MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Light and Power was called and held on November 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at 2200 Wright St., Marquette, MI 49855.

Present: Edward Angeli
Carolyn M. Piirala,
Richard J. Goodney
Kenneth C. Wanberg

Absent: John L. Sonderegger

R. Goodney called the meeting to order and deferred the roll call as J. Sonderegger was expected to attend and was not yet present.

It was moved by E. Angeli, seconded by K.Wanberg, and unanimously carried to accept the November 11, 2008 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Following a discussion it was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by R. Goodney and unanimously carried to approve Accounts Payable totaling $660,960.36.

1. **Additions or Corrections to the Agenda.**

Executive Director Kirby Juntila had no additions or corrections to the agenda. It was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by E. Angeli and unanimously carried to salute the new flag at each meeting going forward.

2. **Citizen Comment**.

Jerry Irby of 31 Mesnard St. questioned Board protocol of deferring the Roll Call. Board Legal Counsel Kenneth Seavoy said he was not aware of any statute disallowing deferring the Roll Call. R. Goodney called the Roll Call and noted J. Sonderegger's absence.

3. **Presentation to Retiree LindaJo Beauchamp.**

Director of Human Resources and Administration Paul A. Kitti presented a retirement plaque to LindaJo Beauchamp who retired August 1 after 18 years of service to the utility and community. During her tenure at the utility, L. Beauchamp served as Utility Clerk, Biller Clerk, Relief Clerk and was named Customer Service Team Leader in 2006, the position she held until her retirement. P. Kitti said her skills and wisdom are missed. L. Beauchamp said she enjoyed working at the utility which takes good care of its employees and is grateful for her retirement pension. She added MBLP employees are lucky to have steady employment.

4. **Presentation on Streetcar Restoration Project by Marquette County Historical Society.**

Executive Director Kirby Juntila said he had been approached earlier by MBLP employee Judy Vonck who also serves on the Marquette County Historical Society Board

about the museum's plans to restore an electric street car for display. Because the former streetcars were electric K. Juntila said he was interested in the project and its tie to the MBLP almost a 100 years ago and discussed the same with Board Legal Counsel K. Seavoy regarding possible Board participation in the restoration project. K. Juntila introduced Museum Director Kay Hiebel who gave a summary of the project to date including location of Street Car No. 2 in a field in Skandia by volunteers, securing the street car for the winter until it can be moved in the spring to NMU to begin the restoration, and plans to involve the community in this project which may take five (5) years to complete. Marquette school children will be researching the history of the streetcars and conducting oral interviews of residents who used to ride on the streetcars or who may have worked or known someone who rode on them. So far, two (2) original bells and two (2) original streetcar seats have been donated to the museum by the public. Plans for adults who do vehicle restoration work to team up with high school and college vocational education students as mentors is also being discussed. CAD drafting will also be used by students to complete the restoration design. Approximately $60,000 to $80,000 is projected to complete the restoration. She added at a later date the Museum will come back to the Board requesting possible sponsorship of the project.. E. Angeli questioned where the streetcar will be located after restoration? K. Hiebel responded it will be permanently displayed in front of the Museum with possible interactive displays for the public. C. Piirala questioned Graveraet 's possible participation in the project through creation of a musical for its fourth graders? K. Hiebel said the creation of the musical storyline is already underway. R. Goodney thanked K. Hiebel for her informative presentation on a great community project.

5. **Audit Presentation**.

Paul Nardi of Makela, Toutant, Hill & Nardi presented a review of the utility's June 30, 2008 audit. Mr. Nardi answered questions of the Board. It was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by E. Angeli and unanimously carried to accept the audit as presented. K. Wanberg noted an increase in sales to Alger Delta and Wisconsin Electric. C. Piirala questioned the custodial credit risk. Controller/Accountant Lon Laken and K. Juntila responded the Board's investments are reviewed frequently and the community banks which hold the Board's investments do not have the same risks as some of the larger national banks. E. Angeli asked for a review of Board assets at least several times a year.

6. **Recommendations for Payment:**

A. Unit No. 3 Boiler Work.
B. Purchase of Two (2) Relays for Plant No. 2 Substation.

On a motion by K. Wanberg, seconded C. Piirala and unanimously carried, the Board authorized payment totaling $115,975.48 to D.K. Services Inc. for its boiler work during Unit No. 3's fall maintenance shutdown.

It was moved by E. Angeli, seconded by K. Wanberg, and unanimously carried to authorize payment to Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. totaling $6,098.88 for the purchase of two (2) Electronic Protective Relays for Plant No. 2 69kV Substation Improvement Project. Superintendent of Production John Reynolds clarified the credit and outstanding amount due the Board for the incorrect relays originally delivered.

7. **Recommendations to Award:**

A. Dock Security Building.
B. Overhaul/Testing of Unit No. 3 Circuit Breakers.

It was moved by K. Wanberg, seconded by E. Angeli, and carried to award the purchase of a Security Building for the Shiras Dock from Closner Construction & Sales, Inc. totaling $6,440 per their low proposal meeting specifications. C. Piirala questioned expanding the bid list to enable more participation in the bidding process. Superintendent of Distribution David Lynch said bid lists are expanded and added he has sent out as many as 15 bids to receive only three (3) bids back. For industrial/commercial construction, typically prequalified bidders are solicited. The Builder's Exchange has also been used to advertise various Board projects. R. Goodney commented for some projects staff time spent to educate potential bidders could cost more than any potential savings. R. Goodney abstained from voting as he is employed by Closner's.

On a motion by K. Wanberg , seconded by C. Piirala, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the Overhaul/Repair of four (4) Unit No. 3 Circuit Breakers to Badger Electric Motor, Inc. at a not to exceed cost of $19,712. Bader Electric Motor is the only know regional company that services these circuit breakers. E. Angeli asked for a definition of not-to-exceed. K. Juntila said a vendor will anticipate the cost of the work but doesn't know the exact cost until they begin to do the work. If they find the work to complete the repair is more than the cost to replace it with new equipment, the not-to-exceed provision applies.

C. Piirala excused herself at 6:26 p.m. due to a previous commitment at her school.

8. **Any Additional Business the Executive Director Wishes to Present.**

K. Juntila: 1). Advised the Board the City Commission approved the proposed joint partnership between NTN, the City and the MBLP to restore nighttime skiing at the Fit Strip Cross Country Trail to provide additional recreational opportunities for the community. The MBLP will maintain the Fit Strip lighting fixtures. 2). The replacement/upgrade of the lighting system at the Blueberry Ridge Cross Country Ski Trail was completed today through a joint partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the MBLP and the Midwest Skills Development Center Line Technician School. The grant-funded project provided valuable hands-on experience for the line school students who assisted with the replacement of 38 lighting fixtures and five (5) poles. He added additional lighting may be added to the parking lot. He added that the utility has hired five (5) graduates for its apprentice linemen program. D. Lynch added that the line school is receiving a First Place Workforce Development Award from the Mid-America Economic Development Council Dec. 8 in Chicago for its program which takes a local workforce and develops its talent. He added Governor Granholm uses the line school program as a model for the state of Michigan, and; 3). His recently deceased father-in-law had shared stories about riding on the electric street cars and said he is interested in and supportive of the community project.

9. **Time for Citizen Comments.**

No comments were received from citizens.

10. **Any Additional Business the Board Members Wish to Present.**

K. Wanberg questioned if the lighting system needs to be upgraded at the Fit Strip, too? K. Juntila said it will be evaluated for next year. K. Wanberg added that Paul Kitti, MBLP Director of Human Resources and Administration, is working on a presentation regarding health care and retiree health care in response to an inquiry from a retiree.

R. Goodney commented positively on the two (2) articles submitted to the Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA) Currents Magazine regarding K. Juntila being named Board Chair of the MMEA and the utility's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project led by D. Lynch to be implemented beginning this spring.

E. Angeli said he is interested in future updates on investments and in making the current bidding process as fair as possible.

11. **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Carolyn M. Piirala,
Vice Chair/Secretary

The Minutes of the Marquette Board of Light and Power are on file at the City Clerk's Office, Peter White Public Library and the MBLP Main office at 2200 Wright St. The minutes can also be viewed at www.mblp.org.