

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

September 2, 2015

Present:

Commissioners: Deryck Savoy and Mike Hickson

Manager: Jill Moretz

Guests: Chris Pollart, Rubin & Rudman, LLC, and various Chester residents

Meeting was called to order 7:00 pm

- Due to the incident between Mike Hickson and the Linesmen, Jill felt the need to invite Chris Pollart, Utility Lawyer to the meeting to explain the duties of the General Manager and the Commissioners.

Jill read the complaint from the Linesmen (attached) against Mike Hickson. In their words, Mike followed them to the store and was verbally confrontational to them. Then when they tried to leave in the truck he stood in the doorway of the truck so the linesman trying to close the truck door could not.

Mike than explained his side of the story. He stated he did not follow them to the store, but was already going in that direction. He rebutted that he was confrontational, but was nice to the Linesman.

Jill explained that Mike exceeded his legal authority as a commissioner by his actions on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. It is the Manager's exclusive responsibility to give direction to the CMELD employees, not the Commissioners. Jill then introduced Chris Pollart, Utility Lawyer.

- Chris Pollart gave his presentation (attached). He explained that it states in Mass General Law c.164, the Manager has exclusive authority over the employees. Also the Manager has the exclusive authority over the plant and the day to day operations of the plant. The commissioner's duties are to set policy, but Chris emphasized that when setting policy it has to be within reason. There are examples in Chris's presentation. Jill handed out additional paperwork to help with the clarification (attached). If there are any questions we can always call Chris.

- The minutes were reviewed; Deryck made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mike seconded and the motion passed.
- CMELD can add a couple more solar residents to the solar credit program without it affecting our future rates.
- RNS charges explanation was passed around and will be inserted in the next Watts News.
- Paperless billing is in the works. It was inserted in the Watts News this month that it is in the works and to stay tuned.
- CMELD can hold their meetings anytime they chose. CMELD will try to keep to the first and third Wednesday of the month, but sometimes it is not possible with everyone's schedule or if there is not enough on the agenda to warrant a meeting.
- Jill will inform the commissioners when the Linesmen go on vacation.
- The Manager determines the office hours and the office tries very hard to make sure that there is at least one person in the office during normal business hours. If by some chance that both are out of the office a sign is posted.
- Jill has the list of the linesmen who are on call.
- We will continue to bill out invoices as usual. Depending on when the month ends, and when the meters are read it's very hard to try and do it on the same day every month.
- The Unipay explanation was inserted in the Watts News this month.
- Jill will give an update to the commissioners when we have power outages at the meetings.

Also, we have started to put messages on the reverse 911 phone system. When power has been restored; individuals who have signed up with the Police Department on the Emergency Alert System will get a phone call stating that "THE POWER IS BACK ON, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE POWER PLEASE CALL THE EMERGENCY NUMBER 413-447-0268".

- The town web-site is still not working properly so we cannot post the minutes, agenda or watts news yet.
- Jill will be attending classes on Power Manager, our billing program.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Moretz