

Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) Board of Commissioners
Policy Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 28, 2016
R&C Conference Room

Start Time: 6:45 p.m.

End Time: 7:10 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members: Messrs. Hennessy, Chairman, Pacino, and Talbot

RMLD Staff: Mses. O'Brien and Foti

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Hennessy, Chair of the Policy Committee called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

Continued Review of Board Policies

Policy13 Facilities Use Policy

Ms. O'Brien said that from a union perspective, the RMLD does not have employees that fulfill the custodial duties required for an outside group to use RMLD's facilities. Ms. O'Brien explained that it is easier not to rent out the Cafeteria. From a security perspective, the new NERC regulations for the Control Room demonstrate that, RMLD as a utility is not an open public building. Mr. Stempeck was in agreement with this. Ms. O'Brien said that as a utility she was trying to capture the cost of the Cafeteria in the draft policy the committee has seen in the past. Also, there was vandalism with one outside group. The few nonprofits that have used the Cafeteria have moved on. Any of the four town agencies that use RMLD's facilities there is no charge, their liability is covered under the town's certificate. Ms. O'Brien said that the policy will be revised to reflect that the RMLD will not rent out the Cafeteria. Mr. Talbot asked if the room use could be at the discretion of the General Manager. Ms. O'Brien said that she does not want to use "at the discretion of the General Manager." The next time the committee meets there will be no discussion, it will be revised to reflect the changes that RMLD will only allow the four town agencies to use its facilities.

Policy 6 Drug Free Workplace

Ms. O'Brien said that the changes in Policy 6 are that it is more comprehensive to address the use of alcohol use, prescription drugs and certain nonprescription drugs, medical marijuana and other drug related activities and uses that could pose safety and/or operational changes. Consistent with the expansion of the policy, we changed the title to indicate that the policy applies to alcohol as well as drugs. The proposed changes clarify that the policy is intended to comply with the Drug Free Workplace Act regardless of whether the Drug Free Workplace technically applies to the RMLD. Also, the changes clarify the authority of the General Manager to employ the services of professionals to facilitate compliance and enforcement. The policy contains language that clarifies that the use of medical marijuana, even if prescribed for medical purposes, is a prohibited activity under the policy. The policy also covers all RMLD officers, consultants and contractors, not just employees. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has no standards for the medical use of marijuana.

Mr. Hennessy made a motion seconded by Mr. Talbot to approve Policy 6, Drug Free Workplace Act as presented.

Motion carried 3:0:0.

Ms. O'Brien then addressed the ICMA contribution: the policy needs to change where it is capped at \$5,000. She would like to increase the amount for nonunion employees to \$7,000. Ms. O'Brien will send the policy to the Board.

Discussion

There was no additional discussion.

Schedule Next Meeting

No date scheduled.

Motion to Adjourn

At 7:10 p.m. Mr. Hennessy made a motion seconded by Mr. Talbot to adjourn.

Motion carried 3:0:0.