



GRAND HAVEN BOARD OF LIGHT & POWER GENERAL MANAGER



The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power (BLP) seeks a General Manager to serve in the top leadership position for the utility. The General Manager is employed by, and reports to, a five-member Board of Directors who are elected by the citizens of Grand Haven. The BLP is the exclusive provider of electric service within the City of Grand Haven and provides services to portions of the City of Ferrysburg and the Townships of Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Robinson. The BLP has approximately 15,000 electric customers with a peak demand of 61.4 MW. Total revenues in Fiscal Year 2022 were \$37.2 million. The BLP has 35 full-time employees including 20 who are represented by the Utility Workers Union of America Local 582. The current union contract will be in effect until June 30, 2026.

As a municipal electric utility, the BLP exists to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable utility service to residents and businesses within the Grand Haven area. The BLP's mission is to meet their community's expectations for reliable electric service that returns value to customers and ensures economic and environmental sustainability.

The BLP's General Manager plays an active role that will directly impact Grand Haven's quality of life. This role requires a high level of industry foresight, utility acumen, and leadership to continue the BLP's track record of consistently elevating performance and services for the benefit of customers and the community. The General Manager must be an effective and proactive communicator who will forge strong relationships and work collaboratively and transparently with the BLP's Board of Directors, employees, city leadership, community, and other key stakeholders.

The GM must ensure the Board is fully apprised of emerging financial and operational challenges, as well as regulatory, legislative, and technological changes and trends. He or she is also expected to be an accomplished manager who builds strong teams and offers a track record of employee development.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Under the policy direction of the elected Board, provide management direction of all operational and planning activities and functions involved in the purchase, distribution, and sale of electrical capacity and energy.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

- Supervise and participate in the identification of potential or existing problems, the recommendation of policy options to the Board, and the implementation of policy decisions.
- Supervise activities related to operation and capital expenditure budgets and plans, rate filings, employee relations, identification of government regulations and their impact, identification and refinement of organizational objectives, and long range planning.
- Direct, lead, coach, and mentor utility personnel to achieve the BLP's goals and objectives.
- Negotiate and problem solve in technical areas including oversight of BLP power supply, the development of maintenance standards and schedules, risk management, the retention and monitoring of consultants, financing and investment of idle funds, and emergency situations due to storms and equipment failures.
- Direct the construction of major capital projects through the entire planning and construction cycle including feasibility studies, financing, environmental planning and approvals, preparation of plans and specifications, securing and evaluation of bids, negotiation of contracts, general supervision of construction, and staffing.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

Ideal candidates will offer at least ten years of progressively responsible experience in an electric utility setting, which includes serving in a key managerial role. This should include knowledge of the practices and procedures involved in the planning, construction, and start-up of electric utility facilities, along with the ability to establish, execute, and achieve the BLP's financial and strategic goals. Candidates must possess the ability to identify and assess key trends and lead the BLP in complex decisions related to power supply and local, regional, and national electric utility policy and environmental issues.

The BLP requires a leader with outstanding oral and written communication skills who will

maintain and foster a high level of integrity, trust, and credibility with all stakeholders. The BLP also expects the General Manager to possess a strong customer service mentality and engage in the community.

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college in engineering, business, or a related field is required. An MBA or other advanced degree is preferred.

The BLP is ideally targeting individuals with the following knowledge and skills:

- Successful management of an organization similar in size to the BLP with a technically oriented work force where operational decisions and planning are based on an analysis of technical alternatives and long-range cost impacts.
- Ability to work effectively with a policy setting board such as a board of directors, city council, or other elected officials who take an active policy role.
- Demonstrated ability to resolve conflict in a complex organization with a sensitivity to political dynamics.
- Knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing the utility industry and an ability to embrace change and capitalize on trends while balancing the BLP's three strategic pillars of affordability, reliability, and sustainability.
- Skills to guide the BLP's compliance with Michigan Senate Bills 271 and 273 through establishing renewable energy and energy waste reduction plans.

GRAND HAVEN BLP

The BLP retired its coal and diesel generating stations on June 1, 2020, and 100% of the utility's power requirements are now generated off-system, purchased cooperatively with other municipal electric utilities through the Michigan Public Power Agency. The BLP pursues a forward-looking approach and has laddered energy purchases in lowering volumes out to calendar year 2028. These purchases contain a mixture of short-term contracts and longer-term power purchase agreements for specific renewable power resources. The BLP has increased its use of renewable energy to 24% in 2023 and is projected to reach 28% by 2025.



The BLP has been committed to keeping pace with the ever-changing and challenging electrical landscape for over 125 years. The BLP spent approximately \$14 million on four major infrastructure projects since 2017. These investments significantly increased the BLP's ability to import electrical capacity allowing for future load growth and interconnection of emerging technologies such as energy storage and a community solar garden.

As with their intentional approach to power supply and infrastructure planning, the BLP implemented similar financial planning tools. In its Fiscal Year 2024 budget, the BLP restricted \$16 million in funding for environmental cleanup on Harbor Island, the site of the BLP's former coal generating station. Current base rates over the 5-year planning period are estimated to be adequate to maintain the established minimum cash reserve position of \$18 million. The BLP returns nearly \$2 million per year to the City of Grand Haven's general fund. Standard & Poor's long-term rating assigned to the BLP is 'AA'. More information can be found at:

<http://www.ghblp.org/>

GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

Grand Haven is located on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Grand River. The Grand Haven port community is an active beach resort with boating, fishing, sailing, and biking along with connecting campgrounds and recreational areas. The City is home to the world's largest musical fountain of its kind and a 1.5 mile boardwalk. Across the street from the waterfront is Downtown Grand

Haven, which boasts a wide range of restaurants, retail shops, art galleries and businesses. In addition, the City boasts a highly rated public school system.

The cost-of-living in Grand Haven is estimated at 94.3% of the national average with a typical home cost of approximately \$335,000. More information can be found at:

<http://www.grandhaven.org>

<http://www.visitgrandhaven.com>

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND RELOCATION

The compensation package is competitive and dependent upon qualifications and experience. The BLP provides a defined contribution pension plan. Employees contribute 4% and the BLP contributes 8%. BLP contributions fully vest after four years of service. The BLP also offers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan that provides health insurance premiums for retirees and their beneficiaries.

The BLP will negotiate a relocation package with the successful candidate.

TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume no later than **June 14, 2024** to: pprouse@mfpllc.us.

Patrick Prouse
Mycoff Fry Partners LLC
PO Box 1310
Conifer, CO 80433
(800) 525-9082

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power is an Equal Opportunity Employer

