

2019-11-19  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 19, 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)

5:00 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

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Pierce made a motion to table Executive Session and approve agenda as amended**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Berkshire II Commissioning tested for 72 hours, should have gone on line last night, 4.8 megawatts on Brodie Mountain, SMLD owns 5.34%
2. Bucket Truck was purchased for \$105,000 with extended warranty, saved \$24,500 with having no lease and no finance, full P & M included
3. Hamilton gave board members a chart illustrating how the ISONE may reconstitute the Behind the Meter Solar, this will affect load levels on the peak load day each year, making it more difficult to predict. Hamilton stated that the peak hours could be adjusted 1-2 hours earlier in the day. Hamilton said he will follow this change very closely
4. Hamilton said they just received the rebate from MassSave with a savings of \$2,200 for 96 lights for 2 Leominster Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Project – Hamilton said we are about 90% framed, fiber should be here November 29, 2019, Boylston all set, West Boylston framed, so we should be ready to run cable when it arrives. Conduit under highway is all set.
- b. 2 Leominster Road – Insulation on second floor completed today, rough wiring complete. Hamilton stated that one of three front windows was eliminated because of stairway. Hamilton waiting for quotes for installing sheetrock.
- c. AMI RFP - Waiting for vendor quotes for RFP which are due back 12/5/2019, will be reviewed at that time
- d. 2020 Budget - Curtin stated that the only change will be increasing the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) budget to \$132,000 from \$66,000, all board members agreed to the increase at this time, but should things change in coming years, it can always be reduced.  
**Pierce made a motion to approve the Operating Budget for 2020 for \$8,049,181.00**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor  
**Pierce made a motion to approve the Capital Budget for 2020 for \$516,517.00**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Omni Energy – Right now and based on their November 4<sup>th</sup> email they are planning to build a charging station and coffee shop off grid, still in conversation.
- b. Christine Arsenault, Staff Accountant will be retiring January 10, 2020- Several applications have been received, thoughts are to promote the Office Manager Position, stating that the duties will also include overseeing the budget and financial position.
- c. Stash Energy – Hamilton said mini-splits are the way of the future, but the problem is in order to qualify for a DOER Grant they have to have an employee employed in Massachusetts, still talking about other opportunities including using them in 2 Leominster Road.
- d. Septic Review – scheduled for deep hole testing and review by Board of Health agent on November 26,2019 – plan will be designed by Steve Sears, of Ross Associations

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

**Pierce made a motion to approve Regular Session Minutes of October 24, 2019 as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Hamilton updated the accident that took out a pole on Rowley Hill Road at midnight, took 8 hours to restore power, many, favorable comments from residents thanking the employees for a great job

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting – 5:00 p.m.- December 12, 2020

5:50 p.m. – Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

12/12/2019

DATE APPROVAL AND RELEASE:

7/12/19