

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

**Commissioner's Meeting**

August 14, 2018

Present: Commissioners: Terry Murphy, Deryck Savoy and Duane Pease  
Manager: Jill Moretz  
Guests: Tony Paradiso, COO Solar on Earth – Jason Costa, Keystone Bluff, LCC –  
Richard Stone, resident

- Meeting was called to order 6:05 pm
- Tony Paradiso from Solar on Earth informed the Commissioners that the company is still very interested in building a Solar Farm on the property at 410 Skyline Trail. He asked if we would consider buying the power from them. The commissioner's said they would as long as the price was right. CMELD is in a purchase power contract until December 2019 with Shell Energy. When the contract is up, CMELD could try and negotiate entering into a short term contract if Solar on Earth's price is right and they are not ready to activate the system. Solar on Earth needs to go through some hoops before they can start any construction. First they need to go to the Selectmen to get their approval. They need to do a feasible study on the lines, and get the approval of Eversource. There was also talk about possibly the Town of Chester going off the grid if Solar on Earth could install battery packs. Jill will call the DPU to see if that could even be done. Tony will also do some research on this.
- Jason Costa came in to introduce himself and inform us that his company is planning on taking over half of the CARM's Building to build a cannabis growing facility. They would like to install solar panels on the roof to help defray the electricity costs. He asked what the rate would be. The commissioners needed to give it some thought and discuss what that rate might be. The growing facility would need 3-phase. Jill will talk to the linesmen about installing it once we know that it is a done deal.
- Rick Stone came in to get an explanation of why his bill seems to have increased. Jill explained that the costs from ISO New England have increased immensely. CMELD needs to recoup these costs. Deryck explained to Rick what ISO New England does and why we have to

pay the charges they implement on the Electric Companies. We have no choice, every Electric Company needs to pay these charges.

- The minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Deryck to accept the minutes as written. Duane seconded, all in favor, motion passed.
- Jill spoke with Josh Alderman from Morgan Stanley. If we put some of our funds into a 12 month Depreciation CD, we could get anywhere from 2.45 to 2.55 % interest return on our money. They only insure up \$250,000 per CD. We would have to split money up into 2 CD's. Josh is also checking into an OPEB Trust Fund for us.
- There was discussion on what to charge Keystone Bluff LLC and should we give them some sort of discount. It was determined to charge them the Commercial Tax Rate with a 5% discount plus they will receive another 5% if they pay their bill within 15 days. We will inform them that the PCA (price cost adjustment) changes quarterly.
- Jill contacted Chris Pollart, Utility Lawyer on writing a policy for Health and Dental Insurance for retired employees. We asked Chris to check into not paying employee benefits to employee spouses after a divorce. He said we needed to check if the town voted on GL. C.32B S9h. If they did there is nothing we could do and we do have to continue to pay for the divorced spouse's insurance. If the town didn't there might not be any issue and we could write the policy stating CMELD will not pay benefits for a divorced spouse. Jill will check with the town clerk.
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:00 pm
  - Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Moretz