

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AGENDA

November 5, 2019 5:30 P.M. – 1201 S. Washington Ave. Lansing, MI - REO Town Depot Board of Water & Light Headquarters

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comments on Agenda Items

- 2. Corporate Planning: ...... INFO ONLY
  - Update on Approved 2016 Strategic Plan
    - BWL's Clean Energy Journey
- 3. Regular Board Meeting Schedule 2020-Resolution ...... TAB 2

Other

Adjourn

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE Meeting Minutes September 10, 2019

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, September 10, 2019.

Committee of the Whole Chair Tony Mullen called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and asked the Corporate Secretary to call the roll.

Present: Commissioners Tony Mullen, Beth Graham, Joseph Graves Jr., David Price, Ken Ross, Tracy Thomas, and Sandra Zerkle and Non-Voting Members: Michael Froh (Meridian Township) and Larry Merrill (Delta Township)

Absent: Commissioners David Lenz and Douglas Jester (East Lansing)

The Corporate Secretary declared a quorum.

#### Public Comments

None.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** by Commissioner Price, **Seconded** by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of July 16, 2019.

Action: Motion Carried.

### Update on BWL's Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) Program

General Manager Dick Peffley introduced Environmental Services and Reliability Compliance Manager, Ms. Lori Myott, and Energy Analyst, Ms. Aileen Gow, who oversees BWL's Residential and Non-Profit Energy Waste Reduction Programs.





Ms. Myott reported that BWL implements its energy waste reduction and renewable energy programs under Public Act 295. Public Act 295 requires that municipal utilities update their governing board every year on their accomplishments for the previous year. Ms. Myott gave an update on BWL's Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) Program. Ms. Myott stated that the BWL offers a variety of programs and highlighted the different programs and information given to the community. Ms. Myott noted that the LED program is the most popular with customers.

Commissioner Zerkle inquired whether BWL was still providing seminars in neighborhoods for low income customers and Ms. Myott responded that Ms. Aileen Gow will provide information.

Commissioner Ross noted the success in large business in energy reduction and inquired about the opportunities for communities with a lot of rentals and low income, and the challenges of getting landlords to invest in energy saving technology. Commissioner Ross also asked if there is a network of utilities communicating about what programs are working. Ms. Gow responded that the Michigan Public Service Commission, who legislates the energy programs, has a state-wide group just for low income that meets monthly and shares a large amount of information. Ms. Gow also stated that a recent program was started in a high rental area with a copay for landlords and it has been very successful. Refrigerators are replaced for rentals for 25% and homeowners for free. GM Peffley responded that the MMEA also reviews these type of programs.

Commissioner Graves commented that it was good that these programs were being implemented in the community especially for low income and stated that it was important to determine whether there was a return on investment. GM Peffley responded that 50% of Lansing's population is rental and landlords observe the investment with the refrigerators and a smaller electric bill.

Commissioner Graham commented that she was part of the rental property association and landlords discuss the program positively at the monthly meetings.

Commissioner Mullen asked what percentage of renewable energy was in retail sales and Ms. Myott responded that the BWL is currently at 15% and was required to meet 10% by the end of 2018.

Commissioner Zerkle inquired whether the BWL could work with the city to get a higher percentage of multi dwellings to participate in the programs as a large amount of low income units could use the energy savings with a new refrigerator. Ms. Gow responded that BWL contractors have worked with almost every property manager they can find and have also worked with the Lansing Housing Commission.

Commissioner Ross inquired about the effect of projects in townships currently compared to the past. GM Peffley responded that if wind projects become difficult to license in Michigan more solar projects will be considered.

## Wholesale Water Service Agreement with Charter Township of Lansing – West Side Water

GM Peffley introduced Strategic Planning and Development Executive Director, Ms. Brandie Ekren, who reviewed the updates to the West Side Water Wholesale Water Service Agreement with Charter Township of Lansing. Ms. Ekren reported the following conditions in the agreement:

- Most of the general conditions remain the same.
- Allows for the full cost of service recovery based on an industry standard methodology.
- No requirement that there be a mutual agreement to terminate.
- Lansing Township provides the BWL with annual 10-year forecasts of demand.
- Provisions for how to handle requests for water in excess of planned demands.
- Establishes an operating committee and a contract administration committee.
- Language is included that is related to water efficiency and conservation.

Commissioner Zerkle asked that when there isn't a requirement for a mutual agreement to terminate is there a time frame of notice that needs to be given. Ms. Ekren responded that a standard notice requirement is required. Ms. Zerkle also asked what percentage Delta customers pay in comparison with what Lansing customers pay for water services. Ms. Ekren replied that she didn't have that information but any adjustments are factored into the cost of service.

Commissioner Ross asked whether BWL passed rates which govern the water contracts or do the contracts include a rate schedule. Ms. Brandie responded that there is a difference between a wholesale and retail agreement. In a wholesale agreement BWL negotiates a contract with the township and the Commissioners approve the rates yearly. In retail agreements BWL contracts with individual customers and is handled during the normal rate making process.

Commissioner Froh inquired whether, outside of a long-term agreement where the savings would be realized with conservation, there has been any discussion of incentivizing savings for customers for going above and beyond attempts to reduce consumption. Mr. Peffley responded that on a wholesale

agreement it is difficult to realize an incentive as the customer could bring on a new subdivision that would increase their water flow.

Commissioner Ross commented that this is a water service agreement and not a franchise agreement and therefore the dynamic of adding on fees doesn't apply.

Commissioner Mullen asked whether the water service will be billed along with the electric bill and whether water would be provided to communities further west than Lansing Township. Ms. Ekren responded that the township with whom the water service agreement is made will do the metering, invoicing, and billing. GM Peffley responded that Grand Ledge has made an initial contact with BWL but nothing further.

### **Corporate Planning; Industry Updates and Considerations**

GM Peffley reported that corporate planning will be a reoccurring agenda item to educate the Commissioners on the IRP, sustainability, and strategic planning so that they are able to answer questions out in the public. A flyer will be sent out every couple of weeks to the Commissioners also with updated information. Ms. Ekren presented industry considerations and introduced Planning & Development Manager, Steve Brennan, and Senior Rate Analyst, Paul Eory, to present updates on IRP and modeling.



Committee of the Whole Meeting September 10, 2019 Page 4 of 6 Commissioner Zerkle inquired whether BWL is working with other APPA public power utilities in Michigan. GM Peffley responded that utilities contribute information through MPPA and MMEA.

Commissioner Thomas commented on being able to watch TV with Water & Steam Distribution Manager, Mr. Alando Chappell with the Boys and Girls Club and Electric Transmission & Distribution Director, Mr. Wayne Lynn on Turning Point and how they are helping inform the community.

Commissioner Zerkle inquired whether BWL would need to produce more electricity with the Belle River closing in 2030 or if BWL would have the capacity of selling more. GM Peffley responded that BWL has 11% ownership with Belle River which is in the amount of 150 megawatts and BWL's intent by 2030 is to have renewables in place.

Commissioner Ross asked what the minimum clean energy targets is defined as. Mr. Eory responded that minimum clean energy targets are defined as renewables and energy efficiency which is respectively 20% and 10% in 2020. Commissioner Ross asked if 30% of the generation portfolio would be renewables and 10% would be energy efficiency in 2030. GM Peffley affirmed. Commissioner Ross also asked about obtaining additional 1% efficiency every year and if it compounded. GM Peffley responded that 1% efficiency has been achieved every year and he doesn't have any concerns about meeting the goals for 2030 and 2040.

Commissioner Price asked if one of the outputs would be carbon footprint or made to do that. Mr. Eory affirmed.

Commissioner Ross inquired about the IRP, modeling and assumptions not being available or transparent, and if the software is standard. Mr. Eory responded that the software is starting to be deployed in Michigan and is mostly used by a few larger companies. Commissioner asked about the availability of the information. Mr. Eory responded that assumptions have been bundled and documented and the new model has templates that can be used and turned into white papers. Ms. Ekren responded that this model software allows more granular data and the information is readily visible.

Ms. Zerkle also asked about the providing of parking meters and charging stations for an increase in electrical vehicles in the future. GM Peffley responded that BWL is working with local developers to place charging stations around town.

Commissioner Price recommended that Commissioners attend the Strategic Planning meetings that would be held with customers and members of the public. Corporate Secretary Griffin will send an email to Commissioners of the meeting times when they are scheduled. Commissioner Zerkle recommended that these meetings be held separate from Committee of the Whole meetings to encourage longer discussions and also asked if the Internal Auditor would be contributing input to these meetings as he may audit some of the processes that are approved. Internal Auditor Mr. Wesley Lewis responded that he and Ms. Ekren discussed the regulatory changes that are taking place and will be attending the meetings.

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# <u>Other</u>

**Motion** by Commissioner Graham, Seconded by Commissioner Ross, to excuse Commissioners David Lenz and Douglas Jester from tonight's meeting.

Action: Motion Carried

# <u>Adjourn</u>

Commissioner Mullen adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted Tony Mullen, Chair Committee of the Whole

## Proposed Resolution 2020 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

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 2020 as follows, unless otherwise notified or as a result of date conflicts with rescheduled City Council meetings:

#### 2020

## Lansing Board of Water & Light Board of Commissioners Regular Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 28
Tuesday	March 24
Tuesday	May 26
Tuesday	July 28
Tuesday	September 22
Tuesday	November 17

Meetings will be held in the Lansing Board of Water & Light REO Town Depot located at 1201 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, 2020.