



April 12, 2023
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
 REGULAR SESSION
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: April 12, 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
 Matt Stelmach (Stelmach), General Manager

MINUTES: Patty Page

6:31 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 - Darlington made a motion to approve agenda with the following changes: Take PURMA, West Boylston Contingency, Sectionalizing, DPW Generator and the February 23, 2023 minutes off the agenda. Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. (3-0).

Manager’s report

1. MWECC – Summer generator program – SMLD has signed up.
2. The little league enclosure nets are up. SMLD crews also repaired the associated poles and guy wires.
3. Stelmach received an inquiry questioning fuel savings by using electric vehicles instead of gasoline. Stelmach created a detailed calculation comparing costs that showed a marked savings using electric.
4. On May 11 there will be a Zoom meeting for commissioners. Stelmach will forward to interested board members.
5. Quarterly financials will be presented at next meeting.
6. Stelmach and Hamilton will be attending the MMWEC Annual Conference on May 3 & 4 at Devens.
7. Stelmach to attend ISO-NE training classes – Introduction to Wholesale Electricity Markets “WEM 101, May 22-25 in Northampton.
8. Stelmach to meet with MWECC to discuss the SMLD power supply portfolio.

Unfinished Business

- a) ERP Billing Software – Currently comparing pricing. Third bidder did not meet the requirements of the RFP and was disqualified. The manager’s recommendation is to go with the low bid which meets all of the

requirements of the RFP and is below the amount budgeted for the project. Still negotiating details, but anticipate the final cost to be below budget.

- b) 2015A Update – Stelmach attended the bi-weekly project meeting on 4/11. Project is delayed until the end of June. MMWEC stated that they believe there will be no penalty with ISO.
- c) Digger/Derrick Replacement – Went out to bid and the final cost is substantially higher than the \$310,000 budget. There will need to be a winch added bringing the final cost to \$366,488 which is \$56,488 over budget. Delivery is 2 years out. After some discussion, Darlington made a motion to purchase the new digger/derrick from Kiley for \$366,488. Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. (3-0).

New Business

- a) Fiber Update – Mr. Underhill was at training and unavailable to update the board, but did email an update. 209 customers installed, several on a waiting list and the list of interested is at 353. The integrative map should be up by the end of April. Future agenda item is to discuss revenue generated from Fiber.
- b) Staff Accountant Search – Going well. Interviewed six candidates and now have it down to three. All are excellent candidates.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: 1/18/2023 Minutes: Pierce made a motion to approve the regular 1/18/2023 minutes, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye. Vote 3-0. Pierce made a motion to approve the 1/18/2023 executive session minutes to be released, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye. Vote 3-0.

3/8/2023 Minutes: Pierce made a motion to approve the regular 3/8/2023 minutes, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye. Vote 3-0. Pierce made a motion to approve the 3/8/2023 executive session minutes, not to be released, as amended, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye. Vote 3-0.

Customer Comments: Pierce wanted to praise SMLD for their response to the ball fields at the schools and moving the guy wires.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Future agenda items to include PURMA, West Boylston Contingency, Sectionalizing Study, DPW Generator, fiber revenue and staff accountant. Next meeting May 17, 2023 @ 6 pm.

The Board thanked Mr. Brian Pierce for his many years of service.

At 7:30 pm Darlington made a motion to adjourn. Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. All in favor.

ATTEST:



Andy Gonsorcik, Clerk

DATE:

6/27/23

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:


