

2019-02-27  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 27, 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Pierce made a motion to move 9a, Executive Session (1) before Manager's Report, Table 9b) Executive Session (2) and move 5e under New Business to Old Business between a and b, Darlington second, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye**

5:05 p.m. **Pierce made a motion to go into Executive Session (1) under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), Clause 4 (To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with Union and non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel) IBEW and General Manager only to return to regular session, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, all in favor**

5:20 p.m. Board returned to regular session to vote to approve IBEW 486 2019-2022 SMLD contract, **Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, all in favor** – Goal Review for SMLD will be attached to February 27, 2019 minutes

5:21 p.m. **Pierce made a motion to go into Executive Session for General Managers Review and will return to regular session for vote.** Darlington second, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

5:57 p.m. Board returned to open session, **Pierce made a motion to vote for a Vote of Confidence for the General Manager and that under SMLD offer of employment letter the General Manager receive the maximum 10% Performance Bonus based on 2018 salary and also a 3% wage increase for the upcoming year,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, all in favor**

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Hamilton presented the Town of Sterling Annual Town Meeting Article # 3 - That Sets Salary of the Municipal Light Board and to ask the board if there were any changes
2. Hamilton presented Members a chart of Future Capacity, and stated that they are still going in the right direction
3. Seabrook may get their license renewal approved for another 30 years. Hamilton said there were about 20 meetings during the interim to block this, but MMWEC feels that the renewal will go forward. When it goes through and because SMLD has paid off the debt for Seabrook in 2019 SMLD will save about \$34,000 a month.
4. Hamilton stated only two (2) major outages occurred during recent wind storm, the larger outage was due to the recloser operation.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Study Update - and 5e – Center of Town Upgrade - Hamilton presented Members a chart showing Phase 1 of Fiber through the town. Hamilton said they are working on getting a cost for material from SELCO and should have ready for next meeting. Curtin said as soon as cost is ready, members will meet to expedite project quickly  
Hamilton presented members with the location of underground wiring for the center of town stating they have everything they need to get started, but still waiting on Verizon for their cost. DPW is aware that it is up to them to decide what needs to be done to make project handicap accessible. Hamilton stated that once SMLD project is complete it will be up to DPW to complete sidewalks, etc.
- b. Senior Center Generator – Still waiting for the valve replacement
- c. Mass Solar Rebate Program – **Pierce made a motion to approve the Sterling Municipal Light Department (SMLD) Solar Rebate Program as written,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Pierce aye, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- d. & f – Navajo Nation Electrification – Hamilton said all set – 2 linemen leaving April 20 coming back May 4<sup>th</sup> then 2 other linemen leaving May 4<sup>th</sup> coming back May 18<sup>th</sup>- 150 Linemen from across the country are expected to take part. Hamilton stated this is quite a unique project and happy to have SMLD be part of it
- e. Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) legislation has been filed under Bill #2863 –Hamilton presented members the 2018 MLP Generation Portfolio for non-emitting MLPs –Sterling's average was 43% - John Fitch redid the study and it came back that SMLD is 74% non-emitting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Energy Storage Update – Hamilton presented members with the Storage Battery Economics which showed that to date we have generated \$964,28.14 in savings
- b. 2 Leominster Roof – Recently there have been 2 leaks, had several repairs over the years. Hamilton brought in Philpot to redesign the roof, should have more details at next meeting
- c. Handicap Ramp – Hamilton touched based with Monty Tech, but they have too many projects at this time – Hamilton will approach companies to see if this can be repaired in the spring
- d. IG Report – Hamilton presented report that was done because of South Hadley manager leaving and requesting a large pay out for sick and vacation time.  
Hamilton was asked to submit our payout, the report included when the last manager left in 2010. Since then our policy has been revised, now personal or vacation time cannot be carried forward. Now we have PTO, which states time as to be used within the year, only 60 hours can be carried over and used by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

1. January 24, 2019 – Regular Minutes – **Pierce made a motion to approve regular minutes of January 24, 2019 as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, all in favor
2. January 24, 2019 – Executive Session Minutes – **Pierce made a motion to approve Executive Minutes as written, not to be released**, Darlington seconded, **Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, all in favor**

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING


1. Fiber
2. Change Old Business as Unfinished Business
3. Navajo Nation
4. Stelmach Report
5. Next Meeting – March 28, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

7:20 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Sterling Municipal Light Department (SMLD) Solar Rebate Program
3. Article 3 – Set Salary of Municipal Light Board
4. SMLD Goal Review for 2018

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

3/28/19

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:

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