

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

Commissioner's Meeting

August 27, 2025

Present: Lori Fieldstad, Beth Lansing, Deryck Savoy (via phone)
Manager: Diane Hall
Guests: Rosanne McClafflin, Dan Moriarty

Meeting called to order at 6:11 p.m.

Discussion about changes to previous meeting minutes (July 30, 2025); Diane will make changes in time for next meeting on September 18, 2025.

T & M Aerial reports on the physical inspection of the 2 bucket trucks and digger were presented to the Commissioners for review. This is an annual inspection done for dielectrics on the units. Per the recommendation of Alan Robinson of Russell Electric, Diane has reached out to Quality Fleet Services in South Hadley to see if they would be able to do the repairs requiring immediate attention as listed in the report. Dan and Cooper are going to reach out to Richie Small to see if he can do the smaller mechanical repairs. Lori suggested United, but Dan mentioned they were not certified for dielectric equipment.

The Commissioner's voted to establish a monthly meeting date to be on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting would be on Thursday, September 18th, 2025.

Lori asked if they had voted previously to have a yearly financial audit. It was recommended that it should be written into a policy and voted on.

It was decided to invite Tom Barry and Eli Jameson from MMWEC to our next meeting in September. Diane emailed them on 8/28/2025 and will advise the commissioners if they will be coming.

Reported that HCGIT (Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust) will increase our Health Insurance rates by another 20% effective 10/1/25. This is in addition to the 18% increase we saw in July 2025. The Selectboard voted to accept their bid in May as they were the least expensive. HCGIT reported shortly after that they would go out of business unless they increased the rates again. As this is not an "open enrollment" time, there was really nothing the Town could do.

Updated the Mass C.E.C. Grant application with MMWEC. Diane signed the final contract and emailed back. As soon as they approve the contract, we can finally have Ridgeline scheduled (tentatively scheduled for last week of September). We will need to close that portion of the road to through traffic for 2 days at least. There was some discussion of having Ridgeline leave the large logs so residents could take that for firewood.

Chip Dalzell of Highway Dept. requested that we get quotes on gas and diesel because he felt our prices were inflated. Diane contacted three companies – none were willing to “lock in” a price due to unstable world markets. All quotes are based on daily rack price (OPIS) plus mark up. It was decided to stay with Wheeler for diesel and get quotes on unleaded gas.

Diane found discrepancies in the Fye 2024 pension bill from Hampshire County. Retirement. She sent the list to them, and they said that Sara Hunter (Town Treasurer) had supplied the information. The discrepancies were based on payroll, including overtime and stipends (which are not supposed to be included). Commissioners recommended contacting Tony Roselli to see what his thoughts were.

Lori asked if Diane had received the preliminary audit report yet. She said that she had just received it that morning. The Commissioners had already received their copies, and it was noted that there were discrepancies in the postings. It was suggested that Adam Borbone from Goulet, Salvidio & Associates, who did the 2023 audit, be contacted to help with clarification of accounting procedures. Monthly reports to the Commissioners were discussed. The Commissioners said they would write an action plan going forward and wanted Diane to investigate courses/classes that would help her in accrual accounting.

Discussion of improvements in infrastructure and looking into peak shaving generator were talked about. MMWEC discussed this during the summer and would be able to help CMELD with a plan.

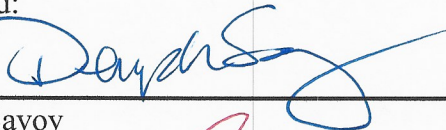
Lori mentioned that there is no written list of assets for CMELD, and it is possible that having a company come in to do an actual assessment would lower the depreciation as some of the items may very well not exist anymore. She also mentioned that she would contact Adam Borbone or another CPA firm to see about having someone review CMELD financials monthly.

Lori made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and seconded by Beth.

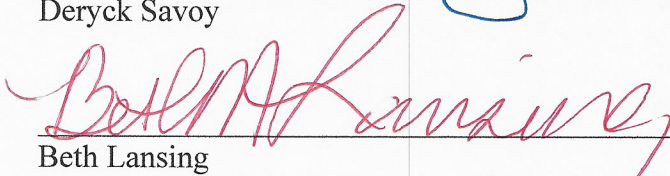
Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hall

Approved:



Deryck Savoy



Beth Lansing



Lori Fieldstad