

**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard Sheppard, Chairman
Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Clerk
Matthew Stelmach, Third Member

SMLD MANAGER: John Kilgo, Jr.

MINUTES: Christine Noponen

IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Forance, Sterling Resident
George Pape, Sterling Resident
Nancy Perry, Sterling Resident

Richard Sheppard (Sheppard) opens the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr. (Coughlin) makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, August 18, 2009 agenda as written. Seconded by Matthew Stelmach (Stelmach). Unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, June 30, 2009 regular session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Seconded by Stelmach. Approved by the Board.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

George Pape asks when are you going to release the executive session minutes? Sheppard replies they will be available within 7 to 10 days to be reviewed at the SMLD.

Pape states that the minutes are running about 3 months late. Kilgo replies that they should only be a month or two late and he will check it out (Upon review, Pape is incorrect. The minutes are current through May 2009. It is recommended to suggest to customers that they may need to refresh their browsers.).

Pape hands out a newspaper article regarding a Clinton block grant for the senior housing. Sheppard states a grant application for the senior housing would be up to the Council on Aging or Housing Authority. Pape asks if the SMLD has considered the block grant in relation to the downtown underground project. Kilgo responds that the priorities of the SMLD are getting through the December Ice Storm repairs. Kilgo further states that he believes the Town Administrator has applied with the DPW for a grant for the town center upgrade and the SMLD submitted its portion.

Pape asks a question about the prepayment of his light bill and if our billing system has changed. Kilgo states that the billing system has not changed since its inception. He further explains how the credit works within the system. Additional discussion follows on how credits work on different bills or invoices.

Mike Forance (Forance) asks about a pole that was wiped out on 11 Kendall Hill Lane during the Ice Storm. Further discussion is held about the pole that was replaced. Forance asks why there is still debris and a mess up there since April. Kilgo replies that he will review the situation for him. Kilgo further states it is important in this day and age that the SMLD works directly with the customer and not through someone else. Forance states that the DPW does not service private roads; would like to know what the SMLD does for private roads? Kilgo replies that the SMLD is responsible for the distribution system and has easements. Kilgo reminds Forance that he will check out the situation at hand and will get back to him (Upon review by the Manager, the SMLD repaired a damaged pole. The town water line was damaged due to an incorrect Dig Safe marking by the DPW due to an old map. There was no charge to the customer for the SMLD's work and rework.).

Nancy Perry (Perry) asks if there was a tree trimming crew on Newell Hill lately. Kilgo states FEMA is working in the area cleaning up the hangers and tree limbs on dead trees for the DPW.

Forance asks a question about the easement. Kilgo states that the easement allows the SMLD to work on the lines. Forance wants to know how to go about changing the location of the pole. Kilgo states that anything dealing with our lines needs to go through the SMLD.

FINANCIALS

Kilgo notes that overall kWh sales are mimicking 2004 numbers and are down almost 6.5% versus last year. The average system load factor is at 65%. The months of June and July 2009 were extremely mild compared to last year. The SMLD has approximately eight percent more customers in 2009 compared to 2004; and with the hot days we are presently experiencing, the kWh sales should jump up more than August 2004.

Additional discussion from the Manager is held regarding kWh sales and peak usage with Perry.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The September board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Stelmach makes a motion to enter into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 164, Section 47D to discuss confidential and proprietary information and to return to Open Session to adjourn. Coughlin seconds the motion. Role call: Coughlin, aye. Sheppard, aye. Stelmach, aye. Unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board goes into Executive Session as of 5:36 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 6:40 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sheppard asks for a motion for the Light Board to adjourn the meeting. Coughlin makes the motion and Stelmach seconds it. Unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting is adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

ATTEST:


Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Clerk

DATE:

09-30-2009