



## Observer Report

### **MARBLEHEAD MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD:**

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 4:30pm (in-person and via GoToMeeting)

Present: Joe Kowalik (General Manager) Commissioners: Mike Hull (Chair), Nate Burke, Walter Homan, Karl Johnson, Lisa Wolf

Approximately 20 members of the public were in attendance.

LWV Observers: Jody Howard and Nancy Powell

1. Project 2015A (Peabody Peaker Plant) Update: General Manager, Kowalik gave a slide presentation that outlined the justification for the MMLD decision to go forward with the Peaker Plant Project. Noting he is aware of the recent public concerns about climate impacts and lack of public input, he plans to hold a public information session on or about June 17<sup>th</sup> in Marblehead and announced another public meeting that will be held with MMWEC at the Peter Torigian Senior Center, 75R Central Street, Peabody on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. When asked by a rate-payer about the idea of withdrawing from the project he said that the 2015A contract had been signed in 2017 and payments have been made (\$430,000 to date) and if MMLD were to withdraw there would be additional and significant financial losses. Ms. Wolf indicated she would like to explore ways to mitigate those costs or look at negotiating around an "out-clause".

2. Vote to Ratify Decision to Proceed with Project 2015A: Mr. Kowalik proposed the MMLB vote today to re-ratify the 2017 decision to invest in the Peabody Peaker Plant. Ms. Wolf questioned the need to do this now so close to Town Elections which could bring about a change of membership on the Board. The Board then did vote with members Hull, Burke, Johnson and Homan voting "yes" and member Wolf voting to "abstain".