

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department
15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

January 6, 2016

Present:

Commissioners: Terry Murphy, Deryck Savoy and Mike Hickson

Manager: Jill Moretz

Also in attendance was Gene Watters

Meeting was called to order 7:05 pm

- Minutes of the September 2, 2015 meeting were reviewed again. Jill added the names of attendee's to the minutes. Mike asked to have some of the verbiage taken out. Jill said instead of taking it out, she would reword it. We will review again next meeting.
- Minutes to the December 2, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Deryck made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mike seconded and the motion passed.
- Jill sends the minutes via email on Monday mornings before the Wednesday night meeting. That is more than 48 hours to review the minutes. Mike said the 48 hours to review the minutes was not sufficient. He would like closer to a week. Jill said she would try and get them out before the 48 hours.
- Mike made an announcement that the meeting was being taped.
- The new power contract with Shell was reviewed. The contract is for four years. Energy New England is helping to set the new rates. As soon as the rates are set, Jill will put an article in the Country Journal about the new Power Contract, rate increase, and also what CMELD does for the town. Jill is hoping to shed a good light on CMELD even with the rate increase.
- The call outs for the month of Dec and one in November were reviewed.

- Frank Noel is still out on disability. It doesn't look like he will be returning to work. He still is not doing so well. As soon as he makes it official; either retiring or permanent disability, his vacation time will need to be paid to him in full.
- CMELD's personnel policy should be reviewed concerning vacation time. Mike expressed his concern about vacation time. He believes that employees lose their time if not used in an allotted time. Jill explained she was sure they were able to accumulate vacation time. Jill will print them out for the next meeting. It was suggested that those who have a large amount of accumulated time could receive pay in lieu of physically taken the vacation time. If this is the case we would have to amend the policy.
- Jill is still working on the budget. Deryck will go over it with Jill once the rates are set then it will be presented to the Commissioners.
- Jill will forward the meeting minutes to Pat Carlino, Town Administrator and ask if she would update the web site on the meeting minutes and also start posting the Agenda to web-site for us.
- Mike complained about the Watts News. He believes there are too many things in it that do not pertain to the Town and wanted to know the requirements that are used for articles to be included in the Watts News. Jill said it is at the discretion of the Manager of CMELD to decide what is put in the Watts News. The Manager prioritizes what is put in. All CMELD and Town notices go in first. Then if there is room the other articles or notices will be included.
- Jill met with the Linesmen and went over what they expect to do for the month ahead and beyond. They will start to change out old wire and connectors to homes on Middlefield Road where needed. This will be their winter project.
- There have been 24 people total who have signed up for paperless billing. Mike asked to continue to put the announcement in about signing up for the paperless billing in the Watts News.

- We have received 9 interested residents who would like to participate in the Solar Buyback Program. Out of that 9, we have received 2 applications back.
- Jill informed the commissioners that there is a Solar Company interested in installing a 800 KWh Solar Field at 1 Baystate Drive. She informed the company to call back after she did more research on this. Jill will talk to Gene Bishop and MaryAnn Pease.
- Gene Watters asked why we couldn't produce our own power. There was some discussion on this and at this point we could not, but that is something we could look into in the future.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Moretz