

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

A special meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 4:30 PM at the Board's office located at 1700 Eaton Drive in Grand Haven, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 PM by Chairperson Westbrook.

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

**Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** General Manager Rob Shelley, Secretary to the Board Danielle Martin, City Attorney Ron Bultje, and Kevin Yombor and Mina Zkay of Kaufman Dolowich (attending remotely).

**26-02A** Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve the meeting agenda.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Public Comment Period:** None.

**26-02B** At 4:37 PM Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to enter closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss with BLP attorneys trial or settlement strategy pertaining to the Matthew Sterling litigation, because an open meeting would have a detrimental impact upon the litigating or settlement position of the BLP.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**26-02C** At 5:06 PM Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to end closed session and re-enter open session.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**26-02D** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the Resolution Regarding Matthew Sterling Litigation (attachment A).

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

**26-02E** At 5:07 PM Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to enter closed session pursuant to Section 8(1)(d) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the purchase or lease of real estate.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**26-02F** At 5:45 PM Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to end closed session and re-enter open session.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Adjournment**

At 5:45 PM by motion of Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, the February 23, 2026 special Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Danielle Martin  
Secretary to the Board

DM

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Attachment A

**GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER  
RESOLUTION REGARDING MATTHEW STERLING LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power (“BLP”) is a Defendant in a lawsuit initiated by Matthew Sterling (“Sterling”), Matthew Sterling v. Grand Haven Board of Light & Power, Case No. 24-7850-CZ, in the 20th Circuit Court for the County of Ottawa (the “Lawsuit”).

WHEREAS, in the Lawsuit, Sterling alleges that BLP terminated him in retaliation for reporting suspected violations of the law, in violation of Michigan’s Whistleblower Protection Act.

WHEREAS, BLP denies Sterling’s allegations, and asserts that BLP properly terminated Sterling for legitimate and non-retaliatory reasons in accordance with its employee handbook and applicable law.

WHEREAS, BLP attended a mediation with Sterling on February 3, 2026. The Parties did not reach a resolution at mediation.

WHEREAS, BLP desires to try and resolve this Lawsuit without additional legal fees and costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BLP instructs its attorney, Kaufman Dolowich, to serve upon Sterling an Offer of Judgment consistent with the presentation by Kaufman Dolowich in closed session on this date. This Offer of Judgment would resolve all claims set forth in the Complaint filed by Plaintiff, dated July 15, 2024, and be inclusive of all interest, costs, fees, and expenses incurred through the date of the entry of said Judgment.

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED**

Dated: February 23, 2026



Danielle Martin, Board Secretary  
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power, at a meeting held on February 23, 2026, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to, and in compliance with, Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

Dated: February 23, 2026



Robert Shelley, General Manager  
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power