



August 31, 2022
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES



DATE: August 31, 2022

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman (Joined the meeting at 6:21 pm)
Brian Pierce (Pierce), Vice Chair (REMOTE)
Eric Darlington (Darlington), Clerk (REMOTE)

SMLD STAFF: Darren Borge (Borge), Manager

MINUTES: Patty Page

6:00 pm. Meeting called to order; Darlington stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording. Roll Call Attendance: Darlington present, Pierce present. Curtin arrived at 6:21 pm.

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 with the exception of 5A to be put on hold for now – **Pierce made a motion to approve agenda** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Pierce aye, Darlington aye (2-0).

Manager's report given by Darren Borge

1. The SMLD created a Tree Trimming Map with previous year and current year trimming map under the Quick Links tab.
2. Due to ISO-NE resettlement of the June 29, 2021 Peak which had two separate calculated and telemetric errors which were made on their part, the resettlement reduced SMLDs annual savings for 2021 by approximately \$32k. What was originally \$160k has been adjusted to approximately \$128k in savings.
3. NEPPA RESOLUTIONS – NEPPA had three new resolutions adopted at the last Board of Directors meeting.
1.) Support a Reliable Affordable Transition from Natural Gas 2.) Support Advance and Existing Nuclear 3.) Support Transmission Incentives and Cost Allocation Reform.
4. Inflation Reduction Act – SMLD will apply for any and all grants that are in the best interest to the department and the rate payers of Sterling.
5. Implementation Investment Jobs Act through Federal DOE and State DOE (IIJA) – Grants for energy technology and infrastructure programs. These are currently aimed at low-income communities or environmental justice communities. SMLD will follow and look for any possible application possibilities.
6. Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response (CESER) – Working with Town Administrator Caldwell for a possible joint grant with the Town for cybersecurity commonalities. Discuss potential grant funding with work from Vertikal 6 and CISA.
7. PLM System Analysis - Not to exceed \$20k for future proofing smart grid, system isolation points. Vote required: **Darlington made a motion to fund the study, not to exceed \$20k.** Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye.

8. Public Access EV Grant – received reimbursement of \$25,631.75.
9. NEPPA Annual Conference Update – Very informative and many new technologies discussed.
10. Employee Appreciation Day – On September 23rd, Sterling and five other local municipalities will be holding a joint Employee Appreciation Day at the Eight Point Sportsmen’s Club. The day will include food and competitive games. The event will be catered and the cost to be split between all municipalities. The cost is approximately \$17-\$20 a person with a total of approximately \$200-\$300.

Unfinished Business

- a) PURMA Cyber Security Policy Update/Discussion – a kickoff meeting was held with Vertikal and CISA on 8/19/2022 to discuss scope and start cyber-security environment assessment. Weekly penetration tests will start in near future. Will look for any potential grants for cyber security.
- b) Energy Committee Discussion – Brian Pierce has agreed to take the seat. Borge will notify the BOS.
- c) Middle-Mile Grant Update – SMLD will most likely not be able to compile a grant request to meet the \$5M dollar minimum. The SMLD was not awarded for phase 3 ReConnect Grant. Phase 4 ReConnect application process will open on 9/6/22.
- d) SMLD 5 Year Rate Study Update – Rate study is not ready. Will have a final draft for Board in September.
- e) SMLD 5 Year Plan Update – Draft will be ready by the September meeting.
- f) Replacement LED Sign – Table for now, (Board Vote for replacement would be \$7,865).

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:

7/27/2022 Minutes: **Pierce made a motion to approve the regular 7/27/2022 minutes**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Pierce aye. **Pierce made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of 7/27/2022 as amended, not to be released.** Darlington seconded, no discussion, all in favor. Darlington aye, Curtin aye, Pierce aye.

Customer Comments: None at this time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Next meeting September 21, 2022 @ 6 pm.

At 6:36 pm **Pierce made a motion to go into**

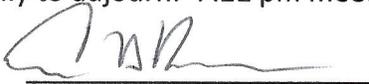
Executive Session (1) under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), Clause 10 (to Discuss Trade Secrets or Confidential, Competitively-Sensitive or other Proprietary Information Provided in the Course of Activities Conducted by a Governmental Body as an Energy Supplier – (8.1) Existing Vendor Inquiry (8.2) New Vendor Inquiry (8.3) PMLD Interconnect Discussion (8.4) Special Project 2021A Update.

Executive Session (2) if needed and time allows, under M.G.L. Chapter 30 A: Section 21(a), Clause 3 (To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining),

(9.1) SMLD/Local 486 Union Discussion Update only to return to regular session to adjourn, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye. All in favor.

The Board reconvened in Open Session, only to adjourn. 7:21 pm meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

9/21/22

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:
