

2020-11-23
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 23, 2020

LOCATION: SMLD Building
Zoom and 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 Borges (Borges) Assistant 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 - Equipment in office

Approval of Agenda – **Darlington made a motion to table Executive Session**, Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

Manager's Report

1. Holiday Lights are currently being installed
2. SMLD has been asked to join the Advisory Board of the DOE Solar Technology Research Panel, have not replied as of yet, but it is quite an honor to be asked to join.
3. SMLD did have a zoom meeting with Verizon on the Main St URD project, but it did not go well, there was a lot of confusion about the project, . Meeting again next week to review the plans, locations, etc.
4. Reconstitute meeting, changing language, will go to the Stake holders, and if accepted, goes to FERC, for final approval,.

5. Hamilton did send a letter to all delinquent account holders, explained that the rate payers will have to share this burden of \$92,000, which is not fair. Responses has been good, and all understood, \$50,000 has been received, bringing the deficit down to \$47,000.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Fiber Project – Spoke to SELCO several times. Working with them, stating we can do billing and outsource the splicing. Right now we are trying to see what the start up cost would be and what we need to recover the cost. Borge went into detail as to how Pilot Program would work, working with provisioning providers and system Management. Borge explained that doing Commercial Area first would bring in a quicker payback than residential. Borge gave cost analysis of All Four Phases of Fiber. Members requested cost information to review for next meeting.
- b. AMI Project – 2 gateways are up and running, waiting for brackets for fiber, should be able to finish up with the private cellular cards, then we will be up and running
- c. 2021 Budget - **Darlington made a motion to approve Budget for 2021 for \$8,036,308**, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- d. DPW AMI Discussion – SMLD suggested to DPW Board Members of using part of our Pilot Program of \$30,000 over 10 years. DPW did inquire about us doing their billing, SMLD will not, but then stated they could hire someone to do the billing part time at our location. SMLD did put together an agreement with DPW (which will present to DPW Board Members tomorrow) as to how AMI Project that is being developed by SMLD and how it will benefit DPW.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Great Blue Survey Results - Response of residents switching to fiber was over 50%. Main issue of course would be pricing. SMLD service approval rate was 98%.
- b. SMLD Bond Rating – Hamilton thinks now is the time to acquire a bond rating which takes about 2 months, MMWEC will partner with us and help with application.
Darlington made a motion to give permission for SMLD General Manager to enter and obtain a Bond Rating for SMLD at a cost of \$13,500 for the application, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
- c. Cyber Security Policy – Insurance Companies are not requiring now, but want them to be in place. SMLD will work with our IT consultant to update our policy
- d. NEEP/SEPA Project – Hamilton informed Board Members about an \$85 million dollar Connected Communities grant from the DOE that will be coming on line. Hamilton gave ideas of what they could apply for we don't have anything in the works now.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – October 29, 2020 -

1. **Pierce made a motion to approve Regular Minutes of October 29, 2020 as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor
2. **Pierce mad a motion to approve Executive Session of October 29, 2020, not 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. AMI
3. DPW
4. Cyber Security
5. NEEP/SEPA

Next Meeting – December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

12/14/2020

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:

12/14/2020