

Reading Municipal Light Board of Commissioners
Executive Session
230 Ash Street
Reading, MA 01867
September 30, 2009

Start Time of Executive Session: 9:20 p.m.
End Time of Executive Session: 10:30 p.m.

Commissioners:

Ellen Kearns, Chair

Mary Ellen O'Neill, Secretary

Richard Hahn, Vice Chair

Phil Pacino, Commissioner

Staff:

Vinnie Cameron, General Manager

Jane Parenteau, Energy Services Manager

Beth Ellen Antonio, Human Resources Manager

Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2009 Executive Board Meeting

Commissioner Hahn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Pacino to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of August 26, 2009 with changes.

Motion carried 4:0:0.

Middleton Power Plant

Ms. Parenteau gave the RMLD Board an update on the Middleton Power Plant. Ms. Parenteau stated that the project is still in its very early stages and there are several issues to settle including land and water concerns.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hahn said that the RMLD should track its costs related to this project.

Concord Steam Project

Ms. Parenteau updated the RMLD Board on the Concern Steam Plant. Ms. Parenteau stated that there was a motion made by the Power Supply, Rate Setting, and Green Power Committee at their September meeting that more information should be presented at the next RMLD Board Executive Meeting. Parenteau reminded the Board that this is a wood burning generating project located in Concord, New Hampshire that supplies steam to entities in the City of Concord and is relocating the plant to another part of Concord. The RMLD was interested in taking 5 MW of the project but ended its interest in the project early in 2009 when the price was proposed to be in the \$150/MWh range. Recently Concord Steam has lowered its price to the \$115/MWh and the RMLD is interested in the project again.

Ms. Parenteau said that adding this generating plant to the RMLD portfolio would increase the RMLD's energy costs about \$.003/kWh or about 2%.

Ms. O'Neill was concerned about increasing rates with the condition of the economy. Mr. Cameron said that this project would be built because the City of Concord needs the steam supply and that this is one of the lower costs renewable projects that the RMLD will have the opportunity to get involved in.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cameron and Ms. Parenteau told the Board that the RMLD has to let Concord Steam know whether they are interested in going forward with the project. The RMLD needs to make a decision before the end of October if the Board is interested in the project.

Mr. Hahn would like to have information about the fuel supply agreements and where the project is relative to permitting for the next Executive Session Board meeting in October.

MMWEC Arbitration

Mr. Cameron updated the Board on the progress of the MMWEC arbitration. Mr. Cameron said that the RMLD and six other systems sent a letter to MMWEC demanding arbitration on the issue of the billings for the Power Supply Agreements. Mr. Cameron told the RMLD that he will keep them apprised of the progress on this issue.

Union Negotiations

Mr. Cameron said that the Line, Meter, Station and the Clerical Technical unions have formally contacted the Management and are interested in entering into negotiations with the RMLD. Ms. Antonio updated the Board as to the conversations she has had with the unions. Mr. Cameron and Ms. Antonio asked the Board if their stance on a wage increases was still █% to █% for one year and higher raises for more than a one-year contract. Mr. Cameron said that he thought a █% raise was not out of line for what he and Ms. Antonio have seen in the industry.

Discussion ensued.

It was the sense of the Board that the General Manager negotiate the union contract with raises in the range of a █% salary increase for a one year contract, a █% salary increase a year for a two year contract, and a █% salary increase a year for a three year contract.

Discussion of the Project for Releasing Executive Session Minutes

Chairman O'Neill said that the release of Executive Session minutes would be taken up at the next meeting. Secretary Pacino presented the format of how the Executive Session minutes would be released to open session.

Discussion ensued with the Board giving its approval to proceed with the Project.

Motion to Adjourn

At 10:30 p.m. Commissioner Pacino made a motion seconded by Commissioners O'Neill that the Board return to Regular Session for the sole purpose of adjournment.

Motion carried 4:0:0.

Chair Kearns called for a poll of the vote:

Mr. Pacino, Aye; Ms. O'Neill, Aye; Mr. Hahn, Aye; and Ms. Kearns; Aye.

A true copy of the RMLD Board of Commissioners minutes
as approved by a majority of the Commission.

Philip B Pacino, Secretary

RMLD Board of Commissioners