

THE ITEM • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2010

Hamilton hired for Light Department

STERLING — The Sterling Municipal Light Board (SMLD) announced the hiring of Sean Hamilton, of Templeton, as the new Light Department manager.

Hamilton has over 30 years of experience in the utility industry, and has been the manager of the Templeton Municipal Light and Water Plant since 2004. Prior to that, Hamilton worked as a construction manager for Verizon, and also worked as operations supervisor at the SMLD from 1992 to 1999.

The hiring process was conducted jointly between the Light Board and an appointed nine person Search Sub-Committee, which performed the initial advertising of the position and reviewed all the candidates.

The Sub-Committee screened the applicants to narrow the search to eight candidates who were interviewed. The Sub-Committee unanimously presented their ranked recommendations to the Light Board, who conducted a further review and interview process.

Light Board Chairman Matthew Stelmach said the Search-Sub-Committee "did an excellent job of methodically weeding through the many applicants and presented the board with very qualified candidates. In the end, Mr. Hamilton was the clear choice among those available."

Light Board Member and Clerk Michael Rivers said,



Sean Hamilton

"The Light Board feels very strongly that Mr. Hamilton is the right person to lead the SMLD, and has just the right combination of technical expertise, management experience, work ethic, and personal temperament. We are very excited to work with Sean."

Hamilton will be paid \$113,000 per year, with a possible annual performance bonus paid at the discretion of the Light Board for exceptional performance. Part of Hamilton's employment offer includes a set schedule of annual performance reviews and criteria. It is expected that Hamilton's official state date will be Nov. 29, but will be working with Interim Manager Greg DeStasi prior to that date to help with a smooth transition.

Accountability are Sterling I

By Michael J. Ballway
ITEM CORRESPONDENT

STERLING — Budgets are balanced, schools are stellar, potholes are patched, and that's why only 15 residents showed up to critique Sterling's town government structure Nov. 13.

Members of the Town Government Study Committee had planned for a crowd at least twice that size, but attendees speculated that residents' relative satisfaction with the town dampened turnout. They said it also explains low participation in Town Meeting and low interest in serving on volunteer boards.

"When people become complacent, I feel it is because they feel their tax dollars are being spent wisely," said Conservation Commission member Barbara Roberti.

Yet "it seems we succeed at things in spite of ourselves," said Selectman Russell Philpot. Like other participants, he credited the town's Finance Committee and Capital Improvements Committee for their stewardship of public finances, but he said a financial setback would expose the lack of efficiency of town departments and boards.

Specific recommendations of discussion attendees included:

- Selectmen focusing on policy issues only, delegating more



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