

**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard Sheppard, Chairman
Kenneth I. H. Williams – Board Member

SMLD MANAGER: John Kilgo, Jr.

MINUTES: Christine Noponen
Sandy Pellecchia (as of 5:44 p.m.)

IN ATTENDANCE: George Pape, 69 Redemption Rock Trail, Sterling, MA 01564
Nancy Perry, 33 Newell Hill Road, Sterling, MA 01564

Richard Sheppard (Sheppard) opens the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Arthur J. Coughlin (Coughlin), Sr., Clerk, is not present due to another commitment.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Williams makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, December 16, 2008 agenda as written. Seconded by Sheppard. **Role call: Williams, aye. Sheppard, aye. Approved by the Board.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Williams makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, November 18, 2008 regular session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Sheppard. **Role call: Williams, aye. Sheppard, aye. Approved by the Board.**

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Customer George Pape (Pape) said in a prior meeting it was approved to post the agenda and the approved minutes. Sheppard said that they should be there. John Kilgo (Kilgo) said the general outline should be there. Pape said that he would look again.

Customer Nancy Perry (Perry) said that given the state of affairs the crew did an awesome job as she was out for approximately 30 hours. Kilgo said thank you for the praises of the crew and the job well done.

STORM UPDATE

Sheppard notes that we should be reimbursed for our costs. 75% from the Federal government, 25% from the State. He adds that it will help to recoup some of our costs for the

storm. We need to do what we can to get what we can. Based upon a meeting that Sheppard attended Sunday night, Sterling was one of the top four or five communities with quick response to the storm.

Kilgo gives a storm update. He states that we have been working on storm issues since Thursday, December 11, 2008. The crews are out there 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. And, today we had 15 crews: five of the fifteen were from Verizon doing mutual aid for pole setting. Initially, 99% of customers were down with at least 60% of overhead lines being pulled down and many treetops have broken.

Kilgo informs that SMLD customers are responsible from the service drop's attachment to their meter. The SMLD is responsible from the street to the drop's attachment.

Kilgo notes that we immediately called for additional stock and for mutual aid. He adds that as of today approximately 90% of our customers are with power. He states that it is our intention to get every one hooked up safely. Systematically, we work on main lines first, streets next, and then house-to-house. This order is absolutely necessary for everyone's safety. Customers also need to stay away from crews while they are working. This is unsafe and slows work down.

Kilgo gives a rough gauge that some are still without power right now: Holden Road, Mortimer Road, Redstone Hill Road, Taft Road, and the Rowley Hill/Justice Hill Road area. These areas have lots of concerns. The SMLD crew is doing a fantastic job, as is the office staff. The residents are starting to micro manage the power outage. The office staff is here from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The crew is working 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The SMLD crew is trying to get the power up and going overnight.

Sheppard talked to the crews from Wellesley and Hingham who are getting thank you's and good comments from our residents.

Kilgo states again that the goal is trying to get everyone up and running. The SMLD is hoping to make good head way throughout the night. Crews will then go back to the house-to-house inspections.

Kilgo states that the crews are being put up at the Chocksett Inn. The SMLD will include this invoice among those to be reimbursed from the Federal or State agencies.

MONTHLY DEPRECIATION REDUCTION

Kilgo states that this simple request is to cover the additional costs associated with the storm over the next six months by not transferring the monthly Depreciation transfer from Operating Cash.

Williams makes a motion to forgo the transfer of the monthly sum of \$32,861.45 from Operating Cash into the Depreciation Fund Account from January 1, 2009 to June 30,

2009. Seconded by Sheppard. Role call: Williams, aye. Sheppard, aye. Approved by the Board.

FINANCIALS

The 10-Year Strategic/Financial Business Plan (2009-2018) will be revisited later this year because Coughlin is not present.

The SMLD kWhs are down three percent year-to-date. It has been a mild year and we have seen the effects of energy efficient programs, which probably stems from the economy. Load factor is still good. The SMLD anticipates a big industrial customer coming into town soon so the new year numbers are anticipated to be stronger.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sheppard asks about the wind power. Kilgo confirms that we hope to be online by year-end 2010.

Williams commends Kilgo for a good job planning and anticipating. Kilgo says thank you and accepts on behalf of all employees. Kilgo says we do have challenges ahead of us and our number one priority right now is getting power to people's homes.

Williams asks about ArKion Systems and the acquisition. Kilgo says all is being worked on. We are delayed a bit, but we are still moving ahead with the new company that has acquired ArKion Systems.

MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There will be no executive session as Coughlin is not in attendance.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The January board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Williams makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Sheppard seconds the motion. Roll Call: Sheppard, aye. Williams, aye. The meeting is so adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

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

DATE: 02-22-2009