

2021-1-21
STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: January 21, 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 Borges (Borges) Assistant Manager
Bill Underhill (Underhill) Network Coordinator

MINUTES: Lisa Call (Call)

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order; Chairman Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording- Roll **Call Attendance, Curtin present, Pierce present at 5:30, 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 – **Darlington made a motion to table 4c and 5b**, Pierce seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye

Manager's Report

1. Hamilton Informed members the governor vetoed the Climate Bill Packet.
2. Cost to fix truck S53 was \$3000 for parts only. DPW provided labor to make repairs. Explained salt is an issue and SMLD uses the DPW's bay and power wash.
3. Hamilton reminded members Truck S57 is on schedule to be replaced as part of the 2021 Capital budget.
4. Mueller invoice was paid in full to complete AMI (Advance Meter Infrastructure) project.

Unfinished Business

1. Fiber Project - Borge stated they are gathering quotes and lead times, starting to integrate and gaining control of electric assets.
2. AMI Project – 1200 new meters have been deployed of the 3900. Already seeing benefit of EATON mapping capabilities with trouble calls and outages. About 1/3 completed. All swapped meters are inventoried, labeled and stored for one year.
3. DPW AMI discussions - ongoing
4. NEEP/SEPA Grant - Trying to decide if SMLD would qualify for grant. Hamilton commented the numbers seemed off and has asked for clarification. Waiting on reply.
5. Main St. URD Project - Walk through with Verizon chief engineer. Money already approved at town meeting. Looking for new plans and revised cost from Verizon after walk-thru.

New Business

1. New Network Coordinator - Bill Underhill introduced as new Network Coordinator. He has an extensive networking background, is familiar with vendors, lives in Bolton and is “looking forward to doing great things”.
2. Fiber Network Logo - Considering Sterling’s history, proposed logo is L.A.M.B for Local Area Municipal Broadband. Feedback and comments requested for next meeting.
3. Fiber Transportation Proposal - Hamilton explained 2020 rebates for electric cars are still available. He is looking to purchase an electric vehicle for SMLD to be used for meetings with vendors and customers related to the fiber roll out. It is not in the current budget, but Hamilton feels it is needed. Utilizing current incentives, one could be purchased for around \$20,000. **Darlington made a motion to approve the purchase of an electric vehicle for approximately \$20,000**, Pierce seconded no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – December 14, 2020

1. Curtin proposed an amendment regarding DPW AMI discussion on regular session minutes for 12/14/2020. **Pierce made a motion to approve December 14, 2020 Regular Session Minutes, as amended**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor.
2. **Pierce mad a motion to approve October 29, 2020 Executive Session Minutes, not to be released**, Darlington seconded, no discussion, **Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor**

Customer Comments

1. Local 104 very much appreciated the ‘Thank you’ and praise SMLD gave it for purchasing the scoreboard for Griffin Field.
2. We have received no comments from customers regarding meter change.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING

1. Fiber Project
2. AMI Project
3. DPW AMI discussions
4. NEEP/SEEP Grant
5. Main Street URD Project
6. Fiber Network Logo
7. Fiber Transportation proposal

Manager's Annual Review Meeting - February 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Next Regular Session Meeting - February 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

6:38 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, only to return to regular session to adjourn, Pierce seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, Darlington aye, all in favor

7:30 Meeting adjourned

ATTEST:


Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

2/25/21

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

2/25/21