

2020-04-02  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 2, 2020

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS: Joseph Curtin (Curtin), Chairman  
Brian Pierce (Pierce), Vice Chairman  
Eric Darlington (Darlington) Clerk

SMLD STAFF: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Manager

MINUTES: Jane Brunetta (Brunetta)

ATTENDEES: Darren Borge, SMLD Operation Supervisor

5:00 p.m. Meeting called to order, Chairman Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll Call **Attendance, Curtin present, Pierce present, Darlington present**

SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT - Tabled

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Pierce made a motion to approve agenda, with tabling Executive Sessions (9a, 9b)** Darlington seconded, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

MANAGE'S REPORT

1. Hamilton said he will distribute Five-Year Plan at next meeting
2. Hamilton said he has been attending Board of Health Meetings to stay on top of all of the state information, changes from day to day
3. Hamilton just received the recloser and fuse coordination studies with system changes that need to be made, but it just came in, but Darren will be working on it

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Project – Update – Hamilton spoke with Com-Trac about board discussion if SMLD Main Street building became compromised.  
Darren explained to Board Members what would entail creating a second Hub Location. Hamilton stated the cost would be \$22,198, for materials and splicing which was not budgeted in the fiber expenses. Board asked Hamilton and Borge to review the options
- b. 2 Leominster Road Project Update - Hamilton said project did slow down a little, but plumbing is complete, fire alarm completed, still hanging sheet rock, moving along, but at a slower pace
- c. AMI RFP – Update – Spoke to Eaton concerning contract, after discussion, went back to original contract from 2010 to keep parts of the agreement in place. Hamilton did bring up Emetcon LMI boxes used by 169 customers participating in demand response, concerning the cost to remove the boxes. Hamilton, with Board Members, had a detailed discussion as to how this project to be paid, with interest rates so low, would it be worth taking out a loan. Hamilton said he would research the cost of paying up front or taking out a loan, will report information cost at next meeting.
- d. Charging station – nothing to report
- e. Truck Grant – no information available

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Corona Virus Preparedness – Hamilton explain how employees are working, keeping distance from each other, separate shifts, mail kept separate from employees for 24 hours, keeping everything sanitized. So far all SMLD staff are all healthy. Letter from Board of Health with information on virus will be in next SMLD bills.
- b. Property Insurance Invoice – Hamilton just wanted Board Members to be aware that the insurance did increase to \$16,000 from \$9,900 because of renewal cost by PURMA and not anything related to SMLD.
- c. Solar Production – Hamilton said Solar is still producing, but because of low load, putting energy into the battery storage
- d. MLP Solar Rebate Program – Hamilton said he budgeted \$10,000 last year, but hasn't put in this year, DOER last year awarded \$743,000 to MMWEC and has additional funds of \$327,008 for this year, 40% of last year Hamilton thought maybe this year, should match the 40% or \$4,000 for rebates.  
Darlington asked about residents having storage power installed, but Hamilton said cost right now is approximately \$7,000, which is high, but he will continue to research

APPROVALL OF PAST MINUTES - 03/05/2020 - tabled till next meeting

CUSTOMER COMMENTS - So far, no reports

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

- 1. Fiber
- 2. 2 Leominster Road
- 3. AMI Report

Next Meeting - May 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Pierce made a motion to adjourn, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

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BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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