



November 30, 2022
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
 REGULAR SESSION
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: November 30, 2022

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 (Via Zoom)

SMLD STAFF: Darren Borge (Borge), Manager

MINUTES: Patty Page

6:00 pm. Meeting called to order; Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording. Roll Call Attendance: Darlington present (Zoom), 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.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. (3-0).

Manager’s report given by Darren Borge

1. 50 Main St Garage Heating – 2022 Budget was approved for \$15k for 50 Main Garage Heating. Heating with mini-split for small office/breakroom area instead of whole garage. Received one quote for \$6k and awaiting others, with mini-split and all building materials would be approximately \$10-15K. The mini-splits will work with the Connected Homes program.
2. Depreciation Transfer – vote to transfer from the depreciation account to operations cash for a Circuit Switcher Hinge Assembly Replacement. Vote Required: **Pierce made a motion to transfer \$24,659.09 from depreciation to operations for a Circuit Switcher Assembly.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye.
3. Approval of 3rd Lead Lineman position – Discuss the Board approval of 3rd Lead Lineman position. The total difference in base salary would be \$6,136 a year. Board wants to move this discussion to the next agenda.
4. Northgate Meadows – Framing is almost done on building 2. SMLD will need to start purchasing equipment to service fiber for the building. The first expense will be the micro-duct. Borge working on pricing, with infrastructure and micro-duct equipment, the cost will be approximately \$20k.

Unfinished Business

- a) SMLD 5-Year Rate Study/Potential Rate Increases – Further work on the budget to determine how to best stabilize the rates and make the change less abrupt to the rate-payers has resulted in the following proposal: Adjust transmission charge to \$0.02/kWh from \$0.0139. This is a \$0.0061/kWh increase. This

would be across all rate structures. The SMLD would also add an additional \$0.01/kWh to the Energy Charge for all rate structures. The new total rate cost per Rate Class is the following: Residential from: \$0.1474/kWh to \$0.1635/kWh or 10.92%, Small General Service from: \$0.15869/kWh to \$0.1748/kWh or 10.15%, Medium General Service from \$0.11639/kWh to \$0.1338/kWh or 15.00%, Large General Service from: \$0.1001/kWh to \$0.1151/kWh or 15.01%. Vote required: **Pierce made a motion to approve the 2023 rate increases as noted above.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. All in favor, 3-0.

b) 2nd Draft SMLD 2023 Budget – The changes to the budget that were made to lower the proposed rates are reflected in the 2nd draft of the budget. After some additional discussion, **Pierce made a motion to approve the 2023 operation/capital budget as reviewed.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. All in favor, 3-0.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: 11/16/2022 Minutes: **Pierce made a motion to approve the regular 11/16/2022 minutes as written,** Darlington 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 December 20, 2022 @ 6 pm.

At 6:45 pm **Darlington made a motion to go into Executive Session (1) under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), Clause 2 (to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, 8.1 Staffing – retirement/resignations) only to return to regular session to adjourn,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. All in favor.

The Board reconvened in Open Session, only to adjourn. 6:56 pm meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

12/20/22

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

✓