

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

A special meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 4:15 PM at the Board's office located at 1700 Eaton Drive in Grand Haven, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 4:16 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, and Attorney Kevin Yombor of Kaufman Dolowich (attending remotely).

**26-12A** Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, 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.

**26-12B** At 4:17 PM Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, 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 financial 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.

**26-12C** At 5:17 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.

**26-12D** Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, 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.

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**Adjournment**

At 5:18 PM by motion of Director Welling supported by Director Knoth, the September 9, 2026 special Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Martin  
Secretary to the Board

DM

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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 second mediation with Sterling on September 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: September 9, 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 September 9, 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: September 9, 2026



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