

GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT AND POWER
MINUTES
AUGUST 21, 2025

A regular meeting of the Grand Haven Board of Light and Power was held on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Central Park Place, 421 Columbus Avenue 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, Finance Manager Lynn Diffell, Distribution and Engineering Manager Austin Gagnon, and Information Technology Specialist Dan Deller.

25-12A Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, moved to approve the meeting agenda.

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 the potential for a community solar project and encouraged the Board to start work on this as soon as possible.

25-12B Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda includes:

- Approve the minutes of the July 17th special meeting and July 17th regular meeting minutes.
- Receive and File the July Financial Statements, Power Supply and Retail Sales Dashboards
- Receive and File the July Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Dashboard
- Receive and File the MPPA Energy Services Project Resource Position Report dated 07/31/2025
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$3,073,051.02 from the Operation & Maintenance Fund
- Approve payment of bills in the amount of \$644,175.29 from the Renewal & Replacement Fund
- Approve confirming Purchase Order #23409-1 to MidWest Construction in the amount of \$8,688 for a change order for garage foundation work

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- Approve confirming Purchase Order #23519 to Waste Management in the amount of \$47,213 for coal yard cleanup landfill fees

The power supply key performance indicator is over budget. Electrical sales were higher than expected in July due to the hot temperatures. The budget line of the PSCA key performance indicator has a drop in October which aligns with the re-balancing rate change the Board approved last month.

Roll Call Vote:

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

25-12C Director Welling, supported by Director Polyak, moved to approve the Purchase Orders. The Purchase Orders include:

- Purchase Order #23335-1 to the City of Grand Haven in the amount of \$57,905 for a change order for coal yard clean up
- Purchase Order #23509 to VDA Labs in the amount of \$8,772 for cyber security subscriptions
- Purchase Order #23518 to Koppers Utility in the amount of \$17,921 for 40 wood distribution poles for stock
- Purchase Order #23520 to the City of Grand Haven in the amount of \$263,570 for the CCR data collection work plan
- Purchase Order #23526 to Dewitt Trenching in the amount of \$25,944 for the industrial park D bore for street lights
- Purchase Order #23527 to Todd Wenzel GMC in the amount of \$53,715 for a 2026 GMC 1500 pick up truck

Roll Call Vote:

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

Derek Gajdos, City of Grand Haven, reported the work associated with Purchase Order #23520 will provide the data to help determine what remediation efforts are feasible on Harbor Island. An informational Town Hall event will be held on November 5th from 6:30 to 8:00pm at Central Park Place.

25-12D Finance Manager Lynn Diffell provided a strategic goals update on financial management.

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Four goals were set in the Strategic Plan for the focus area of Financial Management. The status of each goal is as follows:

- Implement a 5-year rate plan – This goal is complete. Staff worked with Utility Financial Solutions to conduct a cost-of-service study, and the Board approved the rate change recommendations at last month's meeting.
- Maintain minimum cash reserves – This goal is being met on an ongoing basis. The Board established \$18 million as the minimum cash reserve in 2023. In July 2025, the Board approved a new policy which includes two methods to calculate the minimum cash reserve. The minimum was met on June 30th, 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- Achieve and maintain bond ratings – This goal was cancelled. This goal was established based upon building generation on Harbor Island. With building plans being cancelled, this goal was no longer applicable.
- Enhance processes for capital/operating budgeting annually – This goal is being met on an ongoing basis. The process has been improved using enhanced data and file sharing, working with more flexible timelines, sharing a greater amount of detail with applicable staff, and ongoing analysis of variances in the budget.

No formal action taken.

25-12E The General Manager summarized a presentation he gave to the Grand Haven City Council on August 18, 2025.

An important part of the presentation discussed sustainability and resource adequacy. In planning year 2031, the BLP moves into the negative for its forecasted capacity. This gives the Board and staff five years to work on local, regional, and statewide capacity solutions. One local option is a community solar garden. While a solar garden will not solve the adequacy issue, it can be a piece of the puzzle. To start, we would need to identify potential sites as the BLP does not own any excess land, consider funding sources including grants or tax incentives, and determine financial feasibility including if a garden can be done at a price point where customers will participate. One potential option is to build a community solar garden at the city owned parcel near the airport. The parcel could provide 0.75MW of energy at a cost of \$2 million. Overall, the Board supported exploring this option further.

No formal action taken.

25-12F The Chairman reported the General Manager's presentation to City Council on August 18th was well received. The purchasing authority policy was also approved, and the Chairman appreciated the nice comments from Council.

No formal action taken.

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Other Business

- Congratulations to Ryan LaFrance who recently completed his apprenticeship to become a Journeyman Lineman. His achievement was celebrated with an employee luncheon.
- A summer picnic was held for BLP employees on August 20th with good feedback from the employees.
- A construction update was provided. The garage foundations have been poured, the locker room is framed, and the human resources office has drywall up. When taking down the wall between the break room and board room, the former exterior concrete wall was discovered. The removal will require additional steel supports and engineering design is in progress.
- The September Board meeting will be held at Central Park Place.

No formal action taken.

Public Comment Period:

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Avenue, reported the State of Michigan recommends projects get underway by December 31, 2025 before IRA eligibility changes take effect.

Patti Nelson, 1820 Pine Court, commented via email in support of a community solar project.

Adjournment

At 6:45PM by motion of Director Welling, supported by Director Crum, the August 21, 2025 Board meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Danielle Martin
Secretary to the Board

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