



November 29, 2021
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES



DATE: November 29, 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

1)5:00 pm. Meeting called to order; Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording. Roll Call Attendance: Darlington present, Curtin Present, Pierce present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board members in attendance pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

1.A) Safety Announcement - Equipment in office

2) Approval of Agenda – **Piece made a motion to approve agenda as amended**, removing item 6, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Pierce aye.

3) Manager's report given by Darren Borge

- The Sterling Selectboard voted to transfer funds from ARPA on 11/22/2021 in the amount of \$352,000 to SMLD and to appoint Borge to the Hazard Mitigation Team and Energy Committee.
- Borge presented a concept plan for a lean-to addition for 27 Pratts Junction Road Warehouse to increase storage.

4) Unfinished Business

a) Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan-

- Update and Schedule for sections completed and ready for customer connections: All cabinets and fiber to home equipment tested and available for all currently serviceable locations. Still dropping off informational packets/door knockers. Curtin asked the schedule for targeting service. Using yard signs to further notify the public it's in the area. Curtin would like a map to show where fiber is to easily answer inquiries of where and when fiber will be in a particular area.

b) Main Street URD Project Update:

- On hold. Town still working on selecting an engineer.

c) 50 Main Street Garage Update:

- Framing out and insulating.

d) Leominster RMV EV Charger:

- No change.

- e) Town of Sterling EV Charger Update:
 - Behind Town Hall is done and in database. Still working on Library.
- f) Fiber Marketing:
 - Putting still image on website, working with Futura for interactive map for member search for fiber availability.
- g) Rate Study Update:
 - Still In progress. Packet includes a presentation which includes rate comparison.
- h) LED FL Conversion:
 - Replaced 30 this year @ \$331/per - \$9,930, capital to be depreciated.
- i) 2022 SMLD Draft 2 Budget Review:
 - There were a couple of clerical errors that have been corrected. Vote to approve the draft 2022 budget \$8,336,642, broken down at \$7,730, 407 for electric and \$606,235 for fiber. **Pierce made a motion to approve the 2022 draft budget**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Pierce aye.

5) New Business:

- a) Year to Date- Board Financial Packet Presentation
 - Borge presented a financial packet to show year-to-date update for electrical sales and revenue. Some of the discounts are not reflected at this time. Monthly sales have been up, reflective of the temperature swings. Curtin said this should be looked at quarterly moving forward.

6) APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: Table for now.

7) Customer Comments: None at this time.

8) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Next meeting December 13, 2021 @ 5 pm.

- a) Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan- Update and Schedule for sections completed and ready for customer connections.
- b) Main St URD Project Update
- c) 50 Main St Garage Update
- d) Leominster RMV EV Charger
- e) Town of Sterling EV Charger Update
- f) Fiber Marketing
- g) Rate Study Update
- h) LED FL Conversion
 - Add General Manager's Review/6 month evaluation to next agenda (executive session).

9) Executive Session

At 6:06 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

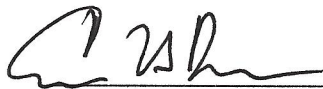
(9.2) Fiber Study

(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.

6:27 pm meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

3/16/22

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

3/16/22