



June 22, 2022
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
 REGULAR SESSION
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: June 22, 2022

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

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman
 Brian Pierce (Pierce), Vice Chair
 ABSENT: Eric Darlington (Darlington), Clerk

SMLD STAFF: Darren Borge (Borge), Manager

MINUTES: Patty Page

6:04 pm. Meeting called to order; Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording. Roll Call Attendance: Curtin Present, Pierce 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 with removal of 5B – **Pierce made a motion to approve agenda** Curtin seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Curtin aye, Pierce aye.

Manager’s report given by Darren Borge

1. SELCO to gift splicing trailer to the SMLD/LAMB. Once details are finalized, the vehicle will be insured, registered and lettered with the logo and added to the depreciated asset list.
2. Residential rate comparison update of Q4 2021 to Q1 2022 (2022 included large February power supply).
3. SMLD land acquisition RFP has been posted on the SMLD, Central Registers and Comm Buys Websites (no inquiries yet).
4. The keycard door lock is installed and repaired. \$4,000 for main board replacement.
5. NEC Battery Storage update – up and online (archive data history limited access and HVAC temperature sensor had to be replaced for HVAC to turn on).
6. Borge is bonded through PURMA – Starkweather & Shipley. Town Clerk has notarized and filed.
7. Board decided that the Network Coordinator should skip the Calix Conference in Las Vegas this year.

Unfinished Business

- a) PURMA Policy Update/Discussion - To Discuss the SMLD current gaps in insurance coverage. The two major gaps in coverage for the SMLD are Cyber Security and EPLI (Employment Practices Liability Insurance). The SMLD's recommendation would be to add both of these policies to our portfolio. The estimated premium for each would be approximately \$6,000 for EPLI and \$12,000 for the Cyber Security. The SMLD would need to hire a cybersecurity firm who can evaluate our current cyber environment and

create a plan and policy with Bill Underhill (LAMB Network Coordinator) and Willy from Montalbano Services. Plan and Policy are required prior to Cyber Insurance Policy application. Curtin wants Borge to get another policy holder prices and table for now.

New Business

- a. Energy Committee Discussion: Curtin’s term is expiring and he will not be running again. SMLD Board believes a current SMLD Board member should remain on committee. Tabled due to only two members being present.
- b. SMLD 5-Year Plan DRAFT: To be presented at next board meeting (July 27, 2022).
- c. Middle-Mile Grant Program: The National Telecommunications and Information of the US Department of Commerce has a Middle-Mile Grant Program. The program is for fiber grant applications to bring fiber to businesses and residents off an existing infrastructure. Grant rewards can be between \$5M - \$100M with 30% investment and 70% funded by grant, applications are due in September. Includes everything for fiber to home. SMLD to apply for areas of Sterling that were not applicable for the 2022 USDA ReConnect Grant
- d. Viewpoint Project Discussion: Viewpoint approached SMLD/LAMB about producing an educational video for Public Television in all 50 states called “Bridging the Digital Divide.” SMLD would talk about the industry and would receive video rights. Board decided given the current economic times and the high pricing for power supply a \$25,000 investment into a marketing video is not necessary at the time.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: Table for now.

Customer Comments: A letter was received expressing concern about grammar and punctuation of the Spring Light Lines newsletter.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Next meeting July 27, 2022 @ 6 pm. Add PURMA, Energy Committee, Minutes, Grant and 5 Year Plan to the agenda.

Monthly Summary update attached.

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 – (9.1) E.H. Perkins/Battery Project (9.2) New Vendor Inquiry Update, only to go into Executive Session II (1) 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) – (10.1) SMLD/ Local 486 Union Discussion/Update, only to regular session to adjourn, Curtin seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Curtin aye, Pierce aye, all in favor.

The Board reconvened in Open Session, only to adjourn. 7:08 pm meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:


Eric Darlington, Clerk

DATE:

7/27/22

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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