

2019-12-12
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 12, 2019

LOCATION: SMLD Building
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

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

APPROVA OF AGENDA

Pierce made a motion to table Executive Session and approve agenda as amended, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Hamilton stated that MMWEC would like to come to our January meeting to discuss our power supply
2. Hamilton submitted an update of what is happening with the Legislators, concerning Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative {RGGI}, and the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), these bills encourage the use of solar renewables.
3. Hamilton said rebates for MassSave are scheduled to close in February 2020. Hamilton said two of our largest customers would like to get into the lighting program. Lighting review is free; Graybar will come out for the audit.
4. Hamilton said customers would like to leave holiday lights in center of town on longer, board suggested leaving them on till the end of January.
5. Hamilton gave board members a chart showing savings of \$169,754.77 as a result of the Temporary Generator. MMWEC may suggest doing this again in March, will review at that time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Project - Update - Fiber testing complete. The Grant contract is ending, so the decision was made to do Sterling first, then go back to West Boylston. The Center of Town is wired, but not connected. Hamilton stated that right now Phase 1 will be town buildings.
- b. 2 Leominster Road Project- Insulation just about complete, rough wiring in, received 4 quotes on sheet rock finishing. Monty Tech will hang the sheetrock upstairs on second floor. Hamilton said exterior will be in the spring, project going well; completion cost should be in the \$250,000 - \$260,000 range.
- c. AMI RFP- Update - RFP out- received back 8, but only 6 met the qualifications; all scores are pretty close. After reviewing all material, prices will be completed next Tuesday. Curtin did state to keep in mind the DPW, as they are now using Mueller and the readings are taken by SMLD's system.
- d. SELCO Agreement - Agreement is complete

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Anderson Contract Renewal - Still working on the contract, received an extension until June, 2020.
- b. Staff Accountant Search - Received 35 applicants, narrowed to 6, interviewed 4, down to 2, now checking on references.
- c. FERC ORDER on ROI - Hamilton said this came out in 1998 -Presented information what is happening with transmission rates. After review they came back at a rate of 10.45%, but municipalities said that was too high, hoping to get it to the range of around 9.2% in the future. Hamilton will keep members updated on negotiations.
- d. Mower Discussion - Hamilton said he was approach by DPW regarding mowing the sides of the road to clear around overhead lines. Hamilton said they suggested putting an attachment on a loader. Hamilton did check with John Deere to price a tractor with side trimmer for around \$130,000. Curtin stated that he didn't think SMLD should get involved with a loader, for SMLD employees do not operate a loader. Hamilton will continue discussing the issue with DPW.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES -11/19/2019

Pierce made a motion to approve November 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes as written, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Hamilton presented a letter printed in the Sterling House News praising SMLDs response to reestablish power after a utility pole was taken out from a car accident.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING- 5:00 p.m. January 23, 2015

1. AMI
2. Anderson Contract
3. MMWEC
4. Fiber Update
5. Safety Moment

6. 2 Leominster Road - Update

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 Agenda

6:10 p.m. Meeting Adjourn

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

1/23/2020

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:

1/23/2020