



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA**

**January 11, 2022**

**5:30 P.M. – 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48910**

**REO Town Depot - Board of Water & Light Headquarters**

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

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comments on Agenda Items

1. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021..... **TAB 1**

2. Strategic Plan Execution Update ..... **UPDATE**

Other

Adjourn

Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control the Lansing Board of Water and Light request that all meeting attendees wear a face covering.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9, 2021**

The Committee of the Whole of the Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) met at the BWL Headquarters-REO Town Depot located at 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI, on Tuesday, November 9, 2021.

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

Present: Commissioners Sandra Zerkle, Dusty Horwitt, Semone James, DeShon Leek, Tony Mullen, David Price, and Tracy Thomas, and Non-Voting Members: Douglas Jester (East Lansing), Larry Merrill (Delta Township) and Brian Ross (DeWitt Township)

Absent: Commissioner Beth Graham

The Corporate Secretary declared a quorum.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** by Commissioner Mullen, **Seconded** by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of September 14, 2021.

**Action:** Motion Carried.

**Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2022 Resolution**

**Motion** by Commissioner Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Mullen, to approve the Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2022.

**Action:** Motion Carried.

**Renewable Energy Update**

General Manager Peffley gave the renewable energy update.

Commissioner James requested a written summary of the renewable energy update and GM Peffley responded that he would provide it to her.

Commissioner Horwitt asked if there was a pie chart on the BWL website that indicates a breakdown of all the places from where electricity is generated. GM Peffley responded that he would send the information to the Commissioners and also check on the website.

**Tree Trimming Update**

General Manager gave the tree trimming update. Trees remain to be trimmed in three quarter sections of the service territory and 685 have been completed. The trees in the current quarter section will be trimmed by the end of January 2022. The second round of trimming trees according

to the new standard has also begun.

Commissioner Horwitt asked if the BWL has considered placing wires underground even though that is expensive. GM Peffley responded that it is expensive and is being offered to customers, who pay the extra cost. GM Peffley added that if the wires are buried in the right of way, damage can be done to the root structure of trees and if the service is on the back of the house, the service has to be relocated. The transformers also sit in the yard rather than on poles.

### **Personnel Issue**

Chair Zerkle stated that General Counsel Mark Matus provided the Committee of the Whole with an Attorney Client Privilege memorandum and he is present and available to discuss the contents of that memorandum with us.

**Motion** by Commissioner Price, Seconded by Commissioner James to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing the contents of the attorney-client privileged memorandum as permitted by the Open Meetings Act, specifically MCL 15.268(e).

**Action:** Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

**Yeas:** Commissioners Sandra Zerkle, Dusty Horwitt, Semone James, Deshon Leek, Tony Mullen, David Price, and Tracy Thomas; and Non-Voting Commissioners Douglas Jester, Larry Merrill, and Brian Ross

**Nays:** None.

**Action:** Motion Carried.

*The Committee of the Whole Meeting went into closed session at 6:45 p.m.*

**Motion** by Commissioner Price, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas to return to open session.

**Action:** Motion Carried.

*The Committee of the Whole Meeting reconvened to open session at 7:15 p.m.*

The Commissioners through General Counsel Mark Matus decided to negotiate a settlement with Mr. Wesley Lewis.

**Motion** by Commissioner Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Thomas to authorize General Counsel Mark Matus to negotiate a settlement with Mr. Wesley Lewis within the parameters presented.

**Action:** Motion Carried. (Yeas 6: Commissioners Zerkle, Horwitt, Leek, Mullen, Price, Thomas; Nays 1: Commissioner James)

**Other**

GM Peffley reported on a late item regarding questions about a story about PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) detected in the airport area, noting that BWL has 125 wells that are about 400 feet deep in the Saginaw aquifer. The wells started being tested in 2015 and have been tested every year since 2018. GM Peffley stated that any questions can be referred to BWL Environmental Compliance Specialist IV, Angie Goodman.

**Adjourn**

Chair Zerkle adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sandra Zerkle, Chair  
Committee of the Whole