

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 16, 2025

A regular meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Board's office located at 1700 Eaton Drive in Grand Haven, Michigan and electronically via live Zoom Webinar.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Operations and Power Supply Manager Erik Booth, and Distribution and Engineering Manager Austin Gagnon.

**25-01A** Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to add item 7D "PA95 Update" to the agenda.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**25-01B** Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the agenda as amended.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment Period**

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Avenue, commented on a report he shared with the Board and other community leaders. Hagen feels there is an opportunity to reduce energy waste by improving the power factor on industrial motors.

Nancy O'Neil, 216 South Second Street, commented on the Community Energy Plan and thanked the Board for Erik Booth and Paul Cederquist attending meetings and providing information. O'Neil feels various groups can successfully work together even if their perspectives do not align perfectly.

Patti Nelson, 1820 Pine Court, submitted a written comment thanking the Board for allowing staff to participate in the Community Energy Plan meetings. Nelson hopes there can continue to be collaboration on energy waste reduction.

**25-01C** John Kinch and Brittany Goode gave a presentation on the Community Energy Plan. The Plan covers the BLP service territory and focuses on three pillars: Data, Community Engagement, and Pathways/Strategies. The data review process concluded that the region can be de-carbonized.

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Developing the capacity to pursue grant funding was identified as an opportunity. The intended next step is for the three local governments to adopt the plan and to begin applying for programs and funding that are available today.

**No formal action taken.**

**25-01D** Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes:

- Approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- Receive and File the December Financial Statements, 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 12/23/2024
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$2,297,348.28 from the Operation & Maintenance Fund
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$326,764.00 from the Renewal & Replacement Fund
- Approve Purchase Order #23286 to Insight Public Sector in the amount of \$10,300 for the CY2025 Office 365 subscription
- Approve Purchase Order #23297 to ERSI in the amount of \$5,925 for the CY2025 GIS software subscription

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**24-01E** Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the Purchase Orders. The Purchase Orders include:

- Purchase Order #23298 to CDW in the amount of \$8,300 for FY2025 computer replacements of four laptops
- Purchase Order #23300 to Pleune in the amount of \$24,053 for a new HVAC rooftop unit for the Eaton Drive building

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

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**25-01F** Erik Booth provided an update of the Customer and Community Engagement strategic plan focus area. Five programs were developed to work towards meeting the outlined goals including a social media engagement program, a team member highlight campaign, an affordability and cost competitiveness education program, an outage response and restoration communications program, and an educational campaign focusing on how the utility balances affordability, sustainability, and reliability. As a part of this process, a new Crisis Communication Plan was developed. The BLP has won an APPA Customer Satisfaction Award for the past two years. 2025 customer satisfaction surveys will be conducted in the coming weeks.

**No formal action taken.**

**25-01G** Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, moved to approve the Renewable Energy Plan.

Public Act 235 set new renewable energy standards for all utilities in the state. The Board is required to submit a renewable energy plan by February to the Michigan Public Service Commission and to review the plan every two years thereafter. The BLP's plan will be submitted by MPPA on our behalf.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**25-01H** The General Manager provided an update of Public Act 95. A new law was passed in December which modifies PA 95. The Board previously voted each June to opt in or out, but that decision is now due by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The law will take effect October 1, 2025. If the Board opts in, we must collect a state determined dollar amount per meter monthly and send the collected funds to the state to fund the energy assistance program. If the Board opts out, the BLP must establish a local program that mirrors the state program, including setting aside an equivalent amount of funding to use for electric or heating assistance for our customers. The Board can change its election annually. More information will be provided ahead of the Board's anticipated vote at its March meeting.

**No formal action taken.**

**25-01I** Governance Training Lesson 14 "Strategic Planning and the Role of the Governing Board" Discussion.

**No formal action taken.**

**25-01J** The Board will watch Governance Training Lesson 15 "What is the Board's Role in Stakeholder Engagement?" for discussion at the February meeting.

**No formal action taken.**

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**Other Business**

The General Manager reported all open positions have been filled and the BLP is fully staffed. He also shared an APPA Mutual Aid Commendation received for mutual aid work done in Florida this past fall.

**Public Comment Period**

Jean Madden, 1625 Gladys Circle, spoke on her experience with clean energy and owning an electric vehicle since 2018. Madden put in a full array of solar panels during a home re-model and is very happy with the financial consistency the panels provide as most months she only pays the service charge.

John Kinch, 1523 Pine Ridge Drive, commented on the State's MEAP program and how it can be used to help identify low income customers and target them for outreach programs. Kinch feels these programs are to solve immediate challenges, but energy efficiency is the pro-active way to go.

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Avenue, encouraged the Board to set guaranteed dates for the net metering program to help calm potential fears associated with installing solar on homes. Hagen feels the former Sims coal site would be a good location for a community solar project.

**Adjournment**

At 7:31 PM by motion of Director Welling, supported by Director Knoth, the January 16, 2025 Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Martin". The script is cursive and fluid.

Danielle Martin  
Secretary to the Board

DM