



September 18, 2023  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES



DATE: September 18, 2023  
LOCATION: SMLD, Rear Board Room  
50 Main Street, Sterling, MA  
BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman  
Eric Darlington (Darlington), Vice Chair  
Andy Gonsorcik (Gonsorcik), Clerk  
SMLD STAFF: Matt Stelmach (Stelmach), General Manager  
Bill Underhill (Underhill), Network Coordinator  
MINUTES: Patty Page

6:37 pm – Board enters into executive session. MGL 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.)

- a) (9.1) Jewett Road Solar – There are production issues at the Jewett Road solar site. It is in disrepair with heavy vegetation growth. One of the inverters has failed and the site is operating at less than 50% capacity. The owner is aware of these issues and does not appear to be interested in making repairs.

There has been discussion of possible ownership or land lease by SMLD. The existing equipment is in bad shape, even the solar panels appear to be degrading. Northeast winters are tough on equipment. Stelmach applied for a Department of Energy innovation grant aimed at revitalizing an aging solar facility. The SMLD application did not make the first cut and was rejected.

Stelmach noted that there may be a tax advantage for municipalities under the new IRA federal funding program. But as it stands now, the current numbers discussed do not make economic sense. Stelmach will work on a spreadsheet to show financials to see if ownership is a viable option. It may make more sense for a third party to come in and take over the site. Stelmach will also try to work with the owner and see if they can get the inverter repaired.

7:01 pm - Darlington made a motion to adjourn, Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote – Gonsorcik aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, all in favor.

ATTEST:   
Andrew Gonsorcik, Clerk

DATE OF APPROVAL: 12/5/2023

BOARD APPROVAL: 10/18/2023

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE: 10/18/2023