

FINAL

**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard Sheppard, Chairman
Arthur Coughlin, Clerk
Matthew Stelmach, 3rd Board Member

SMLD MANAGER: John Kilgo, Jr.

MINUTES: Meggin Hendley

IN ATTENDANCE: George Pape, Sterling, MA 01564

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the **Tuesday, December 15, 2009** agenda as written.

Seconded by Stelmach. **Unanimously approved by the Board.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the **Tuesday, October 27, 2009** regular session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes as corrected. Seconded by Stelmach.

Unanimously approved by the Board.

Coughlin makes Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes for **Tuesday, October 27, 2009**. Seconded by Stelmach. All in favor? Sheppard says make a vote to accept notes with changes. **Unanimously approved by the Board.**

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Customer George (Pape) requested a list of the SMLD vehicles and their purpose. Coughlin asks, "Do you need names of the drivers as well?" Pape says, "No". Kilgo says he will get it

FINAL

to him in a reasonable time. Pape says that it can be sent or faxed to him he will not pick up the list.

Sheppard mentions a pole halfway down Beaman Rd. He asks are we still taking poles out? Kilgo says, "we are removing some poles from the Ice Storm but must wait on Verizon for others."

Sheppard makes a note that there were no matters during the storm the other night, which was good.

10 Year Plan

Section 1: Kilgo says we are still moving forward with the following projects: the development of the Berkshire Wind Farm, new contracts for our hydroelectric plants, review participation in landfill gas plants, replacement power during the Seabrook and Stonybrook planned maintenance outages this fall and protect our position from market volatility. In addition, other major regulatory or business matters were: Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008, North American Electric Reliability Council compliance, update all Personal Protective Equipment for the Operations Department, Red Flag Rule, Ethics Law Compliance, finalize the Smart Meter project with Mueller, apply for a Federal Grant to support the Smart Meter build-out and finally coordinate all FEMA/MEMA related issues to receive appropriate reimbursements for all on-going storm recovery. While all of this is going on, the Operations Team is doing normal daily duties, Customer Service too, all while we deal with these issues simultaneously.

Section 2: Kilgo continues: There is good info from the storm recovery. Permanent repair work is being finalized, FEMA is ongoing and a work in progress. The SMLD is on top of it, working closely to obtain the reimbursements that are due to the SMLD. Kilgo says he will keep Light Board apprised of funds coming in. Sheppard says the SMLD is doing better with their reimbursements than the Town of Sterling (Town). Kilgo says we have a diligent team here working carefully and closely with FEMA. Sheppard says the Town has had to borrow monies. Kilgo says have them give me, or Sandy Pellecchia, a call to help advise on

FINAL

reimbursements. Kilgo says you have to fight for your rights with FEMA, and the SMLD is protecting ours. Customer Service is doing a great job with the customers (i.e. seminars; etc.). ArKion, we are moving forward. Ready to start testing in the Justice Hill area. The SMLD has a good relationship with Mueller and is coordinating with City State for a seamless transition. The SMLD did apply for a grant from the Federal Government for the AMI Smart Meters. But as of October 28, 2009 the SMLD will not be a recipient of any grant money. Sheppard says ArKion had their problems, good thing that they were bought out by Mueller.

Stelmach asks how does the transition to the Smart Meter System affect our billing system? Kilgo says as we go through the meter routes and upgrade meters, you have to download the information and the next day check your list that the Mueller system can read the meters via satellite. We have to follow the cycle and route. We are currently doing the final test run. Kilgo says so far he is satisfied. Mueller, City State and SMLD software people are all working together on this. The SMLD needs all teams to sign off to carefully have this completed by mid-year 2010. Sheppard asks how many installed? Kilgo says the original 125. Stelmach asks why Mueller made repairs to the communication equipment damaged during the ice storm? Kilgo says due to our good relationship.

MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Coughlin makes a motion to go into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 164, Section 47D to discuss confidential and proprietary information and then to return to open session. Stelmach seconds the motion. Role call: Sheppard, aye. Coughlin, aye. Stelmach, aye.

The Board goes into Executive Session as of 5:26 p.m. and returns to Regular Session at 7:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

(none)

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The January board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sheppard makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Coughlin seconds the motion. Unanimously approved by the Board.

ATTEST: Arthur J. Coughlin Sr.
Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Clerk

DATE: 01-27-2010