statement 103 impacted the management discussion and analysis by requiring more detailed explanations for changes in figures rather than just listing dollar amounts. Ms. Dobson stated a new standard regarding subsequent events disclosures will become effective for next year's financial statements to ensure reporting consistency.

Ms. Dobson stated the audit went according to plan with no significant changes or delays. She stated they reviewed the accounting policies and had no concerns, and no changes were necessary outside of the new standards. Ms. Dobson praised the BWL audit team for their efforts. She stated the audit process went smoothly and that doesn't happen without a lot of work.

Commissioner Mullen asked if Baker Tilly was required to report any audit findings to anyone other than the Board of Commissioners?

Ms. Dobson stated they are only required to provide the audit findings to the Board of Commissioners, however, notice of the audit findings goes to the Mayor at the City of Lansing and is public knowledge and may be subject to FOIA.

Commissioner Price verified that the audit findings are sent to the Mayor and the City Council.

Commissioner Harkins praised the audit findings and reiterated the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to review these audits.

CFO Taylor praised Accounting Supervisor Lisa Neumann and her team for their efforts.

Commissioner James commended Director of Accounting, Finance, and Planning Ying Yan and Ms. Dobson on their efforts.

Motion by Commissioner Chris Harkins, **Seconded** by Commissioner Semone James, to approve the FY2026 Audited Financial Statement of the Enterprise Fund & Pension Fiduciary Funds Resolution and forward it to the Full Board for consideration.
Action: Motion Carried.

YTD Financial Summary

Chief Financial Officer Scott Taylor presented the YTD Financial Summary. Days cash on hand are strong at 215 days with a strong debt service coverage ratio as well. CFO Taylor stated retail review is $2.5 million over budget mainly due to the strong demand in residential sales. The wholesale revenue is $11.4 million over budget mostly driven by DEP 2 coming online in August

instead of September as well as the Belle River plant that converted to a gas unit that ran more than expected in September. Wholesale prices were also about 10% higher than expected.

Commissioner Mullen asked if there was any coal still in production?

GM Peffley stated they do not use any coal. He also stated for the record that wholesale energy is used to offset customers' bills using fuel cost adjustments.

CFO Taylor stated operating expenses are slightly over budget by $8.5 million but that's driven by the additional fuel burn with two generating plants running. Net income is $20 million for FY2027. Two potential revenue impacts later on this year include the shutdown of General Motors from December to the end of the fiscal year, which is a $2 million deduction in expected revenue as well as the LG Battery plant is behind in their ramp up schedule which will negatively affect BWL revenue by $1 million.

Commissioner Harkins asked for clarification on when the end of the fiscal year is.

CFO Taylor confirmed that General Motors will shut down from December through the end of June 2027. He stated the BWL could not budget for the shutdown as they were not aware when it would take place.

Commissioner James asked if the BWL had any anticipated new businesses coming online that would make up for the lost revenue.

CFO Taylor stated the BWL always has new businesses coming online but if anything, significant was opening or there were any contracts identified they would be built into the budget. However, the accounting department takes into consideration the average new customer base year over year and builds it into the budget.

Commissioner James asked how this would help make up for lost revenue.

CFO Taylor stated that new businesses would already be built into the forecast based on the growth rate plus General Motors, so with them being offline there would be a $2 million reduction from the budget so there would be no offset. However, the real offset would be if BWL saved costs from not burning that fuel or if BWL sells that energy on the wholesale market.

GM Peffley stated selling energy on the wholesale market is better for the customer as they get the proceeds from the market sales.

CFO Taylor reviewed the budget status for O&M, Capital, New Energy, and Steam to Hot Water. He made note that the New Energy budget is about $9 million under budget due to the Watertown solar project. In addition to the solar panel project at DEP there is additional acreage where more solar panels can be repurposed. He stated the change in locations and projects has delayed some of the spending.

GM Peffley provided an update on the Watertown solar project.

CFO Taylor stated the operating ratio is strong. Days sales are outstanding and are running well. Bad debt is slightly higher than last year at 0.41%. Employee count is currently at 776. Payroll date is good with overtime $900,000 over budget due to large storms at the beginning of the year. CFO Taylor stated benefits are running well under budget.

CFO Taylor provided an update on the capital report which highlights the top ten largest projects. He highlighted the ADMS project which was not budgeted for FY2027. Short-term failures of the system caused concern over its ability to make it until the project was budgeted for its replacement. CFO Taylor stated that the remaining planned budget is about $2 million under budget.

Commissioner Harkins questioned the difference between the projection of $1.4 million for the ADMS project and the current projection of $2.1 million on the report?

CFO Taylor stated the $1.4 million projection on the left of the table is the projected spend for FY2027 only and the $2.1 million current projection on the right is the total projected amount for the entire project.

Commissioner Harkins questioned when the unbudgeted project becomes projected and where they get the values from.

CFO Taylor stated once a project is at phase 3 of completion, they are able to complete the Designed Budget amount which estimates the total projected cost of the budget more accurately and that is the value the BWL reports out on.

Commissioner Mullen asked if this is a technical project why isn't the $1.4 million budgeted with the Chief Information Officers budget?

AGM Shawa stated that Chief Financial Officer Vern Myers budget is for O&M expenses only and that this project is a capital project, so they are budgeted separately.

CFO Taylor stated the total capital project budget for FY2027 was $77,104,025 and the BWL is projecting they will be under budget at $76,773,548.

Commissioner Mullen asked if the ADMS project is currently a capital budget, once the project is complete will the maintenance of the system be included in the Chief Financial Officers O&M budget?

AGM Shawa stated that the ADMS project is a capital project because it is a new software platform. Once the platform is implemented and live the annual maintenance and licensing will be transferred to the IT O&M budget.

Proposed Finance Committee Governance Review Form

Commissioner Semone James presented a proposed Finance Committee Governance Review Form to accompany management recommendations made to the Finance Committee. Commissioner James stressed the responsibility and the fiduciary oversight the Finance Committee has. And, stated that the form was designed to strengthen the Finance Committee's governance and fiduciary oversight review process. In addition to the Governance Review Form, Commissioner James also introduced a companion Commissioner Discussion Guide (Questions to Ask) document. Commissioner James explained that the proposed documents are intended to establish a consistent framework for evaluating significant financial recommendations and help create a standardized set of questions for the commissioners to ask during their review of the management recommendations.

Commissioner James initially developed a comprehensive seven-page Governance Review Form containing discussion questions. Following further consideration, she streamlined the materials into two complementary one-page documents: a condensed Finance Committee Governance Review Form and a companion Commissioner Discussion Guide (Questions to Ask), with questions for the Finance Committee to ask presenters. The documents address seven key governance areas: (1) Purpose and Strategic Alignment; (2) Financial Assumptions and Sensitivity Analysis; (3) Major Risks and Mitigation; (4) Customer Impact and Affordability; (5) Alternatives and Tradeoffs; (6) Accountability and Follow-Through; and (7) Committee Decision Readiness.

Commissioner James emphasized that the proposed documents are intended to promote informed decision-making, strengthen transparency and accountability, and provide Commissioners with practical efficient tools for asking thoughtful questions when evaluating significant financial matters. She further clarified that the Governance Review Form would not be required for every agenda item but could be requested when additional analysis or documentation would assist the Committee in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

Commissioner James noted that the Finance Committee would need the assistance of the management staff to complete the Governance Review form before presenting it to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Mullen stated he liked the one-page review form. He stated this form could be completed by anyone. He stated he did not believe the form needed to be an official requirement of the committee for every issue but can be included if a committee member requests.

Commissioner Price stated he liked the one-page form as well. However, he does not think anyone could just complete the form. This form will need to be completed by management before a presentation is given. Commissioner Price thinks this form will provide value to the documentation process of approving resolutions or polices. He praised Commissioner James on this form. He believes this committee document does not need to be run through any official channels but a process the committee adopts.

Commissioner Schrader commended Commissioner James on the review form and agreed that this could be a very beneficial tool to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner James requested that the one-page Finance Committee Governance Review Form and companion Commissioner Discussion Guide be included in the Commissioner Handbook, as a governance resource. She agreed that the form should be used at the discretion of a Finance Committee member with the support and assistance of management.

Commissioner Zerkle reminded the committee that this is an operation request, and GM Peffley would need to agree to have management complete this form.

Commissioner Mullen agreed. He is concerned with requesting management to fill out additional forms for presentation to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Harkins thanked Commissioner James for her thoughts and development of the review form. He agreed this high-level form could be useful to the committee. He supports the idea if management is willing to use this form at the request of the committee.

The discussion reflected support for making the documents available for use at a commissioner's discretion rather than requiring their completion for every agenda item. General Manager Peffley indicated that management was willing to assist with completing the form when requested, subject to appropriate discretion based on the nature and sensitivity of the matter being presented.

Commissioner Mullen reiterated that these forms will be made available in the Commissioner Handbook and any commissioner can make the request to have this form completed by management.

Commissioner James also indicated that the documents could be updated periodically to incorporate additional governance questions or considerations identified by Commissioners.

GM Peffley agreed.

Commissioner Price agreed.

Internal Audit Status Report

Director of Internal Audit Elisha Franco provided an Internal Audit Status Report which included an audit update, budget update, issue status update, and a FY2027 work plan update. DIA Franco provided a progress update on the Key Account and Misc. Billing Audit, the Vendor Selection & Management Audit, and the Accounts Payable Audit. She also reviewed the budgeted versus actual hours worked for those audits between her staff and Plante Moran.

DIA Franco provided an update to the FY2027 Work Plan. She made note of the Enterprise Risk Management audit now taking place January 2027- April 2027 due to their new Director. DIA

Franco accompanied GM Peffley and the other BWL audit departments to safety meetings throughout October to increase awareness of Internal Audit and its role across the organization. DIA Franco stated she planned to bring Internal Audit Charter updates to November Finance Committee Meeting following further review and discussion with the Finance Committee updates are now planned for March 2027.

DIA Franco shared some staffing updates including the hiring of a new intern for May-August 2027. She also stated that the Director of Internal Audit Job Description has not been updated since 2023 and may warrant a review for updated alignment.

Commissioner James questioned if the job description should be reviewed before the next evaluation.

Commissioner Schrader, HR Chairperson, agreed to review the Director of Internal Audit job description at the next HR committee meeting before the renewal of the next contract.

DIA Franco provided updates on her ongoing training and certifications.

Commissioner James asked to confirm if the cost of the ongoing training for DIA Franco was included in her FY2027 budget.

DIA Franco confirmed they were included in her budget presentation at the beginning of FY2027.

GM Peffley praised DIA Franco for attending the October safety meetings with him and allowing the company to meet the Internal Auditor.

Commissioner James shared she spoke with GM Peffley regarding Governor-Elect Jocelyn Benson and has encouraged the BWL to host a welcome reception.

GM Peffley stated if it was within their power, they would extend the invitation to Governor-Elect Jocelyn Benson.

Board Governance Management Review Software Update

Corporate Secretary LaVella J Todd provided an update to the Board Governance Management Review Software replacement. The Request for Information (RFI) process for replacing Smartsheet has been completed with the assistance of the IT and Purchasing Departments. The Office of the Corporate Secretary, the Internal Audit Director, and IT staff reviewed the RFI responses and narrowed the field to four potential replacement solutions that best meet the organization's needs.

The next step is to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). The four vendors identified through the RFI process will be directly notified and invited to submit proposals, along with any other interested companies. The IT Department expects to take approximately two to three weeks to

convert the RFI into a formal RFP. Once completed, the RFP will be submitted to key stakeholders, including Corporate Secretary, Office of Corporate Secretary Administrative Assistant and Internal Audit Director for review and feedback, which is expected to take an additional two weeks. The IT Department will then conduct a technical review of the RFP over the subsequent two weeks before it is finalized and released to the public. The RFP is anticipated to be published in approximately six weeks.

Additionally, the IT Department is evaluating potential AI capabilities within these replacement systems. As part of this evaluation, they are considering whether AI capabilities are currently available within each system and if they will align with BWL's AI corporate policy.

Following the RFP process, the Corporate Secretary and Internal Audit Director will select three vendors to participate in demonstrations for the Board of Commissioners. These demonstrations will provide the Board with an opportunity to evaluate the functionality of each proposed solution, better understand the available features, and ask vendors questions before deciding.

Implementation of the selected solution is anticipated to begin in February/March 2027. The overall goal is to have the replacement board management software system fully implemented and users trained before the start of FY28.

Commissioner Mullen stressed the need for the demonstration from the vendors before deciding on the new replacement software.

Other

Adjourn

Chairperson Tony Mullen adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Mullen, Chairperson
Finance Committee

RESOLUTION 2026-11-XX

Retirement Plan Committee Appointment Change and Revised Charter Approval

WHEREAS, the Lansing Board of Water & Light (the "BWL" or "Sponsor") sponsors the (a) Lansing Board of Water and Light Defined Benefit Plan and Trust for Employees' Pensions; (b) Post-Retirement Benefit Plan and Trust for Eligible Employees of Lansing Board of Water and Light; (c) Lansing Board of Water and Light Defined Contribution Plan and Trust 1; (d) Lansing Board of Water and Light Defined Contribution Plan and Trust 2; and (e) Lansing Board of Water and Light 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust (collectively the "Plans"); and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor created a formal committee effective September 27, 2016, the name of which is the "Retirement Plan Committee" (the "Committee"), to which the Sponsor delegated discretionary authority and responsibility for the discharge of certain duties, and the Sponsor appointed the following individuals to serve on the Retirement Plan Committee: Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director of Human Resources, and the Manager of Finance. Each Retirement Plan Committee member is appointed to serve on the Committee until his or her resignation or removal from the Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor appointed the Director of Accounting, Finance, and Planning to replace the Manager of Finance on the Committee effective May 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor also appointed: one voting member of the Board of Commissioners ("Board") who shall also serve as a voting member of the Committee; one voting member of the Board who shall not serve as a voting member of the Committee except at Committee meetings at which the BWL Board of Commissioners' voting member of the Committee is not present, or to break a tie vote; one BWL retiree to be chosen by the retirees according to a selection process determined by the retirees who shall serve as a voting member of the Committee; and one IBEW Local Union 352 bargaining employee to be chosen by the IBEW Local Union 352 according to a selection process determined by the IBEW Local 352 who shall serve as a voting member of the Committee effective May 23, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor replaced the appointment of the Director of Accounting, Finance, and Planning on the Committee with the appointment of the Manager of Accounting, Finance, and Planning effective March 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, due to organizational changes that have occurred and may occur from time to time, the Sponsor has decided to replace the appointment of the Executive Director of Human Resources, and the Manager of Accounting, Finance, and Planning with the appointment of an employee of the Human Resources department selected by the General Manager and an employee of the Finance department selected by the General Manager to serve as voting members on the Committee effective November 29, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsor approved a revised Retirement Plan Committee Charter on March 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has revised its Charter to reflect the changes described in this Resolution, and recommends it for approval by the Sponsor and to be effective November 29, 2026.

THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that the Sponsor replaces the appointment of the Executive Director of Human Resources and the Manager of Accounting, Finance, and Planning with the appointment of an employee of the Human Resources department selected by the General Manager and an employee of the Finance department selected by the General Manager to serve as voting members on the Committee effective November 29, 2026.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sponsor approves the revised Retirement Plan Committee Charter to be effective November 29, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____ to approve the Resolution for Retirement Plan Committee Appointment Change and Revised Charter Approval at a Board meeting held on November 17, 2026.
Action:

RESOLUTION 2026-11-XX

Communications Technologies Policy

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners ("Board") adopted a Communications Technologies Policy ("Policy") effective November 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, BWL staff has conducted a review of the Policy and determined revision to the Policy was needed due to updates in technology and following recommendations from auditors to review and acknowledge policies on a cadence;

THEREFORE, it is:

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby adopts and approves the revised Communications Technologies Policy effective November 17, 2026, as presented.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Communications Technologies Policy, effective November 16, 2016, is superseded as of November 17, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____ to adopt the revised Communications Technologies Policy at a Board meeting held on November 17, 2026.
Action: _____.

RESOLUTION 2026-XX-XX

Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2027

In accordance with the Lansing Board of Water & Light's Rules of Administrative Procedure, a schedule of dates, places, and times for each regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the calendar year shall be adopted in November.

RESOLVED, that regular meetings of the Lansing Board of Water & Light's Board of Commissioners are hereby set for calendar year 2027 as follows, unless otherwise notified or as a result of date conflicts with rescheduled City Council meetings:

2027

Lansing Board of Water & Light Board of Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 26
Tuesday	March 23
Tuesday	May 25
Tuesday	July 27
Tuesday	September 28
Tuesday	November 16

Meetings will be held in the Lansing Board of Water & Light REO Town Depot located at 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI at 5:30 p.m.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a notice of the meeting schedule shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Ingham County the week of January 1, 2027.

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____, to approve the 2027 Regular Board Meeting Schedule at a Board meeting held on November 17, 2026.
Action:

RESOLUTION 2026-XX-XX
Fiscal Year 2026 Audited Financial Statements
of the Enterprise Fund and Pension Fiduciary Funds

RESOLVED, that the fiscal year 2026 Audited Financial Statements of the Board of Water and Light have been reviewed and are hereby accepted as presented.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporate Secretary is hereby directed to file a copy of the fiscal year 2026 Audited Financial Statements of the Board of Water and Light with the City of Lansing no later than November 2026.

Motion by Commissioner _____, **Seconded** by Commissioner _____, to approve the Resolution for the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2026 Audited Financial Statements of the Enterprise Fund and Pension Fiduciary Funds at a Board meeting held on November 17, 2026.

Action: Motion