

2021-5-24  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 24, 2021

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Brian Pierce (Pierce), Vice Chairman  
Eric Darlington (Darlington) Clerk

SMLD STAFF: Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Manager  
Darren Borge (Borges) Assistant Manager  
Bill Underhill (Underhill) Network Coordinator  
  
Tracey Vaughn – Goulet, Salvidio & Associates

MINUTES: Eric Darlington

5:00p.m. Meeting called to order; Vice Chairman Pierce stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll Call Attendance, Pierce present, Darlington present; Curtin Present at 6:30 p.m.

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 move 5a ahead of Managers Report and remove 9.3 from Executive Session, Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

5a. Tracey Vaughn presented the 2020 Financial Audit Report to SMLD management and board members.

Manager's report given by Darren Borge

1. Behind the meter and reconstitution of load literature is being left as-is and is to be voted on in June.

2. Stage 2 Electric Vehicle charger installed at 50 Main Street Garage for use by the SMLD electric vehicle. SMLD received a grant for 6 dual post public chargers planned for Northgate Apartments. Applied for additional grant for 2 chargers as part of the downtown revitalization project.
3. To date we have generated 40 million kWh from the solar projects for \$2.4 million in savings along with \$2 million of avoided costs from the battery projects.
4. Peabody Peaker plant has been put on hold due to local health and public safety concerns. MMWEC has created a "Get the Fact" sheet to counter the claims. SMLD has a 2.53% owner stake
5. 2020 rate comparison study of MLPs we rank 31<sup>st</sup> out of 45.

#### Unfinished Business

- a) Fiber Project – Underhill – Head end electronics turned on and tested. SEDC billing system turning on Wednesday, Calix Cloud Service turning on Thursday. Velocity Server next for customer provisions. Stock available for 100 customers ready to go with 50 additional customers per month inventory for the next 9 months. Website and mobile app is under design. Position posted for Fiber Tech. Borge to bring final draft of rates for vote in June. Hamilton presented promotional video to publicly announce SMLD intentions to provide Fiber to town residents.
- b) AMI Update – 98% deployed 3915 installed meters. Remainder should be installed by end of week.
- c) Main Street – No change, SMLD is ready when town is
- d) NEEP/SEPA Project – DOE is reviewing and sent a list of questions. SMLD has provided answers to their questions and are awaiting further instruction.
- e) 50 Main St. Garage – Need pricing for exterior siding and insulation.
- f) Office Hours – To stay with current hours
- g) National Grid Easement - \$1/year for 15 years with 3 additional 5 year terms. Legal to review.

#### New Business

- a) 2020 Audit – Covered Above
- b) American Rescue Plan – Town is eligible to receive \$2.5 million grant, SMLD is looking to allocate \$352,000 for public safety measures, expanding the existing fiber line. SMLD would be looking to offer in kind services of labor and truck hours of \$217,000. **Darlington made a motion to commit up to \$217,000 of labor and truck hours as in kind services to the town if willing invest \$352,000 of material costs,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye.
- c) Load Service Agreement – Signed with no change to current language for next 30 years.
- d) Building and Public Access – The SMLD office is back open to the public as of today.

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
5. American Rescue Plan

Next Regular Session Meeting – June 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

7:00 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 (9.4) General Manager Benefit Discussion, only to return to regular session to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

7:40 p.m. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:



Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

6/24/21

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

6/24/21