

2020-12-14  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 14, 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) Assistant Manager

MINUTES: Jane Brunetta (Brunetta)

5:15 p.m. Meeting called to order; Chairman Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll **Call Attendance, Curtin present, Pierce present at 5:30, 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 – **Darlington made a motion to table 4c and 5b**, Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

#### Manager's Report

1. Hamilton stated that the final 2020 Temp Generator Dispatch Results for Sterling was a Net Benefit of \$144,116.20
2. Local 104 Union donated a scoreboard for the Griffin Field, asked SMLD to assist in installing it, no major issues with installation. Board members asked for SMLD to thank them for the donation.
3. Kitchen in main building is being completely renovated, from cabinets to flooring, cost was included in the first renovation budget
4. Hamilton is meeting with Kelli Hebert, town manager, to discuss improvements by the Energy Committee and the energy program. Hamilton presented to Board Members a detailed outline

of the energy savings to municipal buildings as a result of the improvements made after receiving recommendations from the Energy Committee .

5. Hamilton stated additional holiday lights were installed at the library trees
6. Hamilton discussed the tree by the gazebo, maintained by SMLD
7. Discussion concerning a tree leaning on a wire near Hope Chapel church, which is surrounded by water, SMLD is trying to see how the wiring can be brought to the street side for easier maintenance.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Fiber Project Update: Borge stated that Guardian is still having trouble with Town Hall service, they can see the fiber at their router, but their IT can't seem to get it to work. Sterling's town hall connected using our router. Tomorrow we are going to meet with Guardian and SELCO to see if the problem can be fixed, trying to turn it back to copper. Unfortunately, Guardian just can't seem to get it completed at this time
2. AMI Project – Borge said the last Gateway will be completed on Worcester Road; Chocksett Road will have three reclosers completed. Borge stated that 120 meters have been read and swapped out.
3. SMLD Bond Rating – tabled
4. DPW AMI Discussion- Curtin still in discussion, but not going well, DPW Superintendent wants Badger AMR, not Eaton AMI system, DPW board open to AMI system for the water rate payers.. Curtin again explained that SMLD is just trying to help with keeping cost down.
5. NEEP/SEPA Project – Hamilton stated that there are \$17 million in grants available for solar. Hamilton stated that they came to us, however, they want to be just technical advisors, but Hamilton stated that we need capital. Hamilton feels that a Sholan Terrace HVAC upgrade program along with extending the solar/battery at Perkins would be a great project under these grants.
6. Main St. URD Project – Hamilton met with Verizon Engineer to look into redesigning the whole project. Original bill for the town was \$122,000, so maybe the cost will be reduced.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Municipal Buildings Energy - Hamilton stated to wait until the beginning of next year to have discussions about rebates with the energy committee
2. Cyber Security Policy – tabled
3. AMI Working Capital Transfer – Hamilton stated that the transfer is for the AMI Project and was voted on earlier to use Working Capital, , cost are for meters, gateways and project management. **Pierce made a motion to transfer \$523,412.68 from Working Capital to operational cash** , Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor. Hamilton stated that this will be done as a wire transaction by MMWEC.

#### APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – November 23, 2020

1. **Pierce made a motion to approve November 23, 2020 Regular Session Minutes, as amended**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

CUSTOMER COMMENTS – None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING

1. Fiber
2. AMI
3. SMLD Bond Rating
4. DPW AMI
5. NEEP/SEPA
6. Main St. URD

Next Meeting- January 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

5:45 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 a Governmental Body as an Energy Supplier – (9.1) E.H. Perkins/Battery Project (9.2) Fiber Study, only to come back to regular session to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

6:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

Jan 21, 2021

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

Jan 21, 2021