

2020-08-27
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 27, 2020

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

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

SMLD STAFF: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Manager
Darren Borges (Borges) Operational Manager

MINUTES: Jane Brunetta (Brunetta)

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**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Safety Announcement - Equipment in office

Approval of Agenda

Pierce made a motion to amend agenda to table 4e and 5e, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

Manager's Report

1. Hamilton stated that for some reason our logo was on the front page of the Massachusetts Citizen Action Network (MCAN) Paper
2. Chad Allen presented resignation letter, will be leaving September 10th,
3. Berkshire Recs – department decided that they want to sell their recs, Hamilton stated we do not need the recs in our portfolio, no need to change, if needed can purchase at a later date
4. Hamilton would like a little longer before opening building to public, with just 2 people in the office, if one gets sick, we will be short handed

5. Hamilton reached out to Great Blue Research, concerning a questionnaire for response to Fiber and Covid-19. Board members asked that the research should be on Fiber only and not to exceed \$10,000
6. NRC approved the testing method of the alkali for Seabrook, which will allow for their 30-year extension, to March 15, 2050

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 2 Leominster Road Project – Hamilton stated that cost of building is \$338,000, budgeted for \$250,000, cost override is due to Monty Tech Students not being available because of Covid-19 and environmental issues. Upstairs just about completed – 90 x 60 – 2 offices, 2 baths, kitchen area and locker room
- b. Fiber Project – All 432 cable from Shrewsbury to Sterling complete, only a little left to connect town hall, SMLD is connected to Fiber. Curtin asked for a spread sheet from Matrix, will try to have it for next meeting – Hamilton said cost for Fiber will be \$36,000 a year for 5 years, compare to the \$96,000 we were paying per year for existing service
- c. AMI Project – All gateways are in – working with Verizon to have a private secure ban. A notice about the change of meters was installed in last month's bill
- d. SMLD Succession Plan – Hamilton stated that they have started on transition plan. Borge has signed up for ISO marketing program, Procurement Certification, Charge Point, etc. Board Members agreed that Borge should start shadowing Hamilton, and appointed Borge to Assistant Manager Position with an office in the Main Building. Salary compensation will be discussed at next meeting
- e. 2019 Financial Reports – tabled
- f. SMLD Logo Redesign - Board Members requested additional logos, will distribute new logos to all members and employees to vote on to make a decision

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Annual Transmission Peak – Hamilton said July 27, 2020, was our annual peak, this was the highest load since 2006 when we were .1mw lower, we were able to shed 6.5 megawatts of load during this year's peak
- b. Load Reconstitution - Hamilton talked to MMWEC and ISO about behind meter, would have to include everything - all solar rays, etc. – right now there is no way to do it, so it is not happening, but is on the radar screen
- c. Apprentice Hiring – Hamilton received 108 applicants, 16 interviews, 6 very strong candidates, plan is to hire two apprentices
- d. FCC Pole Policy Ruling – back in 2018 FCC came out with a ruling about putting 5G small cells on poles, requests would need to be completed within 90 days, still waiting for rulings, maybe we can offer fiber and avoid small cells, they want the towers connected also
- e. Depreciation Transfer – tabled
- f. Rate Comparisons – Concerning Rebates, just included in our newsletter that, Our residential rates are 47% less than National Grid, Commercial rates are 19% less and Industrial Rate is 20% less than National Grid

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – July 30, 2020

1. July 30, 2020 Regular¹ Session Minutes – **Pierce made a motion to accept minutes as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

2. July 30, 2020 Execution Session Minutes, **Pierce made a motion to accept minutes as written, and release, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote – Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor**

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Hamilton mentioned the colored lights on buildings are for woman gaining the right to Vote
Hamilton said two customers called to thank for quick response to electrical outage, one just thanked for great service, didn't even loose power

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

1. 2 Leominster Road
2. Fiber
3. AMI Project
4. SMLD Succession Plan
5. SMLD Logo
6. 5-year plan

Next Meeting September 24, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

Darlington 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 Governmental Body as an Energy Supplier) – (9.1) E. H. Perkin/Hyosung Battery Project, only to return to regular session to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote – Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

6:25 p.m. – Meeting Adjourn

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

9/25/2020

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE

9/25/2020
