

DRAFT
2019-01-24
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 24, 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)

5:10 p.m. Meeting called to order, Chairman Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording and broadcast. **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 table 9 (a) Executive Session from the agenda, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Hamilton said the protective rubber goods on the trucks were tested, there were few failures and replacement will be at a cost of \$500 - \$600
2. DEP just released grant opportunities funded by the VW Emission Settlement: Hamilton said public access electric vehicle chargers are eligible to receive 80% of equipment and installation cost. Board members discussed potential locations for charger, Hamilton said most put them on town property, but his thought that maybe the mall on Rt. 12 would be a better location, spoke to owner, and is agreeable to have it there. Second part of the grant is for Diesel Emission Mitigation, Hamilton said they are going to pursue purchasing a hybrid truck, which is in the budget, with a grant of 25% of the cost of vehicle.

3. Curtin said the Energy Committee is working with the school concerning a hot water tank that needs to be replaced. Curtin said he also feels that if the school would convert to gas, it would be a huge savings, but unfortunately, no one wants to take on the task.
4. Hamilton stated he sent Board Members the article on phase II of the Berkshire Wind Project. Curtin thought it should be included in the SMLD Newsletter to residents to let them know how far ahead we are on Non-Carbon Emission.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Study – Talked to Brian Hopkins he is asking for more information. Darren will be driving with a Shrewsbury Supervisor to check on poles to see what our budget needs will be for brackets, we know the cable lengths, then Darren will put everything together for cost of materials, not including labor. Pierce thought this material cost was included in CTC report, Hamilton was not aware of it, but will check into it.
- b. Senior Center Generator – All installed, was ready to go, but a new code requires a pressure release valve to be added. Hamilton will reach out to Al Bishop to see if he can complete the work and get the generator up and running.
- c. Mass Solar Program – MMWEC received a \$772,000 grant to be distributed to 17 members, it is a matching grant. Hamilton said they are doing this to pre-fund the Recs. Hamilton said that if someone comes to us to set up solar, we would put them in touch with MMWEC; the only thing we would have to do is put in meters. Hamilton did discuss with the members about putting a limit on solar. Hamilton said there are boundaries on buying recs, 3rd parties cannot buy in. Hamilton will put together a policy on solar for residents for next meeting.
- d. Navajo Nation Electrification – Hamilton said project will be from mid-April to mid-May – There will be 4 guys going – 2 at a time – working Monday thru Friday with 9-10 hour days. Flights, room and food are included. Hamilton said Sterling will be fully covered during the project.
- e. Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) Legislation - Hamilton presented Board Members with the article to be filed with the legislation to let them know that we are not regulated by DEP and DOR. Tom Golden, Chairman and Anne Gobi in the Senate presented this on the floor of the legislation on behalf of MEAM. We should have an answer within two weeks on whether we need to contact our legislators. Hamilton went over the article with Board Members explaining ownership of the recs. Hamilton said we are still in good condition until 2030 if not accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pickle ball Courts - Hamilton said the Pickle ball Committee will present the project at town meeting for approval. Hamilton said he made no commitment on lighting, but said the cost for just the lights is \$24,000.
- b. Tree Bid Results - Hamilton said he received 3 bids, one just stating they are not available at this time, Favreau was \$107,088 and Northern Tree came in \$92,960. Hamilton accepted Northern Tree contract, to be completed within 90 days.
- c. Energy Storage Milestone - Hamilton stated that in Mid-April or May we will reach one million dollars in savings from the Battery Storage Unit. Hamilton will have this information available to residents at the Open House.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

1. December 24, 2018 – Regular Session Meeting – **Pierce made a motion to accept December 24, 2018 Regular Minutes as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, all in favor

2. December 24, 2018 – Executive Session Meeting – **Pierce made a motion to accept December 24, 2018 Executive Session as amended, not to be released**, Darlington seconded, no discussion Roll Call Vote – Curtin Aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye, all in favor

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Hamilton presented Board Members a thank you card from a resident, stating how pleased they are with SMLD service and also a thank you from Ashburnham Light for all the time Darren spent with them explaining the Energy Storage

Hamilton also said he just received information about Hydro Quebec that the flow rights for the project were just approved by FERC, SMLD will be reimbursed for Hydro coming down to Sandy Pond substation in Ayer, members will receive a total of \$3.1 million, \$141,592 per month, SMLD should receive about \$30,000 per month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE

Next Meeting set for February 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

6:21 p.m. **Pierce made a motion to go into Executive Session 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) – Peaking Plant alternative, Berkshire Wind, only to return to regular session to adjourn**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, all in favor

6:21 pm. Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

02-27-2019

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:
