

2021-2-25  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 25, 2021

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

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

SMLD STAFF: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Manager  
Darren Borges (Borges) Assistant Manager

MINUTES: Lisa Call (Call)

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order; Chairman Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll **Call Attendance, Curtin present, Pierce present, Darlington 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 table (9.2) Fiber Study** , Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

Manager's report given by Sean Hamilton

1. SMLD has been made aware of an Eagle Scout project to get high visibility, reflective numbers for houses. Residents who need them would get free of charge. Hamilton says it is a great idea and will put a flyer in next monthly bill to notify residents.
2. Update on RP3 application for recertification. Meetings are not regular at the moment and will be on hold for the year due to COVID protocols.
3. ISA - National Grid agreed to use current service agreement for the Interconnect Service Agreement at Sub Station
4. Electric vehicle will be here tomorrow. Cost was \$20,050 for a Nissan Leaf, includes 2021 rebate.
5. Had Legislative meet and greet with state reps.

6. SMLD is working with a vendor to develop an app that will create a customer portal, will be able to see real time usage data, pay bill, and see outages.
7. Looking into needing a possible easement at the Pratts Junction Storage Garage to build a Lean-to , it would extend over National Grid property.
8. MCAN report card information submitted.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Fiber Project - Borge says going well. Curtin asked if Town Hall is connected. Has fiber data connection, data is transferring, did determine an issue. Fire and DPW spliced in from router, need to cut over from Comcast to fiber. Got pricing for IP addresses.
2. AMI Project - 2350 of 3950 AMI meter were installed, approx. 60% complete.
3. DPW AMI discussions - DPW board discussing internally, SMLD is still ready, willing and able to assist.
4. NEEP/SEPA Grant- Grant from DOE for a Connected Communities Demand Response program, The grant would offer \$270,000 for a fellow from WPI and \$390,000 to upgrade the HVAC at Sholan Terrace with mini-splits, SMLD's commitment is \$800,000 over 3 years, which would all be in kind from existing expenses.
5. Main St. URD Project - Nothing new. Meeting tomorrow to discuss Verizon estimate, it is \$50,000 less than previous estimate. Plan in place for SMLD underground work.

#### New Business

1. Insurance Rates - To go up 58% due to consideration of natural disasters. This equates to an approximate \$8,000 increase to \$26,550. SMLD has good rating.
2. Texas Power Problems - Review of lessons learned from issues as a result of the recent weather events that caused power disruption in Texas
3. NEC Spare Parts - NEC Stopped producing battery products, but still honoring warranties, which would cover some parts. MMWEC developed a list of suggested spare parts totaling \$52,373.21. Hamilton and Borge recommend purchasing the parts. **Darlington made motion to approve \$52,373.21 from the depreciation account to purchase surplus parts for batteries.** Pierce seconded no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor.

#### APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – January 21, 2021

1. **Darlington made a motion to approve January 21, 2021 Regular Session Minutes, as written,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor.
2. **Pierce mad a motion to approve January 21, 2021 Executive Session Minutes as written, not to be released,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote,** Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

Customer Comments  
None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING

1. Fiber Project
2. AMI Project
3. DPW AMI discussions
4. NEEP/SEEP Grant
5. Main Street URD Project

Next Regular Session Meeting – March 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

6:50 p.m **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 (9.3) 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**

7:10 p.m. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:

  
Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

3/25/21

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

✓