

2021-8-26
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: August 26, 2021

LOCATION: SMLD, Zoom & Rear Board Room
50 Main Street, Sterling, MA

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman
Brian Pierce (Pierce) Vice Chairman
Eric Darlington (Darlington) Clerk

SMLD STAFF: Darren Borge (Borge) Manager

MINUTES: Eric Darlington

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order; Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll **Call Attendance, Pierce Present, Curtin 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 – **Pierce made a motion to approve agenda as written**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Curtin aye.

Manager's report given by Darren Borge

1. Returned from NEPPA conference, gained good insight in new technologies and future industry trends, as well as potential grants to subsidize clean energy production.
2. PURMA Property Insurance PEIC, annual dues reduced by around \$500
3. The town has approached SMLD regarding a solution to Graffiti on the Route 12 bridges.
4. Chargepoint dual pedestal chargers are installed and wired, ready to operate pending a charge rate approval.
5. Working to change phone system, going to VOIP. Will better integrate call in menu, allows easier expansion and better connect departments.
6. Pole petition on Kendall Hill Road was objected by the abutters, requested to leave poles in current location.

Unfinished Business

- a) Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan – Comm-Tract working on splicing cabinets, prioritizing industrial corridor first then expand out. Working to improve marketing strategy for Northgate Apartments, currently 25% of those residents have signed up for Fiber service.
- b) Main Street URD – No movement, Town Hall is waiting for engineering
- c) NEEP/SEPA – NEEP has not heard back from DOE, expect possible mid-September update.
- d) 50 Main Street – Exploring budget costs for 2022 budget
- e) DPW Mower – DPW is leaning toward loader attachment, not in SMLD's best interest to pursue. Will look into options of outsourcing trimming work.
- f) Leominster RMV Charger – Have not heard response.
- g) Sterling Town EV Charger – Not Installed yet. Waiting for Town downtown URD preliminary drawings
- h) 2015A Update – DPU approved bonding to continue moving forward with project.

New Business

- a) Fiber Marketing – New customer service rep hired working full time, new signage to increase awareness. Passing out flyers and leaving door hangers as areas get connected. Updating customer database as "Fiber Ready" once service is available at the street. Planning a "Meet the Fiber Team" event at the senior center to introduce the fiber staff and meet with the community. Launching website with informational videos.
- b) Rate Study – Examining current rates and costs to determine a charge rate for EV charging.
- c) New Website Demo – New website presented to Board. Still making final adjustments.
- d) Pole Yard Clean Up – DPW asked if we could assist in removing trees from Pole yard, some material dates back to the 2008 Ice Storm. Received multiple proposals of varying scope, SMLD's portion to have material removed would be \$9500. **Pierce made a motion to approve \$9,500 for Eco Earth to remove debris from the pole yard,** Curtin Seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Curtin aye

Approval Of Past Minutes – April 29, 2021, June 24, 2021 and July 19, 2021

- 1. **Pierce made a motion to approve April 29, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, as amended, not to be released,** Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor
- 2. **Curtin made a motion to approve April 29, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as amended,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor
- 3. **Curtin made a motion to approve June 24, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, as written, not to be released,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor

4. **Pierce made a motion to approve June 24, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as amended**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor
5. **Pierce made a motion to approve July 19, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, as written, not to be released**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor
6. **Pierce made a motion to approve July 19, 2021 Regular Session Minutes as written**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor

Customer Comments

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING

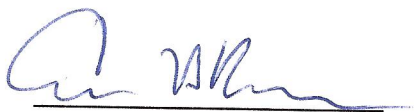
1. Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan Project
2. NEEP/SEEP Grant
3. Main Street URD Project
4. 50 Main St. Garage
5. Fiber Marketing
6. 2015A
7. EV Chargers
8. Rate Study

Next Regular Session Meeting – September 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

6:37p.m Pierce 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 – (9.1) E.H. Perkins/Battery Project (9.2) New Vendor Inquiry (9.3) SELCO Contract, only to return to regular session to adjourn, Curtin seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote**, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor

8:02 p.m. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

10/18/21

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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