

**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard Sheppard, Chairman
Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Clerk
Matthew Stelmach, Third Member

SMLD MANAGER: John Kilgo, Jr.

MINUTES: Christine Noponen

IN ATTENDANCE: No Sterling Residents

Richard Sheppard (Sheppard) opens the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr. (Coughlin) makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, September 29, 2009 agenda as written. Seconded by Matthew Stelmach (Stelmach). Unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, August 18, 2009 regular session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Seconded by Stelmach. Approved by the Board.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Sheppard says congratulations on a good job at the fair. Further discussion is held on the fair.

FINANCIALS

John Kilgo, Jr. (Kilgo) states that the kWhs are down three percent in August 2009 compared to 2008. The Residential and Industrial kWh are down 3.25 % in their respective categories. The year-to-date kWhs are down six percent but revenues are up twelve percent. The load factor averaged 64 % for the month of August. Kilgo further states that it is still very good with today's economic pressures. Sheppard says that the kWhs are running neck and neck between residential and the other categories.

Sheppard asks if the High/Low Estimates have been updated. Kilgo states that we review sensitivities during the month and show the degree-days on the page as well and it is better to provide a bandwidth of conservative estimates because remember they are just a gauge. Additional discussion is held on the financials and Kilgo states that in September we should see an increase over the same time last year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Stelmach asks Kilgo if he considered picking some other metrics to use or to report on. The three examples that he suggests are: an outage report, customer call/complaints, and rates in comparison to other municipals. Sheppard states that the outage reports are reported on an annual basis in the Annual Town Report as well in the annual audit, which is satisfactory. Kilgo concurs with Sheppard and states that there are customer surveys that go out on a regular basis as well. Kilgo also states that we watch our rates in comparison to other municipals and usually discuss them during an Executive Session on a yearly basis. The SMLD does not compare the rates of other municipals publicly because of different generation commitments with public power utilities and it would be unfair. Coughlin points out that the rates are printed on each bill. Kilgo states that the new smart meter system being installed soon will be able to help us with utility information. He further says that we look at different Operations statistics throughout the month. In general, other public power utilities across the country increased their rates by an average of eight percent this year and next year they are looking at a six percent increase throughout the country. While the SMLD has had no increase since last summer, we are fiscally responsible even with rising transmission costs and storm repairs. Kilgo did point out that there are continually increasing legislative and regulatory requirements that are burdening the SMLD staff which includes additional FEMA work on a continuing basis until that work is completed. All will be explained in the year-end business plan.

Stelmach states he is looking for more reporting and would like to know what is happening in customer service on a day-to-day basis. Kilgo states that is an operational issue only but he would be happy to work with Stelmach on any issue. He asks Stelmach to e-mail or call him any time. Kilgo further states that there is a new press release coming soon as well as a newsletter in which Stelmach appreciates.

MOTION TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sheppard says there is no need to go into Executive Session, as there are no customers present.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Coughlin makes a motion to approve the Tuesday, August 18, 2009 Executive Session Sterling Municipal Light Department Board Meeting Minutes. Stelmach seconds the motion. Role call: Coughlin, aye. Sheppard, aye. Stelmach, aye. Unanimously approved by the Board.


Kilgo states that the Executive Session minutes will be available by appointment to look at them. First set will be free anything after that will be the normal fee.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The October board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sheppard asks for a motion for the Light Board to adjourn the meeting. Coughlin makes the motion and Stelmach seconds it. Unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting adjourns at 5:30 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Arthur J. Coughlin, Sr., Clerk

DATE: 10-29-2009