



January 24, 2024
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
 REGULAR SESSION
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: January 24, 2024

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman
 Eric Darlington (Darlington), Vice Chair
 Andrew Gonsorcik (Gonsorcik), Clerk (via ZOOM)

SMLD STAFF: Matt Stelmach (Stelmach), General Manager
 Bill Underhill (Underhill), Network Coordinator

MINUTES: Patty Page

5:00 pm. Meeting called to order. Roll Call Attendance: Darlington present, Curtin present, Gonsorcik 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 the agenda. Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Gonsorcik aye. (3-0).

Manager’s report

1. Warrant is available for review.
2. The Christmas lights on the town common will remain on at least until daylight savings time begins on March 10th.
3. The customer service position has been posted. Lots of submissions through Indeed and a few through NEPPA and MMA. Deadline is the end of the month and Stelmach will begin reviewing with the office manager.
4. Currently doing staff evaluations. Stelmach re-wrote the forms this year.
5. Just had the annual inventory with the auditors – went really well.
6. Will be meeting with the general manager of Princeton Light and an engineer from PLM regarding system interconnection. A grant through the APPA DEED program will help fund the feasibility study.
7. Stelmach reminded the Board that he had sent an email about a light board group that has requested contact information for each of them.
8. Stelmach plans on getting meeting materials to the board members well ahead of the meeting and will also work on providing quarterly financial updates.

9. Stelmach showed a small clip of a movie called “Nuclear Now” – it discusses how our fossil fuel consumption continues to increase regardless of renewables being added and how nuclear energy may be the answer. This is a link to where you can view if interested: <https://www.nuclearnowfilm.com/watch>

Unfinished Business

- a) NISC Enterprise System – Underhill briefly discussed and stated that this will greatly improve internal procedures.
- b) 2015A Update – Continues to move forward. Completed first fire. Working on natural gas connection.
- c) Website Redesign – No update.
- d) SMLD 2024 Capital Budget Fiber/Electric – Darlington made a motion to approve the capital budgets for both Fiber (LAMB) and Electric (SMLD) with electric being \$1,067,610 and fiber being \$366,438.80. Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Gonsorcik aye. Vote 3-0.

New Business

- a) Fiber Update – 351 subscribers. There are 1193 fiber ready – including the units at Northgate and the campground area. The most popular package is still the 250MB for residential. Northgate building 2 is not 100% fiber ready. West Boylston has back up internet thru LAMB. Moving forward, fiber will be on Chace Hill to Redstone to Clinton Road. LAMB is looking to contract out splicing for Heywood/Upper North Row Road. The plan for 2024 is to go after all easy installs, increase revenue and sub out some of the work to move the project along more rapidly.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: Darlington made a motion to approve the 12/13/2023 regular session minutes as written, Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Gonsorcik aye. Vote 3-0. Darlington made a motion to approve the 12/20/2023 regular session minutes as written, Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Gonsorcik aye. Vote 3-0.

Customer Comments: No customer comments at this time. Stelmach noted that SMLD crews received high praise for mutual aid provided to Johnson, Vermont.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Future agenda items to include items on this agenda (unfinished business/budget/manager’s report). Next meeting February 28, 2024 @ 5 pm.

At 6:09 pm Darlington made a motion to adjourn. Gonsorcik seconded. All in favor, 3-0.

ATTEST: 
Andrew Gonsorcik, Clerk

DATE: 2/28/24

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE: 2/28/24