

**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard Sheppard, Chairman
Arthur J. Coughlin, Jr., Clerk
Kenneth I. H. Williams, Board Member

SMLD MANAGER: John Kilgo, Jr.

MINUTES: Christine Noponen

Richard Sheppard (Sheppard) opens the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, January 27, 2009 agenda as written. Seconded by Williams. Role call: Coughlin, aye. Sheppard, aye. Williams, aye. Approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, December 16, 2008 regular session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes as corrected. Seconded by Williams. Role call: Coughlin, aye. Sheppard, aye. Williams, aye. Approved by the Board.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

We received several notes from customers recognizing the SMLD's hard work during the ice storm:

Mrs. Richard Maki, 3 Sunset Drive, Sterling, MA
Jodi Murray, 230 Upper North Row Road, Sterling, MA
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Everett – 248 Justice Hill, Sterling, MA

FINANCIALS

Kilgo states it is hard to finish off the year with actual numbers because of the ice storm and it left the SMLD kWhs down 3.6 percent year-to-date. Kilgo continues to say that he next added in ten percent to the total kWh to see where we would have been conservatively without the ice storm and our annual sales would have been 2.8% under last year. We are in good shape. He states that the decrease is 40% economy driven; 35% storm driven; balance

due to below average degree-days. Approximately every quarter NEPOOL gives us a gauge as to where we are compared to the region and the SMLD's annual adjusted kWh sales are in line with NEPOOL's annual load differential compared to last year. The SMLD anticipates a large industrial customer coming into town soon. Our 2009 numbers are anticipated to be stronger. Williams asks if the payments from our customers are a little off. Kilgo responds that the numbers are lower because we estimated December bills with November's numbers. Kilgo further explains that there were estimated bills in both the first and second halves due to the ice storm.

Additional discussion follows.

OTHER BUSINESS

WIND BY-LAWS

Kilgo asks the board what they would like to do with the Wind By-Laws proposal, as there is a spot being held for it in the annual town meeting warrant. Williams states the Planning Board has looked at it but not thoroughly as they were waiting for the meeting with John Kilgo. Kilgo says he will call Melissa to set up a time at one of the up coming meetings to review it with the Planning Board.

Sheppard distributes wind turbine flyers that he picked up for the board's perusal at the annual MMA conference he attended. Sheppard says he thought this might be appropriate for someone who may want something that is not obtrusive. Sheppard believes they would fit within the new by-law.

Coughlin asks how the Brody Mountain Project is coming along. Kilgo states the project is coming along and is still planning to come on line in 2010.

STORM UPDATE

Kilgo states that the crews are still in the middle of the repair work and still have a way to go. Kilgo shows a slide representing the areas that were impacted. He states that 44 percent of our secondary services were down, broken, etc. and over 50 percent of our overhead lines were impacted.

Kilgo shows another slide depicting the number of households with power after the ice storm. Originally all circuits were down. We are still having problems with the substation but are able to work with it. As the slide shows, the town was in good shape on the 16th, but we still had a long way to go in order to get all the customers up.

Kilgo explains that we come under the Stafford Act and have the potential to have some work done under the Act's Hazard Mitigation grants.

Kilgo shows various pictures of the devastation caused by ice storm throughout the town. He shows a picture of how there was major weight placed on the secondary cribs.

Kilgo gives an update on how the SMLD is dealing with the recovery process. Kilgo states we are working with the town and the DPW on the debris removal process. We have filed separately with FEMA. The SMLD has hired Beck Disaster Recovery (BDR) who specializes in disaster recovery to help the SMLD and the Town of Sterling. The consultants will work hard with the town departments to get whatever monies we can recover from FEMA. Their fee will be reimbursable through FEMA. The government has a right to audit us before and after the work is completed. The town and SMLD will have separate kick-off meetings.

MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Williams makes a motion to go into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 164, Section 47D to protect confidential proprietary information and to return to open session to adjourn. Coughlin seconds the motion. Role call. Coughlin, aye. Sheppard, aye. Williams, aye. Approved by the Board.

The Board goes into Executive Session as of 4:02 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The board returns to open session at 4:45 p.m.

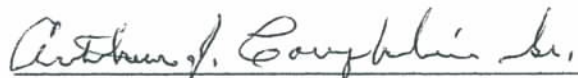
NEXT BOARD MEETING

The February board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sheppard makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m. Coughlin seconds the motion. Roll Call: Coughlin, aye. Sheppard, aye. Williams, aye. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

ATTEST:


Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Clerk

DATE:

02-24-2009