

2018-10-25
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 25, 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- absent

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 and broadcast. **Roll Call Attendance, Curtin present, Pierce 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 New Business 5d and Past Minutes – October 11, 2018 and to approve agenda as amended, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Hamilton, just for FYI, that he was approached by members of a committee for repairing lights at tennis courts in West Sterling, Hamilton said he couldn't support the cost of the lights but would be able to move existing poles and fixtures if approved by Board Members
2. Richard Lane, selectman, approached Hamilton about trying to replace Town Banner in some location near the Center of Town. Lane mentioned maybe somewhere near the schools, but Hamilton didn't think that is the best location, will continue to look for a suitable location.
3. Navajo Project – had a call with the American Public Power Association (APPA) would like to complete this project sometime next year. Hamilton said that SMLD will pay for flights and labor, but all equipment and stock will be supplied. Hamilton said that this would be a 6 week commitment, with 2 employees for 3 sessions. Board Members all in favor. Hamilton will approach SMLD employees for their input.

4. Hamilton said in the capital budget they will find \$10, 000 for the repair of the Backhoe for next year. Repairs will be completed in 2018 because of leaks in hoses.
5. Hamilton said this morning that he attended a Business to Business meeting in Sterling. It was a very good discussion about our community, there were about thirty businesses in attendance.
6. Sub-station Update - green jacket covering on substation buss bar is completed
7. Library – Hamilton said with the new energy system that was recently installed the library had a saving of about 30% in electricity for the summer in 2018
8. Hamilton said quotes for hybrid truck for the Capital Budget will be ready for the November 8th meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Community Solar Project Subscriber Update - as of today 378
- b. Booth Associates – Capacitor Report – Hamilton said he sent the report to Members and that the replacement capacitors, as recommended by the report will be in the Capitol Budget –
- c. CTC – Revenue Study - Hamilton stated that he was not very happy about presentation at the last meeting. Hamilton said they are well respected, but maybe our project is just not large enough for them. Hamilton said he would like to hold off and reach out to other engineers. Pierce mentioned he may know an engineer that would be interested, Hamilton said he will also reach out to Brad Monroe, of Fujitsu. Curtin said he would like to at least get the revenue completed. Pierce stated that this is something that needs to be done now, not later. Hamilton will report at the next meeting with information from other engineers. Hamilton presented Members of how the fiber will run from Sterling, going thru West Boylston, Boylston to Shrewsbury– Hamilton noted that fiber cost is not part of the budget, will be a separate project.
- d. Payback Resolution - **Pierce made motion to adopt the Sterling Municipal Light Department Reimbursement Resolution and the amount to be voted on upon completion of study and as soon as we move forward with the project**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Pierce aye, Curtin aye, all in favor
- e. AMI Review - Hamilton noted that we are still losing meters but can manage the replacements. Curtin noted that with so many Capital Budget restraints at this time that we should continue to change meters and look for a resolution at a future date. Board members all agreed to put this on hold at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Hydro Quebec Interconnection – Hamilton said agreement is coming to an end. Hamilton said MMWEC found out that 9 members already transferred their rights. Members decided to resolve this problem themselves without involving attorneys. MMWEC said they had no right to sell, so all agreed to have them declared surplus to MMWEC and in turn MMWEC will sell them back.
- b. Energy Storage Benefit Update – Hamilton didn't get recent numbers – but everything is still running good
- c. Truck Grant – MMWEC thinks this might come out again, Hamilton said the grant from the State will be 25% if it is Hybrid – grant not available, but they come out fast, and Hamilton said he wants to be ready should a grant become available, but would probably not happen till next year
- d. SMLD 5 Year Plan – tabled
- e. Lighting Rebates for Fire and Police Stations – Hamilton said Graybar stated that there is a Mass Save Rebate if done by December 31, 2018. Hamilton said with rebate for Police would be \$1,692 and fire with rebate would be \$3,833.33. Curtin noted that this would be SMLD

contribution to the town in lieu of Pilot Program and with taking advantage of the rebate there will be a savings of about \$5,000. **Pierce made a motion to replace bulbs and some fixtures, for police, not to exceed \$1,692.20 and for the fire Department not to exceed \$3,833.33**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor

Approval of Past Minutes – October 11, 2018 – Tabled

Customer Comments – None

Future Agenda Items

1. 5 Year Plan

Pierce made 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. Curtin seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor

6:12 p.m. - Meeting Adjourned

Attachments:

1. Amended Agenda

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

11/01/18

BOARD APPROVAL AND RELEASE:
