

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

Commissioner's Meeting

November 20, 2025

Present: Lori Fieldstad, Deryck Savoy
Manager: Diane Hall
Guests: Andrew Alward, Energy New England via teams meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Went into a Teams meeting with Energy New England to review concerns from the Commissioners. Deryck Savoy mentioned that they had done an excellent job with the renewables (recs from Gt. River Hydro). The biggest concern was regarding the Shell contract that we had purchased during Ukraine war which doubled in price halfway through. Deryck felt that ENE was not proactive enough in suggesting a blend and extend or any lower cost option at the time. Energy New England said that they had chosen Shell because they were (historically) the lowest price option. They do get bids from other suppliers. Deryck asked if we were assessed a "fee" with our contract management and ENE said that \$.40 cents/KwH is collected in the contract for administering them.

Deryck said that Diane had reached out to ENE regarding grant writing when the Mass CEC grant became available and ENE said they do not have a grant writer at the time. He mentioned that MMWEC was willing to help us with this grant and we did engage them. ENE said that NEPPA had a grant person that we could reach out to, but going forward, they acknowledged that this was something that they needed to work on.

We asked about peak-shaving generators, gas-fired generators vs. battery powered systems. It was agreed that batteries would not be the best course of action for Chester as surrounding towns were voting them down. As the current ENE contract expires on 12/31/25, we told them we would consider all information and get back to them as soon as possible.

In other business, a draft of the 2024 Audit from Roselli, Clark & Associates was discussed. Diane would sign and return and obtain a date from them to discuss specifics.

An MLP survey on Tree Crews was sent by Alan Robinson of Russell Electric. He was trying to obtain information from Chester, Westfield, South Hadley, and Chicopee regarding amounts spent on vegetation management to see if resources could be pooled to help smaller utilities.

Discussion regarding CMELD Employee handbook was postponed to a later date by Diane.

Deryck asked Andrew if "rudeness" in the workplace issue had been successfully resolved and he said that it had. Diane mentioned that, back when this happened, she offered to apologize directly to the person, but Andrew said that would not be necessary and the matter was resolved.

Deryck raised the question about the current payroll situation with CMELD's payroll not being deducted from the CMELD ESB checking account. As of the latest payroll on 11/14, there were still issues with Rosanne's water payroll being charged to CMELD, certain county retirement deductions that were not being taken and just a general lack of communication with Sonya Hinsch, the benefits coordinator. Andrew said they were looking into options at this point and would keep us in the loop.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by Deryck Savoy and seconded by Lori Fieldstad.

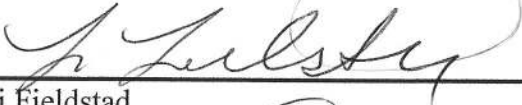
Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Hall
Manager
CMELD

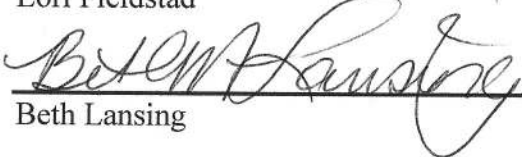
Approved:



Deryck Savoy



Lori Fieldstad



Beth Lansing