

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

July 7, 2015

Present:

Commissioners: Terry Murphy, Mike Hickson and Deryck Savoy arriving at 6:15 pm

Manager: Jill Moretz

Guests: Gene Watters, resident and Tim Hebert from Energy New England

- Deryck called and said he was about 5-10 minutes away and to start without him.

Meeting was called to order 6:10 pm

- Minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Terry made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mike seconded and the motion passed.
- The Bucket Truck was sold at the auction. It sold for \$4,250. The auction facility took its fee of \$340 with a net revenue of \$3,910.
- DPU (Department of Public Utilities) report has been mailed.
- Jill informed the commissioners of the pros and cons of paperless billing. The billing software company was called and they said it could be done without too much more work involved. There was discussion of the Watts News, COA newsletter and any other inserts that the Town Hall Departments might ask us to include in the billing envelopes. Jill will talk to Pat Carlino, Town Administrator about fixing the Town Hall web-site so that it can be posted on the web-site. If it is not fixed than we could do a group e-mail sending out the Watts News only to those who do the paperless billing. Water bills will also go paperless for those who chose to do so. We will inform the Selectmen of this change.
- Deryck arrived and Tim Hebert was introduced and started his presentation. Tim passed out packets that included charts and graphs to all in attendance. He explained how Chester has been experiencing 3 years of bliss due to the fact that we had a contract with Integrys that had

low rates and also those rates did not include the Regional Network Charges. Our contract with Integrys will end December of this year. Tim has contacted several suppliers for quotes to supply CMELD with electricity and there are some that won't bother to quote on supplying our electricity. Integrys was sold to Constellation and they have no interest in quoting. Come December our rates will go up approximately 16% no matter who we go with according to Tim. We are small and it's not worth their while. Tim explained there are different ways we could go to purchase our electricity. Tim will know more in a week or two. Once he gets all the quotes in he will get back to Jill. We thanked Tim and dismissed himself from the meeting.

- Deryck asked why we only allow 4 residents in town to receive credits back on their solar panels installed on their property. Jill did some research on this seeing this was in place before she came on board. There is a formula in place that was used. The formula is based on the peak load of Chester use. Jill will do some more research and send out our policy to Tom Beck who was inquiring about it.
- Deryck brought to Jill's attention early in the day that there is a cut-off utility pole hanging in mid-air at the cross roads of Abbott Hill Road and Brown and it has been there for a couple of years. A resident contacted Deryck and informed him that a Phone Technician told the resident that CMELD is responsible and that Verizon would be suing CMELD. Jill checked with the Forman that yes CMELD did cut the pole. CMELD moved the pole and contacted Verizon to move their lines. According to CMELD's Forman it is most definitely Verizon's responsibility and there is no merit to what the Phone Technician is saying. Jill will contact Verizon to find out more about this.
- Kearsarge has sent in their payment of \$20,000 for Line Maintenance. Jill will have the Treasurer deposit it into a Solar Line Maintenance Stabilization Fund.
- Jill finished the Job Description for the Admin Assistant Position. It was reviewed by all the Commissioners.
- Deryck made a motion to:
MOTION: To go into executive session – “TO DISCUSS A CMELD EMPLOYEE – we do not plan on reconvening”. Terry seconded, all in favor - Deryck Savoy, Terry Murphy, and Mike Hickson. Motion passed.

The public was asked to leave. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2015 @ 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Moretz