

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD and Ms. Justine Huang of CAAB. Secretary James Regan arrived shortly after this.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. June 18, 2024 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, to accept the minutes of June 18, 2024 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. Chinese American Association of Braintree (CAAB)

Mr. Bottiggi reported that a member of the Chinese American Association of Braintree (CAAB) is present at the meeting. He continued, CAAB has a festival on French's Common and this year it is being held on September 22, 2024. Last year BELD participated with ENE - there were representatives from both, and we did an Electric Vehicle event. This year we agreed to do this again and we signed up for the silver sponsor level at \$350.00 as ENE did last year. However, the CAAB Representative is here to talk about sponsoring at a higher level for next year.

Ms. Huang explained that CAAB is a 501 (c) (3) and is run on a volunteer basis as they all have full-time jobs. She continued their mission is to bridge the culture between the different ethnicities; the Town of Braintree census of 2022 has 20% Asian in town and 70.8% Caucasian. Ms. Huang explained that there is 30% Asian at the high school and due to this a couple of people came together to find a way to bring out the diversity of this town. They thought the best way was to have a festival and allow the community to come together to learn about each other. Last year was the first event and they had over 1,000 people attending. There were local performers from the Asian community on their stage non-stop for four hours, street vendors selling Asian food and 50 booths for vendors. This year they have provided space for five EV spaces for BELD. Ms. Huang commented that this is the second largest community event after July 4. She continued: budget-wise they have no funds and the only support they get is from local businesses that appreciate their work on diversity. They also are supported by Mass Culture as they just got a grant from them to be part of the festival events too.

Mr. Reynolds asked if there was more that we could promote in addition to the EVs. Mr. Bottiggi said there was – Mr. Ritchie usually goes and promotes all BELD programs and ENE will come for the EV portion. There was discussion: BELD had already signed up for this year's event but Ms. Huang wanted to acquaint BELD with their organization and see if BELD could help in getting the word out. Mr. Bottiggi said we will consider putting it in next year's *Bright Ideas* for the 2025 event. Ms. Huang said they are now working with the Braintree Historical Society, who are having an event that day as well. Mr. Bottiggi said that Mr. Ritchie would be able to share the event on our Facebook page this year so that it will help a little to get the word out. Next year Ms. Huang will send the information on the 2025 Festival and the Board will decide on a sponsorship level then.

ii. Sprint for Super Saturdays

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Braintree Special Needs Recreation Program (aka Super Saturdays) is having this event. June's meeting agenda also had a Super Saturday's event – a golf tournament and BELD advertised at four of the holes. There was a discussion about having some internal guidelines regarding the amount of times BELD advertises at local events for one organization. No vote was taken on this item.

iii. Nelson Chin Memorial Golf Tournament

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Nelson Chin Memorial Fund is having their annual golf tournament. There was discussion. Last year we advertised at two holes and at the lunch table. It was proposed that we do that again.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to advertise at two golf holes and at the lunch table. So voted.

iv. Quincy Community Action Program's Low-Income Weatherization Program

Mr. Bottiggi explained we have been taking part in the Quincy Community Action Program's (QCAP) Low-Income Weatherization Program for quite a long time and this helps low-income Braintree residents with fuel assistance, weatherization, and heating system upgrades. The amount varies every year. There was discussion – we have paid into this program, and we have sent residents there who are having problems with payments. Our portion goes only to Braintree residents.

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to continue our partnership with QCAP. So voted.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Duke Engine Acquisition

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Duke, who owns the two reciprocating engines on our campus and two at Fireking, wants to sell them. They called Mr. Bottiggi to see if he would be interested and he did not think it was a good idea as there would be a whole new skill set for our employees to acquire. There is a new possible buyer, Whetstone Power. Mr. Bottiggi said they are like a hedge fund – they own thousands of megawatts of generation. They came to do due diligence recently and Mr. Hitchings showed them the engines here and Mr. Murphy took them over to Fireking. They had some questions so Duke is sending their engineer in on Wednesday. Mr. Bottiggi explained operationally this will not change anything for us. There was discussion. Duke has more at stake than we do. We get 20% of the savings; Duke bought and installed the engines, and they run and maintain them. We let them use our facility and get the 20%. He continued this is not changing our electric rate but we can use the engines down here to Black Start Watson if the northeast ever blacks out. The Fireking one has been installed so it provides emergency generation to Fireking if we have an outage. There was further discussion. Those engines are also used for peak shaving. So, all the engines are running multiple times a month.

ii. Lightshift Battery Acquisition

Mr. Bottiggi explained that this item is about our battery that we have at Station 9 that we have had since 2018. We are getting close to transferring ownership to Lightshift. Once that is complete, they will be responsible for it, maintain and run it and we will get 50% of the savings. There was discussion. He continued this has not been a high priority as the battery is running and we are making money by discharging it. If this falls through with Lightshift Whetstone Power has approached us to buy the battery. The reasoning is we are not battery people – so it occupies too much of BELD’s time. It is more of a distraction to our employees. The new owners won’t be able to go into our property without having a BELD employee with them. This is a license – which is revokable, a lease is not. The land is licensed, the battery will be owned by that company that buys it. We do not want to be in the battery business, but we will sign purchase power agreements and shared savings agreements. For instance, the Convergent one that we are trying to get approved at St. Catherine’s church would be a shared savings agreement.

iii. Watson - Forward Reserve and Winter Reliability Program

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we cleared the ISO-NE’s Forward Reserve and qualified for the Winter Reliability Program for October – May. ISO has two periods: “summer” which is June – September and “winter” which is the rest of the year. He continued: we cleared the Forward Reserve for the winter – it is a little lower than summer was but we will make over \$1 million in Forward Reserve money over the winter.

Mr. Bottiggi explained this is the second year ISO-NE has offered the Winter Reliability Program and we have to have over 600,000 gallons of fuel in the tank in order to qualify. We are buying 100,000 gallons to get back over 600,000 gallons. Oil is low right now so it’s a little over \$2 a gallon that we can buy it for. By doing this we will get \$600,000 for the winter. There was discussion. As part of this we must report our oil inventory to the ISO monthly for December-February.

Mr. Bottiggi brought up an issue that happened during our last meeting on June 18 – there was a problem with Watson Unit 1. He continued a heat exchanger failed and it was a very hot day and there was a scarcity condition. The unit tripped and it affected both units. It took a little while to identify exactly what the problem was. It happened again at the beginning of July so we took Watson 1 out of service and kept Watson 2 in service. We thought Watson 1 would be out of service until October because we had to purchase a new cooler. We took out the bad cooler, shipped it to a vendor in NC to see if it could be repaired, ordered a new one and then Siemens found one in England. We air freighted it over here on a Sunday but then it didn’t get to us until Thursday so we got hit with another scarcity condition. We then installed it on Friday and it has been fine. This cost us \$700,000 because that cooler failed but that is spread out among the unit entitlement owners.

We are still having the new cooler built in Canada and when that gets to us in October we will put that in Unit 2 because that cooler is the same age as Unit 1. Unit 2 cooler is going to be tested and we will put it in the warehouse as a spare. The cooler that sent to be repaired in NC is being returned to us unrepaired and we are going to ask the company in Canada to see if they want to rebuild it. If they do then we will have two spares.

What we are doing, because this happened, is looking at single point of failure. We have a lot of spares but we don’t have a spare of everything. If a piece of equipment fails and we don’t have a new one it takes at least three months to get some of these things and then we have the unit that can’t

run. These units are so valuable when they run and when they don't we get penalized pretty heavily. There was more discussion.

iv. Common Street/Convergent Battery Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained that BELD has spent \$250,000 upgrading the distribution system from St. Catherine's back to Station 8. Convergent has spent a lot of money doing site plan review and design and have ordered equipment. This was ready to pass in June and it was pulled due to concerns of Acting Fire Chief Viola. Convergent has sent all the information to Acting Fire Chief Viola but they have not heard back from him. Mr. Bottiggi saw him and asked if he could get the comments to Convergent before we meet next week. There is a meeting with Mayor Joyce, Ms. SantucciRozzi, Planning & Community Director, Acting Fire Chief Fred Viola with BELD and Convergent.

v. S&P Rating

Mr. Bottiggi told the Board about BELD's S&P Rating. We have an A Stable Bond Rating and we need that for doing power supply contracts so the countersigner knows BELD is a good credit risk. S&P is reviewing us now: they had many questions and we responded and then had a phone call with them. We will find out if our rating has increased.

vi. Employee Appreciation Day

Mr. Bottiggi announced that BELD's Employee Appreciation Day is Friday September 27 and invited the Commissioners to come if they would like.

IV. Personnel Update

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the new meter tech will not be taking the job. We continue to look for an experienced meter tech. Mr. Bottiggi reported there are some retirements coming up and those jobs will be posted internally.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

i. Gunshot Detection System

Mr. Bottiggi reported the results of the bid that the Police Department put out. He continued: that there are two companies: ShotSpotter and Flock Safety. Flock is the camera system that the Town uses currently as license plate readers. Flock Safety also has a gun fire detection system and they put in a bid when the police went out to bid and they won. The good thing is it works with the system they are already using and Flock will break up their coverage into quarter mile segments. With ShotSpotter it had to be one parallelogram of two square miles. Flock, with police approval broke the two miles up into eight quadrants so everything has been covered for less money. Mr. Bottiggi explained where the coverage would be. There was discussion. We have cameras at our substations that protects from the substation in, and this will get a quick response if someone starts shooting at our substations so damage will be minimized.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. Tuesday, November 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

There was discussion about having a meeting in the morning. The new date is Tuesday November 12, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. As always, if anything changes the public can find the next date on beld.com.

ii. Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

This date will work for all. Mr. Agnitti left at this point.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

Not Needed.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary