

2018-01-25
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 25, 2018

LOCATION: SMLD Building
Rear Board Room
50 Main Street
Sterling, MA 01564

BOARD MEMBERS: Matthew Stelmach (Stelmach), Chairman
Joseph Curtin Curtin) Vice Chairman
Brian Pierce (Pierce), Clerk

SMLD STAFF: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Manager

MINUTES: Jane Brunetta (Brunetta)

5:00 p.m. Meeting called to order, Chairman Stelmach stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording at this time. **Roll Call Attendance, Stelmach present, Curtin present, and Pierce present**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board members and attendance pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Curtin made a motion to delete items 6 and 9 from the agenda, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Stelmach aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. RP3 Certification – Sterling Municipal Department received the Diamond Status – received a score of 99 out of a 100 - Stelmach said this is a great accomplishment and the logo should be incorporated on Light Departments equipment – all Members agreed
2. Rate Comparison - Hamilton stated that the rates for December are in the middle of the pack for residential – right now we are 45% below National Grid – Industrial and Commercial we are now 55% below National Grid and we were in the top 25% percentile, now we are 3-4 from the bottom

3. Hamilton presented an itemized cost and expense of Virgin Island project, final numbers should be completed shortly. All Board Members expressed what a great opportunity it was for Sterling Employees to have the opportunity to help restore the islands electricity.
4. Hamilton presented the Board with a chart showing the Power Supply for KWHS, Solar, Hydro and Nuclear, right now the Carbon free Clean Energy Portfolio Percentage is 70.67%. Also, another chart showed a 10 year Renewable Energy Yearly Summary
5. Hamilton said he presented the Board with a press release stating the Community Solar Energy Project is underway.
6. Cutler Brothers completed the work at the 50 Main Street allowing vehicles to be stored inside and also gave a great deal of working space
7. Hamilton just received the Actuarial Study and will present it to the Board after he reviews the document
8. Stillwater lights are in, heads will be done now, base in the spring
9. Hamilton met with Municipal Electric Association of Ma. (MEAM) yesterday, talked about the MLP bill that includes clean energy standards we are going to have to meet if we cannot work it out with our legislators, also on solar, when the new smart program comes out, there would be no Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) for Municipals, Hamilton said his concern would be the cap, for Hamilton stated we have enough solar now, will have to see what is decided
10. Rate study has started, a report should be available sometime in February.
11. Members agreed to meet with CTC Technology concerning the proposed fiber study on March 8, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Booth Associates System Assessment – Hamilton said they are going to load their Windmill model and from there decide what areas are needed to review– Starting next Friday, - February 2, 2018
- b. Net Meeting Policy – Review Cap – Hamilton presented the members with a rough draft of a Net Metering Policy. Hamilton said that storage and solar cap to be one in the same. Customers might just want storage. Hamilton reached out to NEC to see if we could get some solid numbers.
- c. Relay Panel Replacement Update - Hamilton presented pictures of the new system panels that were installed at the Chocksett substation
- d. Community Solar Discussion Hamilton said there are so many programs, so Hamilton presented members with Frequently Asked Questions as to how solar would work. Hamilton said we don't have a fuel charge on our bills, our energy charge could incorporate the solar charge. Hamilton said we have about two months to explain to rate payers exactly how solar would work. Stelmach stated that this should be just residential residents, all members agreed. Stelmach asked Hamilton to do a graphic, which sometimes is easier to understand
- e. Anderson Power Products (APP) Generator Contract has been extended for two years, but can be opened for review anytime.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. National Grid Garage Building – Hamilton said building is underway.
- b. Prime Wellness - Thought they would be open in February, now should be April, 2018. Owner said he would work with us to lower his demand, Hamilton will meet and discuss if there is anything, battery or storage could help in lowering the demand.
- c. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) 1st year Summary – Hamilton gave members a chart showing the value of the Storage system – Total value to date is \$411,565.28

- d. Employee Policy Manual Review – After discussion Members agreed to change Paid Time Off (PTO) policy to have PTO time start January to December. Should any employee leave before end of the year and PTO has been used, SMLD will be reimbursed at separation from their final check..
- e. Princeton Road – Hamilton working to upgrade poles and wants to get them set since Verizon pays ½ for every pole set. There is a section of the road that the wire is cracked. For now they will keep the wires trimmed and clear and try to finish the project next year. Initial plan was just to replace poles, but now more work is needed.
- f. Manager Review Form - Curtin will edit form and send to Members for review

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Curtin said when he was at the Post Office over the holidays, one customer stated that the only bill she doesn't mind opening is the Light Bill, , since it is the lowest utility bill she receives , which is nice to hear.

Hamilton had the lights moved that were too bright near a residents home on School Street, Sterling

Hamilton did ask Members to see if there were any meetings they would like to attend. Members would check the scheduled meetings and let Hamilton which ones they would like to attend.

FUTURE AGEND ITEMS

- 1. Community Solar
- 2. Manager's Review

6:08 p.m. - Curtin made a motion to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Stelmach aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye

ATTEST:


 Brian Pierce, Clerk

DATE:

2/20/2018

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE
