

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

May 20, 2015

Present:

Commissioners: Terry Murphy, Deryck Savoy and Mike Hickson

Manager: Jill Moretz

Guests: Gene Watters and Cheryl Provost

Meeting was called to order 7:05 pm

- Minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Mike made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Terry seconded and the motion passed.
- The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) book was shown to the Commissioner's. This book holds all the documentation that CMELD has filed with the DPU including the rate changes which includes the Price Cost Adjustments (PCA). The (PCA) was explained and shown to the Commissioner's how the PCA is adjusted per quarter.
- Jill has received an updated dollar figure from WG&E on the RNS charges we owe them. There is still one more month to go before we get the final dollar amount. We are anticipating receiving this in June sometime. WG& E has agreed to a 5 year pay back plan with no interest. CMELD is anticipating a figure around \$200,000. There was discussion on the payback of the RNS charges. Jill suggested we take \$50,000 out of the rate stabilization fund to help with the dollar amount as not to burden the rate payers with the total amount. Deryck suggested we only take it out as we need it, not all at once. Deryck made a motion:
MOTION: To take \$50,000 out of the Rate Stabilization Fund over a 120 month period to help payback WG&E for the RNS charges, Mike seconded – all were in favor and the Motion passed.
- It was decided that we would spread the WG&E RNS charges over a ten year period so as not to burden the rate payers all at once.

- CMELD is now a full market participant with the ISO. We will start to receive our bills in June. They are expected to cost anywhere from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per month.
- The Tree cutting and trimming project was all set to go ahead. The State was going to do all the work and fund the whole project. As of yesterday the State informed Frank that it has been shut down by Massachusetts Conservation & Recreation due to nesting birds and bats.
- Jill handed out the job descriptions of the Manager, Forman and Line-worker. She will have the Administrative Assistant's job description written up by the end of July.
- Mike made a suggestion that Frank do the mowing for the town. The commissioner's agreed that CMELD should not take that on. It was determined that Frank will mow under the lines as he usually does and only if time permits will mow elsewhere.
- The Highway Department and Electric Department would like to band together and have a pole barn erected at the Garage. They are in the process of getting quotes. The pole barn will house equipment that is out in the open like tractors, backhoes, the mower, etc. The project looks like it will cost a total of around \$45,000. The Highway and Electric departments will split the cost. Council on Aging would also like to have a small addition added so they could house their van. The cost of the addition would be solely paid by the COA. Deryck asked why we would be getting a color roof. This is an added expense that may not be needed. Jill will talk to Frank and report back at the next meeting. Terry made a motion:
MOTION: To use funds to pay for half the cost of the Pole Barn pending a vote from the Selectmen for the other half. Mike seconded – all were in favor and the motion passed.
- The Bucket Truck that is not in use is starting to rot in the yard. The joint effort of the surrounding towns to purchase it has not panned out. We would like to put it in the auction yard. The commissioner's agreed to have Frank do what he could to get the most money possible.
- Our contract with Integrys ends in December of this year. We do have the option of possibly extending it for another 2 years. Jill will invite Tim Hebert to one of our upcoming meetings so he could update us on the process.
- Jill will be attending some workshops, meetings and schooling in the near future.

- Jill will look into how much a Utility Auditor would cost to have them come audit our books. She doesn't know when the last time it has been done.
- The LED bulb project is about 40% done.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Moretz