



CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
and ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
CHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01011

(413) 354-7760

TownofChester.net

Monday, July 29, 2024

Open meeting—This meeting was held in the Chester Town Hall Auditorium with a virtual option.

Selectboard members present were Craig Gauthier, Andy Sutton and John Baldasaro. Also present, Members of the Energy Committee, Rich Holzman, Bob Daley, Andy Myers, Members of the Electric Light Commission, Deryck Savoy and Terry Murphy, also present from CMELD was Diane Hall. Representatives from Eversource were also present.

John Baldasaro opened the meeting at 6:00pm. Warrants, minutes and all correspondence were signed.

- **CMELD/Eversource Review**

John Baldasaro stated they were looking at the best way to move forward with Eversource, he asked about interconnectivity, local jobs, what happens to them, Initial offer where does that stand.

Deryck Savoy asked about the rate increases in CT and NH, what /when will that happen in MA, he also asked about the status of the Blandford substation

Terry Murphy said that this was the 30-day mark, and the BOS said they would have an answer, John said no we said in 30 days we would meet with Eversource, and we are.

Paul- Eversource responses:

Process: Paul needs to see the CMELD audit and have access to the auditors. Would need a couple of weeks to review.

Assets: Look in good shape, would have to file with the Dept. of Utilities. Need to record assets, poles, switches apparatus, to assess condition. That all forms part of the offer.

Legal Items: need to see what easements need to be transferred

Reliability: Multipoint connection, 3 zones with automated switches, ways to feed from multiple ways

Discussion followed, Eversource needs permission to video tape the poles and switches, permission granted.

Deryck Savoy stated that the audit is done and not big changes in it would Eversource's proposal be different. Eversource said they need to see the audit and get the pole inventory done and see CMELD files, contracts etc. before having an answer.

According to past employee, of CMELD the pole conditions are good, replacing here and there, plenty of infrastructure available.



Deryck Savoy said it is difficult to move forward with buying power because this “sale” is hanging over them. Can’t hire. He was asked about long term viability of CMELD and he said it was good for 5-10 years.

Possible to have Eversource in a joint project and was willing to discuss that.

Andy Myers Suggested an evaluation done by an outside source to see how much CMELD is valued at. To do a possible counteroffer or negotiate. Deryck said he did not want his tax dollars spent on an evaluation.

John asked if we didn’t sell to anyone, wouldn’t you like to know the value. Deryck said he goes by the value listed on DPU.

- **Don Humason Town Admin Report**

- He has 7 applicants for the Admin. Assist. Position and would like to set up interviews. John said to pick the top three and set up interviews at the next meeting.

- Thursday 8/1 Chester theater is having a benefit performance. all proceeds to go to the Chester fire dept.

- Water distribution will be at the Fire dept

- 8-6pm M-F

- 8-3pm Sat

- 9-1 Sun

- **Public Comment**

- Jessica Slatcher asked about how to stop the trucks using the jake brake on route 20, John said it is a state highway and the town has no authority over it. She can try to call District 1 and make a complaint to Dave Stokes.

- Jessica Sakaske wants to be appointed to the recreation committee again. John made a motion, Andy seconded, all in favor.

- Frank Pero wants to be appointed to the Water commissioners. John made a motion, Andy seconded, all in favor.

John Baldasaro made a motion to adjourn; Andy seconded, all in favor.

Adjourned 7:50pm



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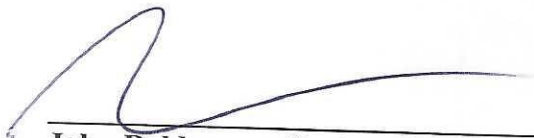
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Respectfully Submitted



Terry Donovan, Administrative Assistant

8/26/24
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Chairman

8/26/24
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Craig Gauthier, Clerk

8/26/24
Date Signed