



Grand Haven Board of Light & Power Questionnaire

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Employer: __Retired_____

Office Being Sought: _GH Board of Light & Power Trustee_____

**Please feel free to attach a separate sheet if the space provided is not sufficient.*

General:

1. What qualifications/experience do you feel you possess that will enable you to fulfill the responsibilities of the elected office you are seeking?

As a concerned citizen, for the past six years I have been attending BLP board meetings as well as all of the Community Forums relating to the future of electric power in Grand Haven. I have also regularly attended City Council meetings, especially as they related to BLP issues.

I have followed the discussion on providing heat to the downtown snowmelt system and believe that there are financial and technical alternatives that have not been adequately explored.

I have followed the discussions of City of Grand Haven finances including the current \$25 million plus deficit in its Defined Benefit (pension) Plan.

I am following the RFQ process involving potential sale of the former Diesel plant including the newest bid responses that might generate \$1 million in cash to the BLP.

I follow the BLP budget including the roughly \$1 million per year Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PIT) transfer to the City General Fund as well as the current \$300,000/month BLP is accumulating due to the difference between its rate structure and the cost of power from "the grid".

I read extensively on emerging power technologies such as hydrogen from water, biomass (Holland is apparently considering a large-scale plant), nuclear (using plutonium instead of uranium) and especially "battery" technology as a means of storing electricity from volatile renewable sources.

I am following the discussion with BLP and its larger commercial ratepayers who have publicly recommended a review of current BLP plans and have publicly suggested that they might switch providers if their concerns are not addressed and rates kept stable or lowered.

In short, I listen to ratepayers, I listen to the market and technology trends, I listen.

2. Have you ever run for political office before? If yes, please explain.

I ran for GH City Council in 2018 and for BLP Trustee in 2019

3. If elected, what would be your top priorities and why?

1) separate Harbor Island remediation from any power plant construction, if any ever occurs.

2) Pay for the remediation with cash that is accumulating based on the current BLP rate structure which appears higher than the current cost of buying power from "the grid". Do not proceed with a construction bond offering (if ever) until remediation costs are known and paid for.

3) When remediation is completed, continue buying power from "the grid" and lower rates

4) Separate downtown snowmelt issues from power generation issues and move the snowmelt boiler(s) to the empty land at Chinook Pier. Consider using the snowmelt boiler(s) to also heat a year round Farmer's Market building in the same location.

5) I would work with other BLP Board members to move BLP Board meeting times to early evening (7-7:30 PM) and to a larger venue such as the Community Center to foster more community and ratepayer involvement in BLP discussions and decisions

4. Please provide information regarding your knowledge of municipal power.

I have read the strategic plans and policy statements for the BLP, MISO, MMPA, the Michigan Public Service Commission and have read in depth, on market issues and trends such as commercial scale battery storage of energy, especially renewables and on planned plant closures in the Michigan "grid"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_power_stations_in_Michigan.

I have followed the planning and development of electric power generation in neighboring cities including Zeeland (a portfolio similar to Grand Haven's), Holland (a combined cycle technology very different technically from that proposed for Grand Haven and financially completely different being a significant net exporter to "the grid").

5. What are your top three priorities for the Board of Light & Power for the next 6 years?

- 1) Static or lower rates for Residential and Commercial users.
 - 2) Open BLP Board proceedings to be more accessible to rate-payer input including changing meeting times and venues to occur weekday evenings to allow for wider attendance and input. Create a mechanism to receive broader input to BLP discussions and plans that includes industrial and residential rate-payers that are located outside the Grand Haven City limits.
 - 3) Pursue grants at the state, Federal and industry level that could be used to make Grand Haven's BLP a model utility for smaller municipalities
6. Reliability and competitive rates are critical to not only manufacturers but to all customers of the BLP. If elected, how will you work with the board to insure both are a priority.

"The grid" currently supplies power at roughly \$30/kWhr versus projected costs of \$40+/kWhr for local generation. "The grid" reliability is stated to be 99.9%+. Given these two data points, I would strive toward buying as much power from "the grid" as possible. Market trends including a shrinking grid could make the price differential much smaller. Expected increasing demand for electricity, especially for charging Electric Vehicles could make the cost differential even smaller. The BLP Board and staff should be monitoring these market trends and contracting for long term power to insure that rates remain competitive.