



November 16, 2022  
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
 REGULAR SESSION  
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: November 16, 2022

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman (joined meeting at 6:57 pm via phone)  
 Brian Pierce (Pierce), Vice Chair  
 Eric Darlington (Darlington), Clerk

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

MINUTES: Patty Page

6:04 pm. Meeting called to order; Pierce stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording. Roll Call Attendance: Darlington present, Pierce present. (Curtin absent at this time).

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 amended.** Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye. (2-0).

Manager’s report given by Darren Borge

1. Replaced a recloser on Beaman road due to a squirrel. Back online within 50 minutes of outage. 1504 recloser replaced with spare G&W Viper recloser.
2. Borge received a number of certifications for the NEPPA Public Utilities Managers Program, including APPA Cost of Service and APPA Strategic Leadership program.
3. Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Enterprise Resource Planning Software is up on CommBuys and is also on the SMLD website.
4. Letter from Groton Light Department – the letter discusses possible rolling brown outs and black outs. Discussion of whether or not the board would want SMLD to put out a letter in response to the Groton letter. Based on SMLD’s assets and grid configuration the department feels the likelihood of Sterling seeing any impact is minimal. Board suggested adding a note in the Light Lines newsletter.

Unfinished Business

- a) SMLD 5-Year Rate Study/Potential Rate Increases – Borge has reached out to Bruce Leymaster and provided him with the new MMWEC Power Forecast that was sent in October 2022. Waiting for recommendations on the cost increase once he compares the new forecast with the 2021 Cost of Service Study. The Board continued the discussion of the skyrocketing costs and what they can do to minimize the impact on the ratepayers. Lack of stability in all markets are creating these new challenges, and

inevitably a rate increase to cover the growing costs. After a lengthy discussion, **Darlington made a motion to approve the 2023 rate adjustment**. Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Pierce aye, Darlington aye. (Later in the meeting, Curtin joined in and the Board rescinded this motion. Please read on to see the new motion).

- b) 1<sup>st</sup> Draft SMLD 2023 Budget – The largest change in the numbers is the cost of power supply has increased unexpectedly and quickly. Anticipated that purchase of KW will go up. \*\*Curtin joined the meeting via phone.\*\* The Board went on to discuss a number of ways to reduce the budget, but SMLD would like to implement the rate change by January. After more discussion, **Pierce made a motion to reconsider the earlier vote to approve the new rate adjustment**. Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. **Pierce made a motion to rescind the earlier vote to approve the rate adjustment until another meeting can be scheduled**. Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: 10/19/2022 Minutes: **Darlington made a motion to approve the regular 10/19/2022 minutes as amended**, Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye. Vote 3-0. **Darlington made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of 10/19/2022 , not to be released**. Curtin seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye. Vote 3-0.

Customer Comments: None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Next meeting November 30, 2022 @ 6 pm.

7:49 pm meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

*Eric Darlington*

Eric Darlington (Dec 7, 2022 11:29 EST)

Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

Dec 7, 2022

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE: \_\_\_\_\_

# 11-16-2022 Minutes

Final Audit Report

2022-12-07

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-  Document created by Darren Borge (dborge@energysterling.com)  
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