



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Agenda City Commission

WORK SESSION

Monday, January 17, 2022

4:30 PM

MBLP Board Room

Meeting held at:

Marquette Board of Light and Power

2200 Wright Street

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Bonsall, Davis, Hanley, Hill, Mayer, Smith, Stonehouse

Announcements

Mayor Smith had no announcements,

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please state your name and physical address when making public comments.

There were no public comments.

1. Marquette Board of Light and Power Update

City Manager Karen Kovacs said she was hoping to take tonight as an opportunity to provide the City Commission with a brief update on Board of Light and Power operations. BLP Executive Director Tom Carpenter welcomed the Commission and then began a presentation that covered several topics.

- The Shiras Steam Plant demolition is almost entirely complete, he said, and should wrap up in the spring. He said it looks like the project will come in significantly under budget, and the group discussed possible future uses for the property, which continues to be used as a bulk unloading site for CCI.
- The BLP is currently circulating a customer satisfaction survey and will be launching a new bill pay and user portal by the end of January.
- There is a need for a second connection with the broader American Transmission Company system to provide redundancy.
- A project is in the works that will replace hydro controls equipment, which is very old.

- The recently completed study about the possibility of the BLP providing broadband service indicated that the effort could work, but that it's not clear enough people would utilize the service to make it financially feasible, even over the long-term. Mr. Carpenter said that partners or grant funding may change the plan, but for the moment the BLP will not be moving forward with the initiative. Discussion ensued about the study and about the possibility of making a version of it available for review.
- As electric vehicles become more common, the BLP is working with a third-party company to look at what the potential impacts to the BLP system could be and how to best prepare.
- There was discussion and background about a franchise request from UPPCO to the City. Staff from the BLP and City shared the history of the request, discussed options with Commissioners and indicated that the City Commission would likely be asked to action on the request at a future meeting.

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There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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