

**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 10, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS: Matthew Stelmach, Chairman
Michael Rivers, Clerk
Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Third Member

SMLD INTERIM MANAGER: Gregory DeStasi

EMPLOYEES: Sandy Pellecchia, Office Administrator
Christopher Courville, Line Superintendent

MINUTES: Meggin Hendley

Customers: Doug Davis, Sterling, MA
Larry Davis, Sterling, MA
John Davis, Sterling, MA
Sue Staudaher, Sterling Meeting House News
Richard Maki, Sterling, MA
George Pape, Sterling, MA

Matthew Stelmach (Stelmach) opens the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr. (Coughlin) makes a motion to approve the Thursday, June 10, 2010 agenda as written, Rivers seconds the motion. Role call: aye, aye, aye. Stelmach asks a question about the second set of Executive Session minutes that need to be approved. They are to be approved tonight in either Executive or Regular Session states Michael Rivers (Rivers). Rivers also notes that the auditor will not be here, however the audit will be reviewed. Seconded by Matthew Stelmach (Stelmach). Unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Stelmach asks Board to hold approval of May 20, 2010 minutes as they must be reviewed. All Board Members – aye. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, March 30, 2010 Executive Session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes. These minutes will not be released until such time as it is appropriate to do so. Seconded by Stelmach. Unanimously approved by the Board.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

George Pape (Pape) has a letter composed by himself. Letter references John Kilgo's increase in salary, and says it was given in violation of Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) because it was in Executive Session. Asking Board to consider John Kilgo's raise illegal.

Stelmach advises that the Board has spoken to legal and is waiting for a reply. They need attorney advice.

Rivers says that we must go by the Open Meeting Law at the time of the increase and meeting which was, from my understanding, in February. He asks for copy of letter from Patricia Smith at District Attorney Early's Office.

Pape: Yes, I will provide you a copy.

Stelmach asks if there are other customer comments: None

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

Stelmach asks Transition Team to introduce themselves: Christopher Courville (Courville), Greg DeStasi (DeStasi), and Sandy Pellecchia (Pellecchia)

Stelmach: As a team, we have every confidence that they can run this Light Department. That is why we made DeStasi Interim Manager of the Light Department.

DeStasi: Gives an update on the Team's status. We are looking for structure. The team seems to feel direction is coming from multiple directions, and we feel that we need one voice. I have the support of Pellecchia, Courville and the SMLD Team to be that one voice. I need the support of the full faculty, including the Board. I feel confident that we can hit our stride, but I want to get one last day with Kilgo for input, then walk on our own. Phone consultation would be acceptable of course.

Stelmach queries about the memo to staff, that it is to be cleared up, and DeStasi is in leadership, not DeStasi under Kilgo's direction.

Courville gives a line crew update. Trucks are going in for repair, repair work, tree trimming, Justice Hill conversion project, Projects completed, Streetlight switch outs, Nursery School on Rowley Hill Road, and a Handout given to Board.

Stelmach states that the customers are most important, that one came to the Board expressing concerning, it seems that Courville and Team have things under firm control currently, but if there are any open items, please address them and bring to the Board's attention so they can be addressed right away. He appreciates the report, and if there is anything hanging out there let's address it. Asks about Colby Road.

Courville details the plan, Colby Road scheduled for next year.

Rivers asks about Kendall Hill right of way.

Courville: just before Swett Hill Rd. It is one of the oldest in Town. We are keeping our eyes on it, but it is a big project. There is trimming going on a little at a time, but it is expensive and difficult to access. Replaced eventually.

Pellecchia: memos in parting advice from Kilgo, take them or not but they are here if you want to reference them. Financials gives an idea of budgets and Op Cash, Warrant, 10 Year Plan; etc. Also included in package are the May 2010 Financials. Rates and Rate Study reasons. Some recommendations. Last packet coming is Power Supply, again take it or leave it but they are just recommendations.

Stelmach asks DeStasi if he will be ready to present Financials and such at the next meeting. DeStasi says yes. Pellecchia asks what is expected, and Stelmach says let's not stray from the normal process. Rivers states they want more detailed financials, but he's okay with things at this point.

Pape asks when the Audit will be published. Pellecchia says she has checked it and feels comfortable she can provide one to Pape. Stelmach and Coughlin and Rivers agree it can be released. Rivers asks to give copies to Treasurer, Accountant and Town Administrator. Pellecchia says one will be provided for all and one will be readily available in the Board's closet for their review.

DeStasi mentions MMWEC seminar and that he thinks Rivers should go. MMWEC is a great resource and a lot of good people there.

DAVIS UPDATE

Stelmach asks the Davis' to participate.

DeStasi system, estimated projections. Global view. Doug says we have been focused on the solar and the wind may come in the future. Stelmach asks if wind and solar were to be on different meters. DeStasi says the discussion is in process, both are on the same meter but all are confident that the share of information will be fruitful. Doug says they are still looking into grants; etc. There is still discussion going forward. We would like to put in a 28 KW system but right now 15 KW is what we are granted. Rivers states that there are adequate safeguards for workers and community. Potentially there may be several other customers in that area who may be interested in this type of project. Davis' state that the grant deadlines are at the end of the month, so they would like paperwork well enough ahead to review and complete. DeStasi states paperwork should be complete next week or early week after. Rivers asks for a DRAFT agreement for the offline provision and a copy of information. DeStasi says he has given to Stelmach and copies will be provided for all. Doug says the meeting was great but they appreciate any help as they have been delayed in grant processes thus far. Stelmach says they will help in any way possible. John Davis states no one has

mentioned that Farmland is educational. When people come in and see the set up, it will be a great benefit. Stelmach says we appreciate it and it will only help the SMLD.

Rivers makes motion to move item 7 to 6 in the interest of public attendance.

NEW MANAGER SEARCH

Stelmach: We are moving forward to the Transition Team as discussed, but we have responsibilities to the ratepayers that we do a search for the best possible candidate to fill the Manager's position here at the SMLD. Rivers advises that when Kilgo was appointed, the Board had formed a Citizen's Committee. Preliminaries can be done in Executive Session, but finals must be done in Open Meeting Session. Rivers says there have been people in Town who have approached him to help in the advisory role to help with appointment process. Government Study Committee is appointed by Selectmen. Stelmach asks if they are in agreement to go with a committee. Coughlin says they will only be able to advise or recommend. Rivers agrees it will be the Board. Pellecchia asks why we would not use the internal force here at the SMLD? Stelmach says we will, but that there needs to be an unbiased committee to screen candidates. Pellecchia asks if Jamie Kelley or Meggin Hendley should be on committee. Stelmach says they are both great candidates but we need residents of the Town. Pape suggests that the Transition Team should apply as well. Stelmach says it is open to them as well. Stelmach says that confidentiality will be key. Stelmach says they will set a committee of five, likely residents. Pape suggests that applicants should come into the SMLD faculty. Stelmach says that will be up to the Board and the Committee. Staudaher says she has an issue coming out on the 19th of June. Stelmach and Coughlin and Rivers agree that interested advisory parties please contact Pellecchia. Pellecchia gives contact information to Staudaher. Stelmach asks Pellecchia for a draft of a posting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Rivers makes a motion to move Next Board Meeting up in the agenda. All Aye. Next Regular Meeting will be on June 29, 2010 at 5:00pm. All aye. But we will need another Special Meeting. Special set for June 22, 2010 at 5pm. Both meetings can be posted as scheduled.

OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rivers makes a motion to go into Executive Session per Chapter 164 Section 47D to discuss proprietary information, confidential information and business strategies and to return to open session only to adjourn. Coughlin seconds the motion. Role call. Coughlin, aye. Rivers, aye. Stelmach, aye. Approved by the Board.

The board goes into Executive Session as of 6:10 p.m. The board returns as of 7:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Stelmach asks for a motion for the Light Board to adjourn the meeting. Coughlin makes the motion and Rivers seconds it. Unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting adjourns at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:  _____

Michael Rivers, Clerk

DATE: 08/11/10