

2018-11-01
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 1, 2018

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)

ATTENDEE: Matt Stelmach

5:00 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 item 5c under New Business from the agenda, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Hamilton said 127 new generator projects are coming up, of those only 16 are fossil fuel the others are solar, wind and battery storage. Hamilton just wanted to let the Board know where power supply is headed

Old Business

- a. Community Solar Project Subscriber – Update – As of today there are 386 subscribers. With a cap of 400 Hamilton suggested taking a vote on cap at the November 8, 2018 meeting so as to have it on the record.
- b. Mini-Split Program – Hamilton said there are 8 municipals working on getting a list of major manufactures that will allow additional discounts or larger rebates. The value to customers will be Virtual Peaker and demand reduction, discount on appliances, and MMWEC is working with contractors to reduce the cost of installation. Hamilton stated that MMWEC will be handling the project, noted that the only one that will not give up software information to Virtual Peaker is Mitsubishi. Darlington asked about virtual peaker, Hamilton said waiting for a customer to sign-on multiple units to go forward, but there will be a 30% discount to the first 4 municipalities and if we can begin with a lot of units SMLD will be cash positive immediately.
- c. CTC Fiber or Other (Revenue Study) – Hamilton said CTC will not exceed \$9,900. Hamilton said he wants to reach out to other companies. Hamilton stated that CTC is a great company, but was not happy with their presentation. Hamilton stated that maybe SMLD project is not large enough for their company. Hamilton will report his findings at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Energy Storage Benefit – Update – Hamilton said he gave four tours this week. SMLD has recouped 100% of our cost to install; solar is running every day, ITC back up to 90%. NEC came out to upgrade the system, and replace the capacitors, with no cost to SMLD.
- b. Capacity Shortage – Event 9/3/2018 - Cost for rewards will be \$44.9 million, with \$37 million penalty going out, this covers by all of New England. Hamilton said SMLD had a positive of \$4,919 for the day.
- c. SMLD 5 Year Plan – tabled till November 8, 2018 meeting
- d. Town of Sterling Streetlight Budget - Hamilton said in 2012 SMLD converted of all streetlights to LED with the help of the MLP Grant for \$100,000. Hamilton and Jeff Ritter, former town manager, agreed during the project to a fixed cost to the town for 5 years, which ended last year. Hamilton said all street lights are changed, in 2010 cost to town was \$36,000 and in 2011 the cost to the town after complete audit was \$31,000. As of today, the total charge for this year is \$16,232 not including private lights the cost has been cut in half. Hamilton did tell the current town manager of the savings, but Curtin suggested sending an e-mail to the Selectman to make them aware of the benefit SMLD provided the town by changing the street lights.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – October 11, 2018 and October 25, 2018

1. **Pierce made a motion to approve Regular Session Minutes of October 11, 2018 as amended,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye
Pierce made a motion to approve Executive Session Minutes of October 11, 2018 as amended, not to be released, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote – Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye
2. **Pierce made a motion to approve Regular Session Minutes of October 25, 2018 as amended,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye
Pierce made a motion to approve Executive Session Minutes of October 25, 2018 as written, not to be released, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Hamilton said the outage this morning believed to be a ground fault, probably caused by animal

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Budget
2. Solar
3. 5 year plan
4. CTC Fiber

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)-Peaking Plant alternative, only to return to regular session to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

6:35 P.M. Meeting Adjourned

Attachment

1. Amended Agenda

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

12-27-18

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:
