

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 2023

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Board's office located at 1700 Eaton Drive in Grand Haven, Michigan and electronically via live Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Westbrook.

**Present:** Directors Crum, Hendrick, Knoth, Witherell and Westbrook.

**Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** General Manager David Walters, Secretary to the Board Danielle Martin, Finance Manager Lynn Diffell, Operations & Power Supply Manager Erik Booth, and Distribution & Engineering Manager Rob Shelley.

**23-10A** Director Witherell, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve the meeting agenda.

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Crum, Hendrick, Knoth, Witherell and Westbrook; Opposed: None.  
Motion carried.

**Public Comment Period:**

Jeff Miller, 1120 South Harbor Drive, commented on the agenda item to discuss municipalities in the BLP service area having a representative voice on the Board. He encouraged the Board to consult with the City Attorney before acting and stated the proposed charter change would have the same effect.

Austin Gagnon, Holton, read a letter signed by each BLP general employee stating unanimous opposition to the proposed charter amendment.

Shawn Kuck, 15417 Pine Street, read a letter on behalf of Local 582 UWUA stating the BLP union employees do not agree with the BLPCCC's November ballot initiative. The union feels the BLP should continue to serve under a publicly elected Board.

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Avenue, encouraged the Board and Council to request an additional report that would include cost estimates for remediation alternatives from HDR. He wants it to be clear that compound 6:2 FTS included in the HDR presentation is not a PFAs regulated chemical.

**23-10B** Director Witherell, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes:

- Approve Minutes of the April 26, 2023, Joint Meeting, May 25, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, June 7, 2023, Special Meeting and the June 7, 2023, Closed Session
- Accept and file the May Financial Statements, Power Supply and Retail Sales Dashboards

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 2023

- Accept and file the May Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Dashboard
- Accept and file the MPPA Energy Services Project Resource Position Report (dated 05/31/2023)
- Accept and file the Constellation Energy Market Update Graphs (dated 6/12/2023)
- Accept and file the General Manager's Performance Evaluation
- Approve paying bills in the amount of \$1,995,844.04 from the Operation & Maintenance Fund
- Approve paying bills in the amount of \$485,412.91 from the Renewal & Replacement Fund
- Confirm Purchase Order 22659 in the amount of \$6,000.00 to HSI Workplace Compliance Solutions for an online safety training program
- Confirm Purchase Order 22667 in the amount of \$11,130.00 to Valquest Systems, Inc. for replacement substation capacitor controls for failed units

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Crum, Hendrick, Knoth, Witherell and Westbrook; Opposed: None.  
Motion carried.

**23-10C** The HDR Harbor Island presentation provided to City Council on June 20, 2023 is included in the Board's packet for information. HDR will attend the Board's July 20, 2023 meeting to provide an update and answer questions.

**No formal action taken.**

**23-10D** Director Witherell, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve the Purchase Orders. The Purchase Orders include:

- Purchase Order 22669 in the amount of \$6,872.45 to Insight Direct USA, Inc. for a 3-year renewal for Antivirus Software
- Purchase Order 22675 in the amount of \$23,167.20 to Holland Litho Printing Services for printing, folding, and shipping of 12 Plugged In issues and printing and shipping of 6 bill inserts
- Purchase Order 22680 in the amount of \$14,529.28 to IRBY Utilities for two 3 phase distribution switches for stock
- Purchase Order 22687 in the amount of \$9,488.82 to Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. for a distribution capacitor control for stock

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 2023

- Purchase Order 22688 in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Chamber of Commerce for the 2023 Economic Development contribution
- Purchase Order 22700 in the amount of \$14,440.00 to Power Line Supply Company for 4/0 Tri-Plex Wire x 4,000' for Stock
- Purchase Order 22701 in the amount of \$110,030.00 to T&R Electric Supply Company for padmount transformers for stock

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**23-10E** Director Witherell, supported by Director Hendrick, moved to write off \$56,876.66 in electrical sales and miscellaneous receivables as bad debts.

The electrical sales write-off total is down from \$27,980.89 in 2022 to \$12,662.61 in 2023. The Board thanked the customer service department for their impact on total write-off's.

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Crum, Hendrick, Knoth, Witherell and Westbrook; Opposed: None.  
Motion carried.

**23-10F** Director Hendrick, supported by Director Witherell, moved to opt-out of Public Act 95 Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF).

Michigan's Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund raises up to \$50 million per year to support energy assistance through a per-meter charge at a maximum of \$1 per month. Non-participating utilities are not allowed to shut off service to any residential customer from November 1 to April 15 for nonpayment of a delinquent account.

The BLP provides energy assistance by contributing to the Hometown Helping Hand fund administered by the Grand Haven Salvation Army. The fund balance is not exhausted every year. Staff will meet with the Salvation Army to review the program and qualification criteria.

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Crum, Hendrick, Knoth, Witherell and Westbrook; Opposed: None.  
Motion carried.

**23-10G** Chairperson Westbrook reported he attended meetings at Spring Lake Township and Robinson Township. The public at Robinson Township were outspoken about the charter change initiative.

**No formal action taken.**

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 2023

**Motion:** Director Witherell, supported by Chairperson Westbrook, moved to appoint Directors Westbrook and Crum to serve on a subcommittee to study municipalities in the BLP service area having a representative voice on the Board of Light and Power.

The City of Ferrysburg requested the General Manager and Board Chair attend its June 5 meeting. Council members expressed opposition to the proposed charter amendment and asked how they could engage with the Board beyond participating in the public comment period.

In a round table discussion, Directors Witherell, Crum, Westbrook, and Knoth supported gathering more information. Director Hendrick felt the timing was inappropriate due to the charter change initiative.

The General Manager stated the Holland Board of Public Works has non-voting members and could be an example of how this could be executed. He encouraged the Board to review the franchise agreements for the municipalities the BLP serves.

**23-10H** Director Hendrick, supported by Director Knoth, moved to amend the motion and appoint Directors Crum and Hendrick to the subcommittee.

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Hendrick, Knoth, and Witherell; Opposed: Crum and Westbrook.  
Motion carried.

**23-10I** Director Witherell, supported by Chairperson Westbrook, moved to appoint Directors Crum and Hendrick to serve on a subcommittee to study municipalities in the BLP service area having a representative voice on the Board of Light and Power.

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Hendrick, Knoth, and Witherell; Opposed: Crum and Westbrook.  
Motion carried.

**23-10J** Director Witherell, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve a 4% salary increase for the General Manager effective July 1, 2023.

**Roll Call Vote:**

In favor: Directors Crum, Knoth, Witherell and Westbrook; Opposed: Director Hendrick.  
Motion carried.

**Other Business**

Chairperson Westbrook asked the City Manager, who was in the audience, if the BLP has any outstanding CCR obligations. The City Manager reported that all CCR financial obligations have been met.

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER  
MINUTES  
JUNE 29, 2023

Director Knoth thanked Erik Booth and his team for promoting the appliance recycling program on social media.

**Public Comment Period**

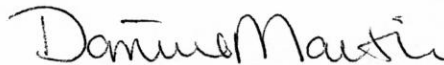
Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Avenue, feels it is too early to assign blame or costs regarding PFA's on Harbor Island until potential contributors are better understood. He is gathering information from Newaygo Farms to share.

Jeff Miller, 1120 South Harbor Drive, commented on the Closed Session held for the General Manager's performance evaluation. He would like to know what a 4% salary increase is as a dollar value and to see a comparison to other utilities.

**Adjournment**

At 6:52 PM by motion of Director Hendrick, supported by Director Witherell, the June 29, 2023 Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Danielle Martin  
Secretary to the Board

DM