

2021-6-24  
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 24, 2021

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe 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

6:00 p.m. 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 – Two additions, 9.4 and 9.5 added to Executive Session agenda. Curtin explained two items added within 48 hours of tonight. **Pierce made a motion to approve agenda as amended**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Darlington aye, Pierce aye, Curtin aye.

Manager's report given by Darren Borge

1. American Rescue Plan was approved at the select board's meeting. Vote included approval of \$352,000 for the SMLD to be used to expand the fiber INET system.
2. Eaton AMI system/water meters approved at town meeting.
3. Discussion regarding Chargepoint DC Fast Chargers, when should we be ready for more electric vehicles? Board feels Level 2 charging should be main focus at this time, will assess additional needs when that is complete. Possible locations to install include Barbers Crossing, Dunkin plaza and the RMV. Curtin added that the federal infrastructure bill just approved could include grants.

4. Estoppel certificate and seller finance agreement for community solar and battery storage. With legal, but looks good to sign and move forward.
5. Velocity server update. Server is up and running. Customers sign in for fiber and uploaded to Calix equipment.
6. Sterling LAMB app is now available through Google and Apple store. Calix helped with the design, it was a great team effort and easy to use. There is a upfront small fee for the SMLD, but no additional charge for customers who download it.
7. Behind the Meter, (BTM) Generation Vote. NEPOOL participant committee voted to approve the PTO, (participating transmission owners) proposed BTM reconstitution proposal. There was one vote against. It's a good signal that it was approved, but not a definite that FERC, (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) will approve the PTO's filing. Still a major milestone regarding efforts to clarify rules governing BTM generation. FERC should issue an order late summer or early fall.
8. New hire, Josh Hallen as Fiber Maintenance Technician. Scheduled to begin July 6. He is very well qualified and has splicing background. Also, summer hire, Gavin Duhamel is possibly staying on as apprentice.

#### Unfinished Business

- a) Fiber Project - 3 installed test sites. Going well and able to trouble shoot after hours. 5 cabinets lit, need to hook up optics. 2 more to go. Comm-Tract doing great job, 80% of software in place. SEDC is doing some testing, uploading with Calix and collecting data.
- b) AMI Project - Meters are 100% deployed, 3951 total. Spares went into new builds and more are ordered.
- c) Main Street URD Project - Funds were approved. In final phase of planning and SMLD is ready to go when town is.
- d) NEEP/SEPA project - No status change will know more in September.
- e) 50 Main St garage - still looking at pricing for padding and added insulation.
- f) Easement at 27 Pratts Jct. warehouse - With legal and has said is fine. Signed agreement for \$1/year to National Grid. Shows additional pavement is concept drawing.

#### New Business

- a) 2020 DPU Report - need board members signatures because Borge is now manager.
- b) Designated voting representative - need board vote to approve one board member as alternate to both NYPA and MMWEC. Borge is representative, but need an alternate to each as well. **Pierce made motion to designate MMWEC voter rep as Borge with the SMLD board as the alternate, as written in packet.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye, all in favor. **Pierce made motion to designate Borge as voter rep to NYPA with Eric Darlington as the alternate.** Curtin seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye, all in favor.

New State Holiday, Juneteenth - Town Hall did close, but not SMLD. Curtin suggested to adopt Juneteenth as a holiday and to emend handbook for next year. Need to vote as it is a policy change. **Pierce made a motion to accept Juneteenth as a regular holiday.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye, all in favor.

- c) Town meeting/brush mower - Needs to benefit both DPW and SMLD so deciding if 25' may be better than 21'. Getting costs, but still needs more definitive pricing.
- d) American Rescue Plan Project - Waiting on funding. Will add the \$217,000 to the selectmen money, then lump sum given to SMLD. Borge says it will be a great project for the town.

#### APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – May 24, 2021

- 1. **Darlington made a motion to approve May 24, 2021 Regular Session Minutes, as amended,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye, all in favor
- 2. **Darlington mad a motion to approve May 24, 2021 Executive Session Minutes as written, not to be released,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Darlington aye, Pierce aye all in favor.**

#### Customer Comments

None

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING

- 1. Fiber Project/American Rescue Plan Project
- 2. AMI Project
- 3. NEEP/SEEP Grant
- 4. Main Street URD Project
- 5. National Grid easement
- 6. 50 Main Street garage
- 7. Town meeting/brush mower

Next Regular Session Meeting – July 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

6:42p.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) 2015A, only to return to regular session to adjourn,** Pierce seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor**

7:56 p.m. Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
*Eric Darlington*  
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Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

9/2/2021

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

  
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