

December 13, 2021, at 5 PM  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 13, 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. Reimbursement of \$27,346 from the Multi-Unit Dwelling EV Charger grant program in progress with DOER (Department of Energy Resources).
2. Mr. Borge has reached out to Town of Sterling department heads and committee chairs to suggest a meeting to open the lines of communication and foster cooperation. The suggestion was well received. There have been several missed opportunities to assist other Town entities with services and materials. Opening these lines of communication will overall save the Town money.
3. Mr. Borge attend NEPPA (New England Public Power Association) Annual Conference. Good information received, Special Guest Speaker was Globe reporter Jackie McMullen
4. Completed the 5 Circuit Switcher Replacements with new linebacker switches and contact arm pins.

### **Unfinished Business**

- a) Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan – ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds will be used for fiber deployment. The Maple St/Kendall Hill Rd 288 count fiber tested and certified by Dagle Electric. For underground developments, need to investigate deployment, one possibility is using an irrigation puller (there is no requirement for depth). Fiber will be placed 8” to 12” inches below, any deeper it is harder to feed the fiber, need to continue to investigate options for underground deployment.
- b) Main Street Underground Project Update – Plans are from 2007 & 2017. Project includes milling & paving, common area and underground utilities. Town is in discussions with World-Tech Engineering. SMLD recommends 11 lights along Main St and 7 Lights inside Town Common – SMLD recommends and will fund the typical style lights and posts that SMLD would stock. Decorative lighting beyond SMLD standard will need to be funded from Town portion of the project.
- c) 50 Main Street Garage – the siding project was delayed because of permitting issues.
- d) Leominster RMV EV (electric vehicle) Charger – no change.
- e) Town of Sterling EV Charger – Library infrastructure installed to be finished by the end of 2021. Possible future locations, Dunkin’ Donuts or Lanpher’s Market. Already committed to Library, Town Hall & Dunkin’ Donuts thru a grant (total of 3 pedestals). The charger located at Northgate Meadows is receiving lots of activity.
- f) Fiber Marketing – Mr. Borge has reached out to Meetinghouse News for a monthly fiber build out update.
- g) Rate Study Update – Still under review.
- h) LED/Flood Light Conversion – Lighting at the Muddy Pond Soccer fields are converted to 125-watt LED lights from 85 Watt. West Sterling Tennis/Pickleball courts are all HPS flood lights, 14 total at location. Can standardize using stock lights. Also looking for any grant opportunities for lighting.

### **New Business**

- a) No New Business

**APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES** – Minutes to be 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 – 1/24/2022 @ 5pm.

**5:50 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 (9.2) New Vendor Inquiry Update, only to move to Executive Session II**

**10) Executive Session II (1) if needed and time allows under M.G.L. Chapter 30 A: Section 21(a), Clause 2 (to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel) – (10.1) General Manager 6 Mos. Evaluation, only to move 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:

✓