

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 15, 2026

A regular meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM at 1700 Eaton Drive in Grand Haven, Michigan and electronically via live Zoom Webinar.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairperson Westbrook.

**Present:** Directors Polyak, Welling, and Westbrook.

**Absent:** Directors Crum and Knoth.

**Others Present:** General Manager Rob Shelley, Secretary to the Board Danielle Martin, Finance Manager Lynn Diffell, Operations and Power Supply Manager Erik Booth, and Distribution and Engineering Manager Austin Gagnon.

**26-01A** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to excuse Directors Crum and Knoth from the meeting for personal reasons.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**26-01B** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the meeting agenda.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment Period:**

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake, commented on a Consumers Energy solar project he felt was well designed and encouraged the Board to look to it as an example.

**26-01C** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes:

- Approve the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes
- Receive and File the December Financial Statements and Power Supply and Retail Sales Dashboards
- Receive and File the December Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Dashboard
- Receive and File the MPPA Energy Services Project Resource Position Report dated 12/23/2025

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- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$2,371,397.44 from the Operation & Maintenance Fund
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$712,996.37 from the Renewal & Replacement Fund

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**26-01D** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the Purchase Orders. The Purchase Orders include:

- Purchase Order #23245-1 to Kent Power in the amount of \$91,071 for a Harbor Drive underground project change order
- Purchase Order #23603 to Western Tel-Com in the amount of \$34,668 for a directional bore at Waverly and Eastern

There were a few difficulties getting the wire through on Harbor Drive and the change order is for the associated additional labor costs. The project is now expected to be wrapped up by the first week of March.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**26-01E** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to accept the strategic planning proposal from Steve Vandermeer.

Staff interviewed three firms for strategic planning facilitation. All three firms were equally qualified to conduct this work. Staff recommends accepting Steve Vandermeer's proposal because it was the low-cost bid and the Board has familiarity with Steve from the recently conducted governance training. The strategic planning timeline was reviewed and includes a Board strategic planning workshop in April with the final draft to be approved at the Board's June meeting.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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**26-01F** Erik Booth provided a presentation to kick off the discussion on community solar. The BLP's customer satisfaction survey results were reviewed along with three other community solar projects in the state. The BLP's concept for community solar is for a project size of 0.3 to 0.5 megawatts with an installation cost of approximately \$1 million. The piece of land identified as a desired location is eight acres.

It is important to note that purpose of a community solar project is to meet the wishes of the community; it would not be a power supply hedge for the BLP. Similarly, the voluntary program is not designed to reduce participants' electric bills, instead it offers an opportunity to participate in a program that generates clean energy.

By consensus, the Board provided the following guidance to staff for moving forward with the community solar project:

- A subscription rate of 33% must be reached before the project moves forward
- The project should start at 0.3 megawatts in size; additional phases may be added if the project is successful
- The subscriptions will have a 20-year term
- Ownership can be transferred if a customer moves within the BLP territory or donated to a non-profit organization if the customer is moving off system

**No formal action taken.**

**Other Business**

- Coffee with the General Manager sessions to gather input for strategic planning will be held January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sidebar Café and February 27<sup>th</sup> at Kenzie's Be Café, both from 8:00am to 9:30am.
- Community forums to gather input for strategic planning will be held at Central Park Place on February 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm to 6:00pm and February 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.
- A joint meeting of the BLP and City Council will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at City Hall.

**Public Comment Period:**

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake, asked the Board to consider including an escalation schedule to the credit rate for customers participating in the community solar project.

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**Adjournment**

At 7:19PM by motion of Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, the January 15, 2026 Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Danielle Martin  
Secretary to the Board

DM