

## STERLING

# Hamilton will light the way in Sterling

By DANIELLE RAY

DANIELLE@LEGACYPHOTOONLINE.COM

After near five months with no official general manager, the Sterling Municipal Light Board has announced the hiring of Sean Hamilton of Templeton as the



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Sterling Municipal Light Department's new general manager. "We are very happy, Sean is a great candidate," said Sterling Municipal Light Board member Mike Rivers.

Hamilton comes to the SMLD from Templeton, where he currently serves as the manager of that town's light department. He also has history at the SMLD, having worked there from 1992-1999 as the operations supervisor.

"I am looking forward to going back and completing some projects that were never finished," said Hamilton. "There is some work to be done."

"Sterling grew very rapidly with housing in the late 80s and into the 90s; there are some areas on the outskirts of town that need some upgrading. The operations crews have done a good job over the years, we want to continue that," Hamilton said.

A sub-committee formed specifically for the hiring of a new general manager narrowed down the list of applicants to eight finalists. They interviewed those eight and gave the Light Board their unanimous ranked recommendations. The Light Board then conducted further review of each person, and final interviews.

"It was a very long process, and we wanted to get it right. The sub-committee did a good job; we got some exceptionally good applicants and Sean was definitely the strongest of them," said Rivers. "He is currently managing a department that is very similar in size. He is familiar with renewable energy projects, and has demonstrated strong management qualities where it is important. He leads by example, and has a very strong work ethic."

Hamilton began his light department career in Templeton in 1979, worked

for the SMLD for nearly a decade, and then worked as a construction manager at Verizon before returning to Templeton.

Hamilton said he has a long list of projects and goals he will immediately begin focusing on once he takes the helm of the SMLD at the end of the month.

"I want to focus on renewable energy projects. I just completed a large wind project in Templeton, but I don't want people to assume I am coming to town to put up a big wind turbine in Sterling. Every place is different. [And], I will continue relationships with businesses in town, and become reacquainted with them," he said.

Hamilton is on the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, which the town buys a lot of their power from.

"He is very involved with promoting municipal energy, and has helped to shape legislation," said Rivers.

"I am still working on some of the renewable energy legislation projects," said Hamilton, and added that will be one of his focuses at the SMLD.

Hamilton understands that it is a big job he is taking on, and said he expects

the "60-70 hour" work week that often accompanies a position like this.

"I will do whatever it takes to get the job done," he said.

Former SMLD General Manager John Kilgo Jr. retired in July after 20 years at the SMLD. Gregory DeStasi filled in as the interim manager, and he will assist Hamilton with the transition before his official Nov. 29 start date. (DeStasi recently accepted the manager position of the Paxton Light Department, see related story on page 15).

"We talked on the phone a few times," said Hamilton of DeStasi. "That's what I like about municipalities; we all work with each other to get the best for the ratepayers."

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. Hamilton's employment offer includes a set schedule of annual performance reviews and criteria.

Hamilton currently lives in Templeton with his wife Diane; they have two grown sons.