

2017-07-26  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 26, 2017

LOCATION: SMLD Building  
Rear Board Room  
50 Main Street  
Sterling, MA 01564

BOARD MEMBERS: Matthew Stelmach (Stelmach), Chairman  
Brian Pierce (Pierce), Clerk  
Joseph Curtin Curtin Vice Chairman (Absent)

SMLD STAFF: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Manager  
Darren (Borge) Operations Supervisor

MINUTES: Clerk

ATTENDEES: None

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order, Chairman Stelmach stated that the meeting is subject to Audio & video recording and broadcast. **Roll Call Attendance, Stelmach present, Pierce present**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board members and attendance pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pierce made a motion to move 4C, GIS and Operation's Supervisor Update, ahead of Manager's Report, Stelmach seconded, no discussion, Stelmach aye, Pierce aye, all in favor.

The Operation Supervisor demonstrated the new Geographic Information System (GIS) to the Board members, the new system allows access to information on the distribution circuits including pole information, transformers and customers connected, along with load data, this system will be installed in the new computers being installed in the line trucks, he expects the Outage Management System (OMS) to be available by September 1<sup>st</sup>. He also reported that the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) is now working between 2 Leominster Rd and Chocksett Substation and that all underground termination along I-190 that were deteriorating due to road salt have been replaced, 3 new airbrakes

were also installed, replacing individual disconnect switches. It was also reported that the underground primary that had failed at Ryan's way has been replaced.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Hamilton stated we did not receive the Energy Storage North America (ESNA) award for the top innovative project in the country, SMLD placed second, he commented " the SMLD project being in the top 4 projects in the US and getting 2<sup>nd</sup> place is still a great honor that Sterling can be proud of.
2. Hamilton will receive the SMLD Smart Energy Power Association (SEPA) award for the most storage watts per customer in the US when he presents the project at their annual conference in September in Las Vegas.
3. The Grid Edge Tech award we received for having one of the top 20 projects in the world was received on our behalf by Dan Borneo from Sandia National Labs during the Grid Edge Tech Conference in San Diego on June 27, 2017, plaques are being mailed out.
4. Hamilton explained how the meter reads at the Wiles Rd solar project are verified.
5. Hamilton discussed with the board ideas for doing a study on the value of fiber to Sterling, he reported how it would improve radio communications, allow SCADA expansion and many other opportunities, Pierce explained the value of fiber for building an even smarter grid, Stelmach asked Hamilton to bring back engineering cost to do a study.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Hamilton gave an update on the battery storage project and explained how we had captured 5 of the last 6 monthly peaks, he will present the worksheets showing the value at next month's meeting.
2. The installation of access keys and cameras on all SMLD building and the Chocksett substation will begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. Hamilton Reported he has reached out to three local masonry vendors for quotes to do the work in the 50 Main Street garage, he has not heard back yet.
4. Hamilton reported the Operation Supervisor and Working Foremen met with the representatives from the Riverview Condo association on a plan to replace their perimeter lighting, they have received the labor and truck rates for SMLD to do the install and agreement for maintenance will need to be discussed, Pierce asked how Paxton arranges the maintenance with Spencer for lighting, Hamilton will inquire.
5. Hamilton reported the reimbursement for the \$1,463,000 grant has been submitted to the Ma DOER, he expects it to take a few months. He also acknowledged the great work Alivia Nutter, our summer intern did in organizing the grant, the reimbursement is over 400 pages thick

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Electric Vehicle Program-Hamilton reported their will be a test drive on August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3-6pm at the Chocksett School, there are 7 residents signed up and 3 residents have already purchased electric vehicles

street was nearly complete, cable and feed thru material are expected to be delivered the first week of August. Stelmach asked if a tour could be set up.

3. The discussion on the SMLD logo was tabled for future discussion, the RP3 logo will be advertised on the trucks.
4. Borge explained the success we were having with the S & C Tripsaver (single phase recloser) and how they are Bluetooth compatible , the payback was just a few short months, he is also looking to install them in 2 other areas of town, Pierce asked if they were smart system capable , Borge will look into limitations
5. Working Capital Policy- Hamilton explained although we closely follow the proposed policy (attached), because it had not been voted, it was one of our shortfalls during the RP3 application, **on a motion by Pierce, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stelmach, Roll call vote, Stelmach "aye". Pierce "aye"** the Working Capital Policy was adopted.
6. Hamilton presented the recent rate comparison study showing Sterling's rates are favorable when compared to other Investor utilities in our area.

#### Approval of past Minutes

There were no minutes presented for approval

#### Customer Comments

There were no customer comments

#### Future Agenda items

**At 7:25** Pierce made a motion to go into Executive Session 1 under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), clause 10 (to Discuss Trade Secrets or Confidential, competitively-Sensitive or Other Proprietary Information Provided in the course of activities Conducted by a Governmental Body as an Energy Supplier) –Community Solar Program. – only to return to open session to adjourn - **Roll Call Vote, - Stelmach aye, Pierce aye,**

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHELDUE NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Fiber Study, SMLD Logo, SouthGate Update and Tour  
BESS Value , Berkshire Wind Tour**

7:57 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Working Capital Policy

#### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

None

#### ATTEST;

  
Brian Pierce, Clerk

#### Date:

Aug 16, 2017

#### BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE

8/16/2017