

September 20, 2021, at 5 PM
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 20, 2021

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

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

SMLD STAFF: Darren Borge (Borge) Manager
Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Consultant

MINUTES: Patty Page

5:00 PM. Meeting called to order; Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll **Call Attendance, Darlington 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 – **Darlington made a motion to approve agenda as written**, Curtin seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Darlington aye, Curtin aye.

Manager's report given by Darren Borge

1. Manager Boot Camp MMWEC – Mr. Borge attended the boot camp on September 9th with Chicopee interim manager and Holden's assistant manager. SMLD is current on non-carbon power supply and roadmap 2050. Lots of information shared and direction on how to achieve goals. Reviewed roles and responsibilities for new managers.
2. Master Plan Bill Inserts – SMLD put in inserts for the Master Plan for the September & October bill cycles. There is a cost but is written off in the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program.
3. EDC/Graffiti Issues @ Route 12 Bridge – low-cost solar flood lights and solar camera were installed that use cellular to transmit information. In the future, it could be tied into fiber. Small capital investment to see what kind of results are obtained. The police department gets notified if there is movement thru a cellular call.

4. Customer Usage Portal – Customers can link AMI meters to view usage at 15-minute intervals. Also, will allow them to pay bills online. The water department is going to roll into this program as well. The Light Lines newsletter will also be available here.
5. Lineman Progression – Two of SMLD's Apprentice Lineman 3rd class apprenticeship, first year completed.
6. NEPPA – Upcoming Lineman's Rodeo Competition (2020 was cancelled).
7. LED Floodlight Program – Griffin Field/Muddy Pond fields are complete. 10 LED conversions from HPS floodlights. Discussion about LED conversion at Griffin/Muddy Pond. Continue to look for grants/alternative funding sources for program.
8. 2022 Budget – working on the budget.

Unfinished Business

- a) Fiber/ARPA Update – Comm-Tract splicing has continued. Fiber To Home splicing switched to in-house, with New Installation Technician. Need positive income stream before spending on new equipment. Fiber marketing started with industrial/commercial base. Majority of Business's contacted not comfortable with telecommunication transfer, need more information. Majority of homes are going on Comcast "triple-play." The problem with commercial contracts is that Comcast has them locked into a contract and they do not want to incur the early cancellation fee. Possible Marketing solution is to offer to pay cancellation fee. At this time, the Board would like to "keep it lean" and only use money that have been allocated.
- b) Main Street Underground – Plans provided to World Tech Engineers, town consultant. Project is currently at a stall, but SMLD has conduit in stock for when project moves forward.
- c) NEEP/SEPA Grant Application– no change or update.
- d) 50 Main Street (Garage) – 2022 project budget.
- e) Leominster RMV EV Charger – State legislative delegation sent letter to RMV about placing an EV Charges at the RMV but no response.
- f) Town EV Chargers –Start installation behind Town Hall. Grant money can be extended, and materials are in stock. Other possible locations: Dunkin' Donuts Plaza, Library Parking lot, schools, senior center.
- g) Fiber Marketing – marketing has gone live with the new website. It links to outage maps, usage information, alerts, customer alerts and customers will also be able to pay online (AMI meters).
- h) Rate study – no change. More information has been provided to BH Leymaster, Inc.

New Business

- a) No New Business

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – Minutes Postponed to Next Meeting

Customer Comments

No Customer Comment's

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING

- a) Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan- Update and Schedule for sections completed and ready for customer connections.
- b) Main St URD Project

- c) NEEP/SEPA Project
- d) 50 Main St Garage
- e) Leominster RMV EV Charger
- f) Town of Sterling EV Charger
- g) Fiber Marketing
- h) Rate Study
- i) LED FL Conversion

Next Regular Session Meeting – 10/18/2021 @ 5pm.

6:23 PM. 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 – (9.1) E.H. Perkins/Battery Project (9.2) Fiber Study (9.3) New Customer Inquiry, only to return to regular session to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

6:53 PM. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

2/23/22

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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