

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

February 20, 2025

Present: Commissioners: Deryck Savoy, Duane Pease (via phone)
Manager: Diane Hall
Guests: Dan Moriarty, Lori Fieldstad

Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dispensed from reading of the minutes of 12/30/24 meeting at the request of Deryck Savoy.

Dan Moriarty discussed what he has been doing at the shop and with Cooper – organizing equipment and materials. They have been doing daily drive arounds to make sure that no wires were hanging, no tree branches sitting on wires, etc. Dan mentioned that he had met several townspeople and introduced himself as the new Lineman. He is very pro-active, and residents seem to be responding favorably to him.

A current Accounts Receivable listing was presented. There are several customers (mostly “tenants”) who have skipped out on payments, and we will be filing with a Collections agency to try to recoup losses. We also discussed imminent shut offs on March 16th, 2025 (Shut off protection ends 3/15/2025). Letters were sent out to “habitual” late customers and were informed that even though they were protected from shutoff, they were still responsible for paying the bills.

Rosanne McClaflin had recommended that a new procedural policy be written for CMELD, similar to what the Water Department uses.

Discussion on “energy audits” for residents. Energy New England wants to renew their “contract” with us and the monies being spent does not afford the homeowners any benefits. Deryck

mentioned contacting Alan Robinson in Russell to see if he had any insights into what Chester Electric could do on their own.

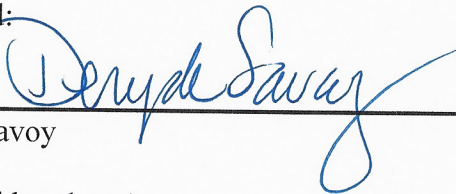
Reviewed Andy Myers' "report" from his QuickBooks program (profit and loss for 2024) and Lori Fieldstad mentioned that she could help us look into that further. QuickBooks and Sage50 (the platform that CMELD uses) do not always mesh. He's showing interest from CMELD accounts that are being turned over to the Town of Chester (HOW????).....and from what accounts. Diane will check with the Accountant & Treasurer to see how this works.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. and it was voted to go into executive session to discuss electric rates.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Hall
General Manager
CMELD

Approved:

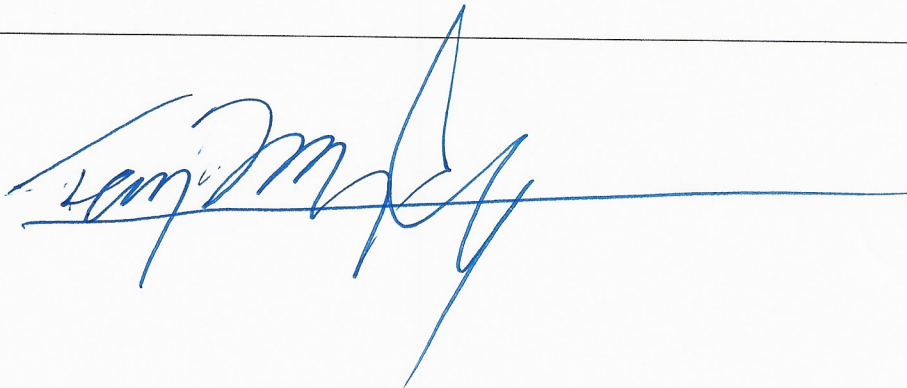


Deryck Savoy

(approved by phone)

Duane Pease

Terry Murphy



Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

December 30, 2024

Present: Commissioners: Deryck Savoy, Duane Pease (via phone)
Manager: Diane Hall

Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Dispensed from reading of the minutes of 11/5/24 meeting at the request of Deryck and Duane.

Discussed two applications for Lineman job. It was decided to schedule formal interviews with candidates for January 14, 15, 16, or 17. Emails were sent to both parties to inform them of available dates.

It was decided not to extend the Shell power contract that will be up on 12/31/2025 due to inflated cost. Spoke to Energy New England regarding other options for power contracts and they will advise us as they come up.

Deryck decided that CMELD should increase rates (modestly) in 2025 to make sure that we are covered. Rates have not increased in several years and this will be separate from the quarterly PCA rate. A letter will be sent to all customers explaining the increase.

Cooper Chechile's health insurance issue has been settled and he will be covered as of 1/1/25. He will be attending school at NEPPA beginning in February, which will entail 4 days per quarter. We will reach out to Russell or Westfield if there are any power issues while he is at school.

It was suggested by Rosanne McClafflin that we institute a charge to people with "manual read" meters, as it is time-consuming and inconvenient; especially when they do not keep the area near their meters clear. It was agreed that anyone requesting one would be charged a \$25.00 fee per month.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. by Duane Pease and seconded by Deryck Savoy.

Respectfully submitted,

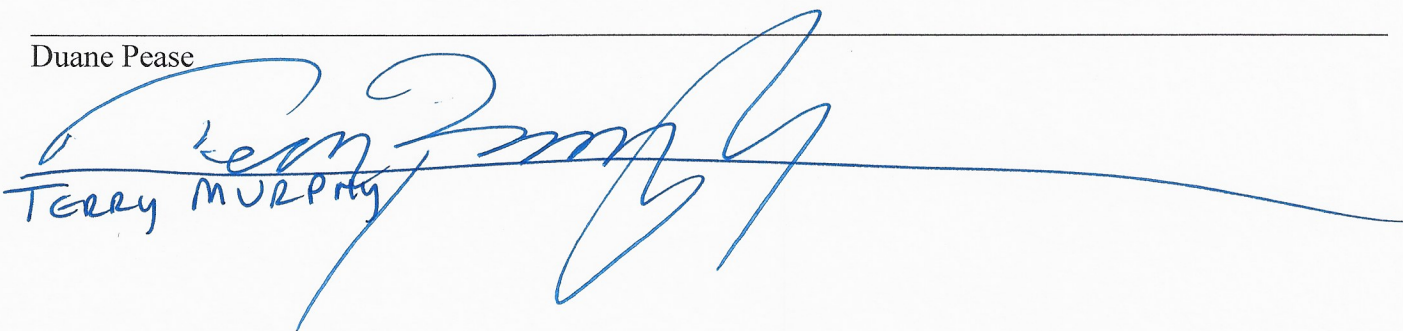
Diane M. Hall
General Manager
CMELD

Approved:



Deryck Savoy

Duane Pease



Terry MURPHY

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

November 5, 2024

Present: Commissioners: Deryck Savoy, Duane Pease (via phone) Terry Murphy
Manager: Diane Hall
Guests: Rosanne McClafin, Alan Robinson (Russell Electric)

Meeting called to order at 1:36 p.m.

Read minutes of 9/11/24 meeting.

Discussed the Board of Selectmen meeting on 11/18/24 that we were requested to attend to discuss CMELD's audit. Deryck recommended contacting Auditors to get specific points, i.e., Value Adjustment – how old were the adjustments made (before 2022?) He suggested getting a 2024 comparison so that the Town would know that the operating loss in the 2023 Audit was due to accumulated adjustments.

Talked about the ownership of the transformers at the Chester Commons. Terry Murphy wanted to know who was responsible for service if the power went out. Because Chester Commons LLC purchased the transformer(s) outright, CMELD does not own them. We will continue to respond to outages up to the point of the transformer. The spare transformer will be stored at the Town Garage yard as a courtesy to Chester Commons, but with no liability to CMELD as agreed up by Paul Lischetti of Chester Commons, LLC.

Deryck discussed going to MMWEC to speak to them about what opportunities they could offer CMELD vs. Energy New England. We received some information from MMWEC to review regarding power options, rates, etc. CMELD's contract with ENE expires on 12/31/24. It was decided to contact ENE to ask for a one-year contract extension to give us time to explore MMWEC more.

Alan Robinson discussed his experience with MMWEC and gave us examples of what programs Russell participates in. He did mention that we might want to contact Westfield Gas & Electric to see if they would be willing to sell us power, as they did in past years.

Alan also mentioned that he would like to have CMELD send Cooper Chechile over to Russell to work with him and his linemen to gain some experience, which we agreed to. They will also continue to come to Chester to help with power outages and things that Cooper cannot do.

It was decided to enroll Cooper into the Apprentice program through NEPPA – the next session begins in January 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m. by Deryck Savoy. and seconded by Terry Murphy.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Hall
General Manager
CMELD

Approved:



Deryck Savoy



Duane Pease



Terry Murphy

Chester Municipal Electric Light Department

15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA 01011

Commissioner's Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Present: Commissioners: Deryck Savoy, Duane Pease, Terry Murphy
Manager: Diane Hall
Guests: Don Humason, Craig Gauthier

Meeting called to order at 3:31 p.m.

Discussed Cooper Chechile's responsibilities and limitations as an Apprentice. It was brought up that Russell was willing to come in and help out on small jobs and that Cooper and Al Robinson were communicating.

Discussed the Eversource continuation and updated Commissioners on 9/9/24 Selectboard meeting, where it was decided that October 7th would be the date of the Special Town Meeting, following a scheduled Selectboard meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Special Town Meeting would be at 7:00 p.m. and would be held at the Chester Elementary School auditorium.

Discussed CMELD audit – Diane has received preliminary reports and showed it to the Commissioners for approval. Don Humason mentioned that he would forward an email from the Town Auditors that explains how the reports are read.

Mass C.E.C. Grant 40101D is available to be able to get funding for various things; tree trimming and cutting would be the item on the Grant that CMELD would apply for.

CMELD Commissioners discussed visiting MMWEC to see what opportunities were available to CMELD.

Discussed imposing a monthly "fee" or "late fee" to the Town Gas & Diesel accounts. Currently, CMELD is responsible for purchasing, paying, and maintaining levels of both fuels.

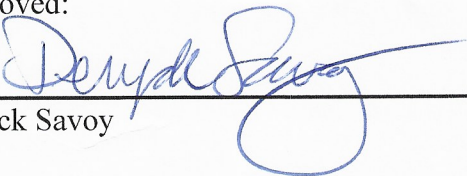
Chester, Middlefield Police and Fire, and Hilltown Ambulance are all billed by CMELD for these products and do not always pay in a timely manner.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m. by Duane Pease and seconded by Terry Murphy.

Respectfully submitted,

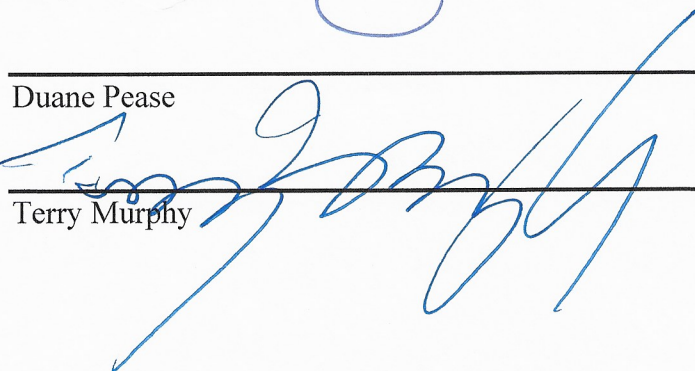
Diane M. Hall
General Manager
CMELD

Approved:



Deryck Savoy

Duane Pease



Terry Murphy