



March 8, 2023  
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
 REGULAR SESSION  
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: March 8, 2023

LOCATION: SMLD, 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: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Interim General Manager  
 Bill Underhill (Underhill) Network Coordinator  
 Matt Stelmach (Stelmach), Incoming General Manager (Via telephone)

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, 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 with the following changes: Add 2023A and Land RFP to Executive Session, table approval of past minutes.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. (3-0).

Manager’s report given by Sean Hamilton

1. The DPW is working on a proposal for a new generator. Current estimates are high, and the SMLD could assist in the process. Consensus is to leave this for the incoming general manager. There are potential opportunities to for the SMLD to incorporate into the peak-shaving program.
2. Vetro Mapping – this would allow the mapping of fiber online in an interactive manner to allow customers to see where the fiber is currently and where it’s going in real-time, as opposed to the non-interactive, time consuming method currently being used. The cost for 26 months is \$7500 in total. After some discussion, **Pierce made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$7500 for the interactive map,** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, 3-0. Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye.
3. Light Bills for Town Buildings – currently the Town bills within the Town. The DPU report requires individual reporting of the bills on the report, but it’s something that could go in under the Operations budget as a single item and recorded individually for the report. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.
4. West Boylston Fiber Service – West Boylston has inquired if they could use SMLD/LAMP as back-up if they should lose their primary service. Board to discuss further at next meeting.

Unfinished Business

- a) PURMA Cyber Security Policy Update – No update, still under discussion.
- b) Replacement LED Sign – Hamilton was able to secure a lower price if the Board acted on this item immediately. After discussion, **Pierce made a motion to approve the purchase of the new sign**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, 3-0. Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye.
- c) ERP Billing Software RFP Update – This is a long-term project. Stelmach wants to review with Hamilton and staff. Continue discussion to future meeting.
- d) Sectionalizing Study – Future agenda item. There were cascading issues with outages.
- e) 2015A Update – Interface with ISO – will meet capacity in June.

New Business

- a) Abatements – There is a 3-year statute of limitations. After some discussion, **Pierce made a motion to abate \$25,982.41 in past due accounts**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, 3-0. Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye.
- b) Depreciation Transfer - **Pierce made a motion to transfer \$231,154.39 from the depreciation fund to operation cash**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, 3-0. Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye.
- c) Digger/Derrick Bids – Looking at delivery within the next 2 years. Possible future discussion is sharing a vac truck.
- d) LG Energy/Battery Maintenance – Budget item.
- e) Fiber Update – Currently have 197 subscribers and 14% of businesses. Fiber is fully staffed as well as an intern. Underhill did a presentation at the senior center with 75+ attendees. Lots of interest and questions. There is no backlog of customers, but there are approximately 400 on an “interested” list.

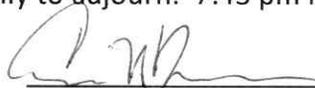
Customer Comments: None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Future agenda items to include ERP, PURMA, billing, fiber, digger/derrick. Next meeting April 12, 2023 @ 6 pm.

At 7:20 pm **Darlington made a motion to go into Executive Session (1) under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), (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 Existing Solar Farm PPA (Review & Vote); 2023A and Land RFP.** 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. 7:43 pm meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

4/12/2023

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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