

2018-12-13
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 13, 2018

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
Darren Borge, Operations Supervisor

MINUTES: Jane Brunetta (Brunetta)

ATTENDEES:
Matthew Stelmach
Matthew J. Ide, MMWEC
Stephen J. Smith, CFA, MMWEC

5:00 p.m. Meeting called to order, Chairman Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording and broadcast. **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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pierce made a motion to table item number 6 on the agenda, Approval of Past Minutes, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Collective Bargaining Agreement coming up next year, Curtin agreed to be the board liaison
2. Camera equipment has been ordered at a cost of \$4,400, this will allow us to broadcast SMLD meetings broadcast on Town Hall Streams
3. Carbolon generators under contract until December 19, 2019

4. Request for proposals in Connecticut for carbon free energy Millstone, one of our nuclear plants where we have ownership, did quality – more will be discussed by Steve Smith
5. Mutual Aid – 3975 hours billed, trucks 2755 hours, 6 different trips, received final payment of \$20,000 for the \$250,000 grant from DOE
6. ESA – Energy Storage Association, wanted to raise dues to \$9,000 from \$4,000 - after discussion dropped it down to \$2500
7. Brian Provoncil finished his 4 year apprenticeship class with NEPPA and Ross Peterson moved up to second class this week
8. Hamilton stated we have 23 electric cars in Sterling, and 600 bills are sent out by e-bill, ACH are up to 1805, because we do not have to mail them, it is a great savings to SMLD, employees are doing a great job

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Revenue Study – Hamilton stated that he talked again with CTC, but is still not satisfied that they were the right ones for the job, also talked to Fujitsu and Com-Tract. Com-Tract works for 140 towns in MA and has a great reputation, they did come in higher at \$10,660, Hamilton felt some of the items in the proposal may have been completed so the hours quoted may come in lower . **Pierce made a motion to enter into a contract with the state bid contractor , Com-Tract , based on prior experience working with similar size communities for \$10,660,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Pierce aye, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- b. 2019 Budget – **Pierce made a motion to accept 2019 A & G Budget for \$8,234,308 noting that a 2.5% collective bargaining is included, and may change after negotiations,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
Hamilton said that in the Capital Budget there is \$191,300 for capital projects not including new substation breakers, Eaton came in at \$225,000, only an estimate, which brings total to \$416,300. **Pierce made a motion to add the cost of breakers of \$225,000 to the \$191,300 bringing the Capital Budget to \$416,300** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- c. Mueller Invoice – OMS Upgrade – Borge explained to the board how the system works, mainly visual, not customer alerts – **Pierce made a motion to go forward with the OMS upgrade for a \$1,000 a year for 5 year if needed,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Pierce aye, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- d. Energy Storage Benefit – Update – Hamilton presented members a chart to show the savings to the town is \$907,638.55 from December 2017 till December 2018. Curtin thanked MMWEC members their help to get this Storage Program up and running.
- e. Senior Center Generator- Update – Hamilton said all ready to go, just waiting for the certification from AESI

NEW BUSINESS

- a. MA Solar Smart Plan – Stephen Smith from MMWEC presented a chart comparing Smart Solar Incentive vs DOER MLP Rebate at Residential Level – Program for DOER/MLP was to start on December 5, 2018 and ends July 31, 2020. Customers would only have a year to apply for rebates after installation. Smith went on to explain the maximum solar size, tariff rate, and savings after one year, Smart savings would be \$2,319 and the DOER would be \$6,420, but over 10 years the savings for Smart would be \$20,829 for an IOU customer and \$9,655 for an MLP customer. Smith said average solar is 7kw. Smith stated that this should start in January, 2019

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – tabled

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

None


FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Next Meeting December 27, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Smart Plan
2. Minutes
3. Breakers

Pierce made a motion to go inter 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) – Peaking Plant Alternative only to return to regular session to adjourn, Darlington seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, no discussion**

6:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:


Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

12-27-18

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE
