**TRAVERSE CITY**
**LIGHT AND POWER BOARD**

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Held at 5:15 p.m., Commission Chambers, Governmental Center
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

**Board Members Present:** Paul Heiberger – Chairperson, John Taylor – Vice-Chairperson, Elysha Davila – Board Member, Suzannah Tobin – Board Member, Bradley Matson- Board Member, Laura Ness - City Commissioner & Board Member, Lance Boehmer- City Commissioner & Board Member

**Board Members Absent:**

**Ex Officio Member Present:** Benjamin Marentette, City Manager

**Staff Present:** Brandie Ekren – Executive Director, Deirdre Griswold – Executive Assistant, Karla Myers-Beman – Chief Financial Officer, Kelli Schroeder – Director of People & Community, Jacob Hardy – Manager of Business Innovation & Engagement

**Pledge of Allegiance**

1. **Roll Call**

2. **Disclosure of Recusal**

3. **Consent Calendar**

   a. Approval of Agenda.

   b. Consideration of approving minutes of the Regular meeting of August 11, 2026, and the minutes of the Community Investment Fund Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of August 27, 2026. (CIF Ad Hoc Committee) (Approval recommended)

      that the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 11, 2026, and the minutes of the Community Investment Fund Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of August 27, 2026 be approved.

   c. Consideration of Approving the Amendment to the Employment of Relatives Policy (Approval Recommended) (Schroeder)

      that the Amendment to the Employee of Relative Policy be approved.

   d. Consideration to approve Division updates and Organizational Chart (Approval Recommended) (Ekren and Schroeder)

      that the Division Updates and Organizational Chart be approved.

John Taylor moved that the Consent Calendar portion of the agenda be approved. Laura Ness seconded the motion.

**Yes:** Elysha Davila, Paul Heiberger, John Taylor, Suzannah Tobin, Laura Ness, Bradley Matson, and Lance Boehmer

**Absent:** None

Carried 7 to 0.

## 4. Unfinished Business

a. Public Hearing for the Consideration of approving a 5% rate adjustment, effective for consumption on and after October 1, 2026, for the residential, commercial, commercial demand, and industrial rate classes. (Myers-Beman)

Karla Myers-Beman, Chief Financial Officer presented additional information in support of the rate adjustment under consideration prior to the public comment segment of the public hearing.

The following individuals did not express support for the rate adjustment under consideration and made public comment to the Board:
Mary Orth, Traverse City, ratepayer
Bill Twietmeyer, Traverse City, ratepayer
Ellen Fivenson, Traverse City, ratepayer
Lane Corbin, Traverse City, ratepayer

Following conversation from various Board members involving additional questions and responses to Brandie Ekren, Executive Director and Karla Myers-Beman, Chief Financial Officer, Laura Ness moved that the Light & Power Board approves a 5% rate adjustment, effective for consumption on and after October 1, 2026, for the residential, commercial, commercial demand, and industrial rate classes. Suzannah Tobin seconded the motion.

**Yes:** Elysha Davila, Paul Heiberger, John Taylor, Suzannah Tobin, Laura Ness, Bradley Matson, and Lance Boehmer

**Absent:** None

Carried 7 to 0.

## 5. New Business

a. Consideration of approving Community Investment Fund Award Recipients (CIF Ad Hoc Committee)

Elysha Davila, CIF Ad Hoc Chairperson, provided an overview of the process and consideration of applications for the CIF Award.

Lance Boehmer moved that the Light & Power Board approve funding from the approved Community Investment Fund budget line item towards the following organizations:

· Friends of Historic Commons – $12,500

· Habitat for Humanity – Grand Traverse Region - $40,000
· Preserve Hickory – $16,500

Laura Ness seconded the motion.

**Yes:** Elysha Davila, Paul Heiberger, John Taylor, Suzannah Tobin, Laura Ness, Bradley Matson, and Lance Boehmer

**Absent:** None

Carried 7 to 0.

b. Consideration of approving Public Power Week, October 4-10, 2026 (Schroeder)

Kelli Schroeder, Director of People & Community, provided an overview of the purpose of Public Power Week and the value of the proclamation celebrating Public Power Week.

John Taylor moved that the Light & Power Board approve the Proclamation celebrating Public Power Week, October 4-10, 2026. Lance Boehmer seconded the motion.

**Yes:** Elysha Davila, Paul Heiberger, John Taylor, Suzannah Tobin, Laura Ness, Bradley Matson, and Lance Boehmer

**Absent:** None

Carried 7 to 0.

## 6. Reports and Communications

**a. From Legal.**

**b. From Staff.**

1. FY25/26 Q4 Financials Ending June 30th

The following people addressed the Board:

Karla Myers-Beman, Chief Financial Officer

**c. From Board.**

## 7. Public Comment

a. General Public Comment:

The following individuals from the Public addressed the Board:

Ellen Fivenson, Traverse City, ratepayer

## 8. Adjournment

There being no objection, Chairperson Heiberger adjourned the meeting at 5:56pm.

*Brandie F. Ekren*

Brandie F. Ekren, Secretary
LIGHT & POWER BOARD