

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BURLINGTON ELECTRIC COMMISSION**

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

The regular meeting of the Burlington Electric Commission was convened at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at Burlington Electric Department, 585 Pine Street, Burlington, Vermont, and on Microsoft Teams.

Attendance

- Channel 17 was present to record this meeting.
- Commissioners Lara Bonn, Ali Kenney, Scott Moody, and Brian Williams were present.
- Staff members Elena Alexander, Xander Briggs, Paul Alexander, Nate Gunesch, Mike Kanarick, Lincoln Sprague, Darren Springer, and Emily Stebbins-Wheelock were present at 585 Pine Street.
- Staff members Seth Clifford and James Gibbons were present via Microsoft Teams.
- Bond counsel, Kathy Zhou of Paul, Frank + Collins was present at 585 Pine Street.
- Public member Jacob Flannigan was present at 585 Pine Street.

1. Agenda

Commissioner Moody made a motion to update agenda item #7 from January 2026 to December 2025 Financials. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kenney. Motion passes 4-0.

2. Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Williams moved to accept January 14, 2026 minutes as presented. Commissioner Moody seconded the motion. Vote: 3 ayes 0 nays. Commissioner Bonn abstained from voting as she was absent from the January 14, 2026 meeting.

3. Public Forum

Jacob Flannigan shared information about Burlington Window Dressers, a volunteer-driven nonprofit that makes insulated window inserts to help keep homes warmer and reduce heat loss through windows. These window inserts are cost-effective alternatives to expensive window replacements, using simple wooden frames, plastic wrap, and gaskets to create an insulating barrier. The inserts are built annually during a community event where participants, including homeowners, renters, and landlords, collaborate. A significant portion of inserts (about 38% statewide) is provided free to low- and moderate-income households, removing cost barriers.

4. Monthly Impact Minute

Nate Gunesch, an Energy Innovation Fellow funded by the Department of Energy (DOE) through a two-year grant working at Burlington Electric Department, gave an update on the Building GIANTS program. The DOE fellowship emphasizes learning, training, and involvement in the energy sector,

offering opportunities like conference attendance and monthly educational sessions. The Building GIANTS program, with support from a DOE grant, evolves the Department's Defeat the Peak initiative to implement automated flexible load management for commercial and residential electrified heating and cooling systems in order to reduce peak demand costs and increase the cost-effectiveness of electrified heating. The commercial part of the program is ready to launch and the Department is actively working to enroll customers. Launch of the residential part of the program is expected later this summer pending finalization of device vendor contracts and filing of a pilot rate with the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

5. Commissioners' Corner

No topics discussed.

6. General Manager's Update

General Manager Springer shared the following:

- In calendar year 2025, the McNeil plant had a net income of over \$2 million pre-depreciation and interest, largely driven by elevated energy prices.
- The gas turbine (GT) at the waterfront, now running on B20 mixed biodiesel and oil with plans to shift towards 100% renewable diesel (R99), is a reliability asset used mainly during high price periods.
- Recent high ISO New England energy prices are driven by increased demand for natural gas during colder weather, fuel switching from natural gas to oil, and the need for fast-start units to back up renewable resources.
- The Department has provided legislative testimony on the Energy Efficiency Modernization Act, aiming to balance weatherization, emissions reduction programs, and support for income-qualified customers' energy upgrades.
- Regulatory updates include a new docket assessing the need for a performance assessment of BED's energy efficiency utility, the Department of Public Service's issuance of an RFP for a consultant to conduct a business process review of BED, discovery for the 2027-2029 Demand Resources Plan, and potential for a slight reduction in the FY26 rate case request.
- Department staff recently toured the new Burlington High School, which exemplifies modern, energy-efficient design with geothermal heating/cooling, extensive heat pumps, EV charging, and all-electric kitchen systems supported by incentives and geothermal testing programs.

7. December 2025 Financial Review

Emily Stebbins-Wheelock, CFO and Manager of Strategy & Innovation, presented financial results for December 2025.

- The Department recorded a net loss of \$460,000, \$420,000 worse than the budgeted net loss of \$41,000, mainly due to unfavorable net power supply expenses and purchased power costs.
- Sales to customers were favorable to budget by nearly \$300,000.
- Net power supply was unfavorable to budget by \$513,000, with savings on fuel offset by higher than budgeted transmission and purchased power expenses. Due to lower than

budgeted production from McNeil, Winooski One, and hydro contracts, BED was a net purchaser of energy (“short”) in December, which also contributed to unfavorable variances.

- Other operating and maintenance expenses were \$397,000 over budget for December, though the year-to-date variance is only 1.65% over budget.
- Year-to-date net income was \$2.4 million, about \$1.2 million better than budget. The Department is monitoring the fiscal year-end forecast closely given the potential for continued power supply challenges in January and February.
- Capital spending is at 25% of the fiscal year budget, with a projected spend of \$14.1 million and revenue bond issuance scheduled for March 18, 2026.
- The debt service coverage ratio was (DSCR) 4.6 and the adjusted debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR) was 1.14, with a target ADSCR of 1.2 for fiscal year-end to maintain Moody’s comfort level and credit rating.
- Commissioner Kenney asked for an explanation of the difference between the DSCR and ADSCR calculations. Ms. Stebbins-Wheelock responded that the ADSCR incorporates all debt obligations and deducts payments in lieu of taxes from revenue available for debt service. An ADSCR ratio below 1.1 would likely flag Moody’s concern.
- Ms. Stebbins-Wheelock addressed some additional questions from Commissioner Kenney regarding the impact of ISO-New England energy prices on BED’s financials. To the extent BED is “long” on energy, higher regional energy prices are beneficial. Generally, it is advantageous if McNeil has a high availability factor (available as a resource to ISO-New England), but if McNeil has a lower capacity factor (actual output as compared to theoretical output) that coincides with high energy prices, that is disadvantageous.
- BED’s projected load growth is flat at 0.5-1% per year, limiting revenue growth without rate increases, posing challenges for debt coverage ratios.
- Ms. Stebbins-Wheelock shared a graph of BED’s long-term debt service for the next 20 years. A large decline in principal payment is expected in fiscal year 2031.

8. Supplemental Resolution No. 20

Ms. Stebbins-Wheelock and Kathy Zhou of Paul, Frank & Collins presented as follows:

- Bond counsel is proposing Supplemental Resolution No. 20 to amend the General Bond Resolution adopted in 1981.
- The amendments include allowing flexibility in debt service reserve fund requirements (based on the current IRS “least of three” tests for tax bond compliance), enabling bond issuance with or without a debt service reserve fund, permitting funding of the debt service reserve fund via credit facilities instead of cash, and modernizing bondholder notifications from newspaper ads to electronic publication via the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board’s EMMA system, improving efficiency and reducing costs.
- The amendments require the consent of 2/3 of bondholders to take effect, typically achieved through new bond issuances.
- The PUC is not required to approve the Department’s bond issuances due to city charter authority; PUC oversight would occur during rate-making proceedings if liquidity impacts are involved.

Commissioner Kenney moved that the Burlington Electric Commission approve the adoption of

Supplemental Resolution 20 as amended and Commissioner Moody seconded the motion. Motion passes 4-0.

9. McNeil Budget Update

Lincoln Sprague, Director of Generation Engineering and Maintenance, presented three changes to the calendar year 2026 McNeil Station budget for a vote.

- First item: Add a \$1,000,393 capital expense to replace the RSCR system heat sink to restore plant capacity by 5 MW, which would be scheduled for the April outage.
- Second item: Add a payment for a new turbine blade carrier, a major, long lead-time part needed for a 2028 outage, with a staggered payment schedule to maintain future flexibility amid joint ownership considerations.
- Third item: Increase in the revenue forecast to \$7.36 million due to McNeil Station's admission to Maine's renewable energy credit market.

Commissioner Moody made the motion to accept the amended McNeil budget as presented. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. Motion passes 4 ayes 0 nays.

10. Written and Verbal Public Comments Policy

Commissioner Bonn proposed a formal policy to manage written and verbal public comments provided to the Commission to ensure clarity, transparency, and consistency. The policy proposed is as follows:

- Written comments are to be directed to the Board clerk, who acknowledges receipt and shares them with all Commissioners but does not include them in the Commission packet.
- Verbal comments require sign-up (virtual or in-person), will be subject to a time limit (suggested five minutes). Members of the public will be encouraged to submit written comments if they are unable to comment verbally.
- The policy recommends limiting back-and-forth exchanges during public comments to avoid adversarial interactions, reserving discussions for actionable items.
- Commissioners can raise issues during Commissioners' corner or request agenda items to discuss actionable feedback and follow up questions.

11. Commissioners' Corner

No topics discussed.


Adjourn

Commissioner Moody made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kenney. Motion passes, 4 ayes 0 nays.

The meeting of the Burlington Electric Commission adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Microsoft Teams transcript used to draft minutes prepared by Elena Alexander and edited by Emily Stebbins-Wheelock.

Attest: 
Elena Alexander, Board Clerk

Attest: **Emily Stebbins-Wheelock (50085)** 
Emily Stebbins-Wheelock, CFO and Manager of Strategy and Innovation

Digitally signed by Emily Stebbins-Wheelock (50085)
DN: C=US, S=MA, L=Holyoke, O=ISO New England
Inc., OU=USER ID - 600069772, OU=ISNE,
CN=Emily Stebbins-Wheelock (50085),
E=estebbins-wheelock@burlingtonelectric.com
Reason: I am approving this document
Location: your signing location here
Date: 2025-12-09 07:58:03
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