

Littleton Light and Water Departments
Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

April 30th, 2025

I. Present for Meeting

Commissioners: Joe Knox, Melissa Hebert, Ivan Pagacik, Dick Taylor

General Manager: Nick Lawler

Staff: Dave Ketchen, Sara Karr, Paul Denaro, Matt Silverman

Audience: Mark Hollinger, Mark Crory, Rob Rounce

Meeting called to order: 6:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 PM, Motion by Commissioner Knox, seconded by Commissioner Pagacik.

The Vote: 4-0

II. General

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve minutes from March 26th, 2025, on a motion made by Commissioner Knox and seconded by Commissioner Pagacik, the Board approved the minutes from March 26th, 2025, The Vote: 4-0.
 - a. GM Nick Lawler stated there was a comment made at candidates' night that the minutes are not updated with the Town Clerk and on our website. Nick stated this is not an accurate statement, we reached out to Diane Crory, and she has everything she needs, and she stated we are one of the best boards to provide her with minutes. Nick stated Sara is doing a great job getting those minutes where they need to be.
3. Public Input – Rob Rounce wanted to thank the department on how we support the Clean Lakes Committee, and it if were not for LELWD the CLC would not be where they are today. Rob also thanked GM Nick Lawler for being a catalyst for changes that have been undertaken by CLC. CLC now has money coming in from Select Board, CPC, and Parks & Rec and this is all thanks to LELWDs support.
4. LCTV – Community Grant (Moved out of Order)
 - a. GM Nick Lawler wanted to make the Board aware of all the great things LCTV has done — not just for us, but for the entire community. Mark Crory was looking into whether we could tap into pole attachment fees from cable companies as a source of revenue support for LCTV, but unfortunately, this is not feasible. Mark is now exploring alternative ways to secure funding for LCTV.
 - b. Mark Crory provided a background story on how LCTV began: when cable first came into Town back in the early 1990s, Mark was an employee of Nashoba Cable, which paid his salary and benefits. Through contract agreements between Nashoba Cable and the Town, they agreed to contribute 5% of their gross annual revenue to the PEG fund. At one point, the PEG fund held about \$750,000, and this fund continues to support LCTV today. LCTV does not cost Littleton taxpayers anything and hasn't since they were first established as a Town department.

- c. LCTV has lost over 1,000 cable subscribers in the last five years, and this directly impacts the PEG fund. Mark went to the Select Board about six years ago to explain this trend and warn them that it would become a problem for LCTV's revenue stream. At the time, the Select Board was receptive to the idea of the Town subsidizing some of LCTV's expenses. However, our current administration has not been as supportive, due to the number of other projects underway, and they've asked Mark to look for alternative sources of funding.
- d. LCTV has always provided immense support to this Town and has grown their department in step with the Town's evolving needs. LCTV also provides services to Boxborough, and they charge them a fixed cost for those services.
- e. Commissioner Pagacik asked the Board to take the lead in bringing other Town Boards together to discuss how we can all support LCTV — particularly in front of FinCom and the Select Board — and determine a long-term plan to sustain it. Commissioner Hebert and GM Nick Lawler will begin the conversation.

5. Volt Typhoon

- a. GM Nick Lawler stated this came up at candidates' night where a few unfortunate comments were made and Nick wants to make sure the Board understands how Volt Typhoon came about.
- b. Over 200 organizations were attacked by Volt Typhoon in the Northeast, and it was a zero-day vulnerability, which means there was no stopping it. This is how these hackers work — they "live off the land," which means there's no evidence, no crumbs left behind once they expose the vulnerability. For us, it was through a firewall — they looked like a Littleton employee.
- c. They came periodically through the system. We were notified by the FBI, who was notified by Microsoft — which is tremendous in this area of threat hunting. Microsoft was the only organization who knew about Volt Typhoon and alerted the FBI. The FBI, Microsoft, CISA, and Dragos were all trying to figure out how to mitigate the threat and determine how far it had infiltrated the system.
- d. We did not go public for 10 months because anyone who has worked with the federal government knows you cannot go public with this stuff when it is happening. The exercise took 10 months — mitigating, replacing, coming back in, and doing a full test on the system to make sure the threat was blocked out.
- e. LELWD had the best of the best working on this issue, and no one in Littleton could have done a better job than the people we had. AGM David Ketchen worked on this — and went on to win an award through the state for his work.
- f. We **do** know how the hackers got in — a statement recklessly made during Candidates Night. We are the only victim to go public with this. No other victims went public. We did not hush it up — again, another public statement made recklessly.
- g. The final test was completed by the FBI in August 2024, and once that was done, we went public in September 2024 at an APPA conference. Rob Lee was so impressed with us going public that he asked to perform a case study on it, which came out in March 2025. Once the case study was published, it blew up in the media.
- h. Nick then attended another APPA event, and General Paul Nakasone — former NSA Director — sought Nick out to thank him and the board for stepping out and going public. Nick has gone on many podcasts and continues to go to conferences to speak on this event. Nick stated that even 60 Minutes is looking to make a story on it. So, when people make reckless political statements about this being hushed up or us being caught flat-footed — it upsets me. Nick commends this Board on what we have accomplished

with Volt Typhoon. Nick stated he feels for Commissioner Pagacik and Commissioner Hebert that this just got tossed on them in the middle of their election, we did not realize this would have been used politically and it is a shame it has.

III. Electric Light Department

1. 2025 Financials
 - a. The Board reviewed the 25% complete budget
 - b. Power budget is high due to the cold months.
 - c. In Lieu of Tax – Not currently expended and regardless to LCTV's ask we do have the Community Grant which we do not always expend. This could be a way to help fund LCTV.
 - d. Capital Budget – The Board reviewed
 - e. Cash Report – The Board reviewed
 - f. Rate of Return – Currently at 1.1%.
2. Capital Project Updates
 - a. Foster Street
 - i. Crews have been doing work on Sundays due to all the businesses being affected. We have one area left hoping to get that done in a few weeks if the weather cooperates. Once this is complete, we will begin setting poles
 - b. Fiber
 - i. We received comments back from the State for the DOT permit on what they need for their traffic management plan. Overall moving quickly.
 - ii. The fiber is used for communication with different departments and buildings in Town. Our current ring is almost at capacity and this new ring should give us more than we need.
 - c. Pole Replacement
 - i. Crews working throughout the system
3. MEAM Legislative Update
 - a. Two updates from the last meeting
 - i. The Advanced Clean Trucks regulation has been delayed by two years, and the Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse has been pulled. This is great news and will continue to keep all updated.
4. Stony Brook Intermediate
 - a. On a motion made by Commissioner Pagacik and seconded by Commissioner Knox, the Board approved the Resolution as presented and to allow the General Manager to sell our share in the Intermediate Stony Brook Power Plant. The Vote: 4-0.

IV. Water Department

1. FY25 Financials
 - a. Budget – The Board reviewed the 75% complete budget.
 - b. Capital Budget – The Board reviewed.
 - c. Cash Report – The Board reviewed.
2. Cobbs/Nagog (Land) (Moved out of Order)
 - a. LELWD are looking to get land in some capacity and we are able to support Conservations restrictions on 107A.

3. IGA – MWRA Shared Consultant Services (Moved out of Order)
 - a. This is the first action to come out of the meetings to connect to the MWRA. This is just to hire a consulting service to figure out how this will work financially.
 - b. On a motion made by Commissioner Pagacik and seconded by Commissioner Knox, the Board to authorize the General Manager to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement Shared Consulting Services. The Vote: 4-0.
4. Capital Project Updates
 - a. Boxborough Water Main
 - i. CJP continuing with the watermain infrastructure on Whitcomb Ave. Currently there is a small leak that they cannot find.
 - ii. C Naughton is working on services up until Rt 2.
 - b. EPA will be using WTP as a testing site to train inspectors for DEP. It will be a 3-day course. Paul Denaro stated this is a good gesture for us to do this.

V. Sewer Department

1. FY25 Financials
 - a. Budget – The Board reviewed the 75% completed budget.
 - b. Capital Budget – The Board reviewed.
 - c. Cash Report – The Board reviewed.
2. Project Updates
 - a. 242 King Street working on the electrical inside, all material is onsite and currently working with engineers on a startup plan.
 - b. Revoli is back working on the collection system and are still a few weeks on until they are back on the road.
 - c. Weston and Sampson infiltration report should be ready by mid-May. LELWD is still working on researching another discharge sites.

VI. General Manager

1. General Manager Update
 - a. APPA National Conference June 9th
 - b. Devens had final interviews, and it is between us and a contractor. Their Board will go for a vote so we should know soon.
 - c. Navajo – We have 3 linemen going to support this effort to bring electricity to the Native Americans.
 - d. Denise Pagacik Scholarship is being awarded to 3 individuals on May 27th.
2. Next Meeting and Adjourn
 - a. May 27th at 6:00pm