

2020-07-30  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 30, 2020

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  
Darren Borge (Borge) Operations 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

SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT - Call 911 – ADE in front office

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Pierce made a motion to table under New Business 5e and 5h**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

#### MANAGER' REPORT

1. Hamilton stated that today was the last day of Legislature Committee Meetings, 8 amendments were on agenda, all but one was pulled. Hamilton said several would have effected SMLD, mainly one on AMI meters, and also trying to get the MEAM MLP proposed legislation for the Global Warm Resolution Act, and the Broadband Act, requiring any MLP broadband provider to publish a year-end report listing all of our information revenue, expenses, etc. which creates unfair competition. The only amendment under consideration is for Bio Mass which doesn't affect SMLD. Hamilton did reach out to all Legislators and thanked them for their support.

2. Hamilton stated that with e-mailing directly those in Sterling responsible for Dig Safe, made it more efficient and saved them from coming to SMLD then being redistributed
3. Hamilton showed a citation from Representative O'Day for our School and Senior Safety Programs
4. Sterling Selectman thanked SMLD for our contribution at the Airport for the Annual Town Meeting
5. Hamilton stated he wants to keep the 5 year plan on the agenda for next meeting
6. Hamilton said July 27, 2020 appears to be the peak day for the year; shed 5.6 megawatts off of the system. Hamilton stated that just on that one hour peak; there was a savings of \$60,065.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Fiber project – Update- Borge stated that we are 96% complete in Sterling, total mileage is 22 miles. Borge gave a detail report of how the fiber works with conduits.
- b. 2 Leominster Road – Installing tile, plaster/painting completed, HVAC up and running, siding just about completed, overall project going well
- c. AMI Project – Borge stated that all relays and gateways are all in. Gateways will be at level where a bucket truck will not be needed.
- d. Northgate Apartment Building – Hamilton stated we received the grant for electric chargers. Northgate is also installing conduits for fiber. Hamilton stated that all 72 units will be electric and SMLD will offer virtual peaker grant to all tenants. A discussion was held on rebates to the project, the board was in agreement they would be the same as the others.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a. SMLD Succession Plan Training – Hamilton presented Board Members with succession of items that occur during each year.
- b. SMLD Board Reorganization – Vote - **Pierce made a motion that Curtin remain as Chairman, Pierce as Vice Chairman and Darlington as Clerk**, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- c. MATRIX FIBER REPORT - Justin LaViola from Matrix, on Zoom, presented board members, location of Commercial Fiber Installation, and the possibilities of Residential Locations. They stated that there are 3 phases, with 3 components, 1. Backbone 2. Trunk and 3. Distribution. Board Members appreciated the presentation, and requested that the following items, spread sheets, best routes, cost and timing, rate of return to be included in next meeting.
- d. Main Street Project – Town Meeting did vote for \$125,000 for Main Street Project. Hamilton believes this will be a Spring Project
- e. 2019 Financial Report - Tabled
- f. DPW Water Meters – Borge and Hamilton met with DPW to discuss their cost for connecting to Eaton meters, when the Mueller Meters fail. The DPW decided to hire Jackie Lemmerhirt to research the Mueller Program and other options for the Water Dept.
- g. Transformer 1 Circuit Switcher Repair – Hamilton stated they tried get it up and running, Couldn't get it done, Cost of unit is \$16,000, cost for installing is \$7,500 a day, should be only a day to install
- h. Private Light Tariff - Tabled
- i. SMLD Logo Redesign – Should be available for next meeting

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – June 11, 2020

1. **Pierce made a motion to approve Regular Session Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2020 as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Piece aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
2. **Pierce made a motion to approve Executive 1 Meeting Minutes as written, not to be released**, Darlington seconded, no discussion Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
3. **Pierce made a motion to approve Executive 2 Meeting Minutes as written, not to be released**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
4. **Pierce made a motion to approve Executive 3 Meeting Minutes as written, to be released**, Darlington seconded, , Roll Call Vote Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
5. **Pierce made a motion to approve Executive 4 Meeting Minutes as written, to be released**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

CUSTOMER COMMENTS – None

Future Agenda Items and Schedule Next Board Meeting

1. Fiber
2. 2 Leominster Road
3. AMI Project
4. Northgate Apartment Building
5. SMLD Logo

Next Meeting – August 27, 2020

7:10 p.m. - **Darlington made a motion to go into Executive Session 1 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) (9.1) E.H. Perkins/Hyosung Battery Project only to return to return to regular session to adjourn Roll Call Vote**, Pierce seconded, no discussion Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

7:15 p.m. –Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

Date:

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BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:

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