

2021-3-25  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 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 Borge (Borge) Assistant Manager

MINUTES: Lisa Call (Call)

5:30p.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 approve the agenda as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

Manager's report given by Darren Borge

1. Met with Maureen Cranson at the Senior Center. Electrical service for the new Senior Center garage is complete, final cost was less than \$1000
2. OPEB is now 60% funded. \$706,251 liability left and expect full \$1,775,000 to be met by 2025
3. Working on job descriptions for Fiber Tech and CSR. Rep to share with fiber department
4. The new Bucket truck is ordered.
5. NEC batteries are down due to inverter issue. Parker will do site visit to determine which part need replacing

6. Customer usage for February was 6.5 million kWh, compared to 5.4 million average for the month.
7. Mass. Climate Action Network has filed a petition to shut down the Peabody Peaker Plant which SMLD owns 1.25 megawatts of production.
8. Futura Flex service update. 100+ orders already assigned. Staff and Crew are very pleased with the product.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Fiber Project - OTR testing soon. 7 distribution cabinets delivered and installed. 1,024 IP addresses received. Scheduling meet and greet with customers. Once the board gives its okay, cost of services will be released to customers. Curtin asked about Beta customers. Northgate asked for April 16 date and Borge says SMLD will 'very likely' be able to do it. Most others will be set for latter in the year. Netegrity will be tying in and have VPN accesses, to trouble shoot starting April 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. AMI Project- 3,055 meters have been deployed which equates to 77% of total. By end of next week, all residential meters should be done and so far there have been no issues. Example of its success is a recent power outage on Ford St. found source, problem diagnosed quickly, shown on map, and truck dispatched to outage
3. DPW AMI discussions - No update.
4. NEEP/SEPA Grant- Submitted grant to Department of Energy. Grant would equate to approximately \$3.9 million over life of the grant Sterling responsibility is \$805,000 in kind, which are existing budgeted items. If received, funds would be available by February of 2022.
5. Main St. URD Project- Cost is down \$57,000. Discussion regarding sidewalk as town has sidewalk and curb project in place. Meeting with Town Administrator on Monday to discuss schedule with town.

#### New Business

1. IP Addresses and ARIN Approval- Approved and received IP addresses. DAPC server will pull from the pool.
2. IT Room Update- SMX, DAPC server to be installed on April 1<sup>st</sup> by Netegrity. Gaining connectivity from Syracuse site.
3. New EV Vehicle at SMLD- Received Nissan Leaf. LAMB logo will be put on the car as primary use is for Fiber.

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

1. **Pierce made a motion to approve February 23, 2021 Regular Session Minutes, as written**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor.
2. **Darlington mad a motion to approve February 23, 2021 Executive Session Minutes as written, not to be released**, Pierce 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. NEEP/SEEP Grant
4. Main Street URD Project

Next Regular Session Meeting – April 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

6:15 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 (9.2) Fiber Study (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**

6:37 p.m. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:

  
Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

4/29/21

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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