

MINUTES OF  
THE SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
EAST NORWALK ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF THE  
CITY OF NORWALK

HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2015  
AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT THE MARVIN  
60 GREGORY BOULEVARD  
EAST NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

**SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2015, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE MARVIN, 60 GREGORY BOULEVARD, EAST NORWALK, CONNECTICUT.**

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Yost.

**2. RATIFY AND CONFIRM PREVIOUS MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING CANCELLATION**

Motion was made by Craig Cuttner, seconded by Ms. Sarah Amato-Mills to ratify and confirm previous March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting cancellation. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**3. RATIFY AND CONFIRM THE MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> MEETING AS THE ANNUAL MEETING**

Motion was made by Craig Cuttner, seconded by Ms. Sarah Amato-Mills to ratify and confirm the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as the Annual Meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Yost introduced himself, Chairman, Commissioners David Brown and Debora Goldstein, Dr. Michael Intrieri, Treasurer; Mr. James Smith, General Manager of the Third Taxing District Electric Company, Matt Allred, CPA, and John Bove, Esq., District Counsel.

**5. READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING**

Motion was made by Craig Cuttner, seconded by Ms. Klyn to waive the reading and acceptance of the Notice of the Special Annual Meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**6. ELECTION OF SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING CHAIRMAN**

Motion was made by David Brown, seconded by Jim Anderson, to nominate Liz Lyons as Chairman. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. Ms. Lyons took over as Chairman.

**7. ELECTION OF SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETING SECRETARY**

Motion was made by Ms. Klyn and seconded by Mr. Yost, to nominate Dr. Michael Intrieri as Secretary. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **8. REPORT OF DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

Motion was made by Ms. Susan Brown and seconded by Mr. Cuttner, to waive the reading of the report of the District Chairman. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE EAST NORWALK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE OPERATION OF THE EAST NORWALK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION LIBRARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014 AND BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016.**

Mr. Stan Siegel, Executive Director of the East Norwalk Association Library, said four new members were elected to the board; Sarah Amoto-Mills, Nicholas Clark, Lee Gardella and Mary Bennett and join Jim Anderson and Marlene DeBellis. The library was founded in 1915, and continues to grow and serve the community. The Board meets approximately 12 times a year, and has many other events and functions as a volunteer board, and he appreciates the time they give to the organization to keep them going. Also present tonight is their librarian, Maureen Tobish and library assistant, Daniel Seezac. Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the East Norwalk Association library, 51 Van Zant Street.

They are going to continue with their seventh year of the Read To program and their new story time for children program on Saturdays. Their maker space program attracts adults as well as children by enabling hands on activities with their new 3-D printer, gaming sessions, etc. Most recently they created the Inside East Norwalk display.

They are there to vote on the 2015-2016 budget request. They are once again keeping their request of the Third Taxing District at the same level as the past several years. They do this through judicious spending of funds, while simultaneously seeking to appreciate the contributions, program fees and in kind services which will allow them to continue to expand their library services as well as meeting the challenges of everybody and achieving technology and demand.

Art Scialabba, 12 Acacia Street, asked if the budget included any surplus or deficit from last year. Mr. Siegel said there was a surplus from last year of several thousand dollars. Some of that surplus has been spent in this past fiscal year for extraordinary projects approved by the board. For example, they spent \$4,000 of extra income for new computers. They had to spend approximately \$6,000 to answer a FOIA complaint from the Commission for attorney's fees and approximately \$3,000 to notify the residents about the issue.

## **10. INDUSTRY/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Commissioner Goldstein said many times their presentations focus on the accomplishments of the District and their commitment to control costs and other things that are within their control, but tonight she wants to speak a little about the things that re not in their control.

They have many obligations to state, regional and federal regulators and their decisions on your behalf and their ability to continue to offer low rates are dependent on some of the decisions made by those folks. Although the TTD does not currently have any debt in the form of bonds, they do participate in bond offerings through their energy buying cooperatives, which is CMEEC or Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative. Removing the tax exempt status from those bonds will increase the cost of creating those loans in order to fund those infrastructure purchases because we have to pay a high premium to compete with all of those others bonds in the system, and as your representatives, the management of TTD and the Commission are busy in actively working to fabricate on your behalf to make sure that they keep that happening and keep your rates low.

Their grids and wholesale energy markets are managed by the Regional Transmission Organization, or RTO, and the one that does this for their region in New England is called the ISONE, or ISO New England. Among the ISO's responsibilities are oversight for the wholesale energy markets where they buy the power and management and planning the systems. One of the rules that the ISO sets for purchasing the electricity is that all purchases in a market based auction be priced at the highest price available at any given time when that purchase is made, which is kind of like when you walk into the supermarket and you buy a bar of soap, and even if it is a store brand, they still insist you pay the brand name price for it every time. So that is one factor that drives up costs of purchasing electricity, and makes it difficult to keep their costs low.

The ISO sets its own rules, but they have been continually working closely with their partners at CEMAC and the other regional utilities in New England to make sure that they fully understand that you the consumer should have a right to purchase your electricity as low as possible, and closer to home here in the State of Connecticut, they are working on pricing impacts caused by another energy source – natural gas. As the cheapest energy source for power plants to produce electricity, natural gas supply is in high demand, and it is especially true during those seasons when people are also using natural gas to heat their homes, and all of these factors contribute to Connecticut's paying up to 50% higher than the national average for electric supply over the last three years. However, TTD ratepayers are paying about a third less than those getting their energy from CL&P, now known as EverSource. As a member of CEMAC, they take advantage of power supply contracts to purchase electricity as cheaply as possible and not have to rely on the spot market purchases that are made at those very high levels, but they will have to watch very closely and advocating on their behalf and look for new opportunities in order to keep their rates low.

Michael Sweeney said he has gotten a few calls about installing solar power panels and he wondered if there is anything going on in terms of solar power on residential homes.

Ms. Goldstein said they are very involved in that, and anyone who has an interest in putting a solar installation in their home should contact Cynthia Tenney in the TTD, who is very helpful and can get the information they need.

## **11. FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE OPERATION OF THE ELECTRIC**

**DEPARTMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014, FOLLOWED BY Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jim Smith, General Manager, said went through a PowerPoint presentation and said he and staff appreciates all of the efforts that the three Commissioners and treasurer put into helping him run the utility, because without a team effort it couldn't be done. He referred to the balance sheet and said their total assets went up this year by a little over 2 million dollars and their liabilities actually went down, which results in increased retained earnings. He went quickly through the revenue and the income and expense statement, and said for the 13/14 year which ended June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2014 they made a book income of about \$78,000. That profit gets plowed back into the system through system improvements, as they try to continually improve their services they provide. They had two major projects that really affected the books this year, which were the completion of the Fitch Street substation and the new Cervalis project. Bottom line is that they continue to be in a good solid financial position.

As to the District Budget, if you look at approved for 2013/14 versus the actual, you can see the bottom line there is the voters approved \$309,550. They actually spent \$287,000. Of that money, again look at the approved budget in 14/15 year, which was last fiscal year, and that was kicked up a little bit to \$326,000, and we projected to spend around \$287,000 again. The proposed budget is \$415,000, and that includes the capital improvements for the firehouse and there are some other items in there which David will go into.

They did a customer satisfaction survey; 300 customers were called at random through a statistical sample by SDS Research, and their overall evaluation was very high in six or seven categories, and they compared very favorably against the industry average benchmarks. The most positive areas were liability, which has been a hallmark at TTD for many years; employees, and of course customer loyalty, which tells him they are continuing to provide a level of service that the ratepayers. Their customers came back in the survey and said that they perceive them as having little bit lower value than the industry average, so that is something they are going to have to continue to work on, but it was encouraging to hear from the SDS folks that TTD could be eligible for an award because they are in the top 10% of all the surveys they have done for municipal utilities around the country in terms of their ratings, so that tells him they are doing the right thing.

In a direct comparison between TTD and CL&P on residential rates based on 700 kilowatt hours, which is a standard residential customer, the TTD rate was \$116.43 compared to CL&P's residential rate for their standard service of \$154.83, and while they do have other type rates that would be a little bit lower, they are still on average somewhere between 15 to 25% lower than CL&P on residential rates, and that is something they should be proud of, and the goal is to keep our rates as low as possible.

They mailed a flyer off to customers on November 14 on the Starter Pack program. The goal was to get 1,200 orders, and at this point they ended up with a little less than 650, so they are about halfway there.

They donated one of their old meter reading vehicles and bought a new electric vehicle to read meters as part of their cart charging program.

The EV Charging Station is another initiative they put in place, which can charge four electric vehicles at once.

They have replaced almost 300 lights with LED streetlights. It is an aggressive program that they have undertaken and are well on the way to finishing.

They have gone to a complete radio read system where they are reading remotely from their vehicle without having to go up to the location and actually read with their held hand unit, so where it used to take 6 to 7 hours to read a route, it now takes 2.

The next item is their new Fitch Street transformer that they just completed last December. They have two of these situated on Fitch Street.

Tim Carvey's band played for the 2014 Christmas Tree Lighting and they had a record turnout.

The T-1 transformer on East Avenue is getting ready to be replaced in the next month with a new transformer which will allow them to spread loads over all three substations fairly evenly and have increased reliability.

And the last item, they purchased some property at 18 Rowan Street and are looking at putting a materials storage facility there which will allow them to be able to consolidate all their materials from all their different locations around East Norwalk and be much more efficient in the way they handle materials on and off the trucks.

To address the solar question asked earlier, there are some state incentives called RPS, which is Renewable Portfolio Standard that the State of Connecticut has which says that you have to have a certain amount of generation that's built on renewables, and part of those renewables are solar, and he is getting a lot of comments and questions, which Cynthia is handling that for them now, about putting rooftop solar on their roof. If they are going to do it, this is the time to do it because federal tax incentives end in 2016 for rooftop solar, and if you are interested in the project and they will work with you on that where they will basically buy back everything that you generate through your solar panels and charge you for the electricity that you would normally use through your house and the net of those two becomes the net metering amount that you use and is reflected on the bill. A lot of customers have taken advantage of that over the last couple of years, but because of the federal tax incentives it presents a challenge for utilities because more and more utilities are getting inundated with these requests and it started to eat into some of the revenues that utilities have been able to enjoy from those customers over time, but that is something they are committed to working on as a utility to be able to work with their customers to be able to provide every advantage they can, including the renewable issue.

Jim Anderson, 2 Old Well Court, said he just wants to acknowledge what Jim Smith has done for this utility the years that he has been here, which is outstanding.. (Applause).

Mr. Anderson asked, with regard to the the LED lights, have they done any measurements on the load factor as far as the effect of them. Mr. Smith said they have. A standard high pressure light usually gets replaced once every one to three years. The LEDs that they are putting up in street lights today will last an average of 10 to 15 years, so even though these lights are a little more expensive, they have come down about 40-50% in cost over the last year or two, and between that and the staff time in terms of replacing the bulbs and the hardware there will be a substantial decrease in overall cost.

## **12. PRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT BUDGET FOLLOWED BY Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC.**

Commissioner Brown said they are asking the ratepayers to approve \$295,006 to cover the costs listed in column P. It is a budget and it doesn't mean they are going to spend it, it means they are just allocating the amounts in case they need it. He briefly went through the figures and said Row 14, stipends of the three commissioners is \$3,500 each for a proposed budget of \$10,500, \$1,800 each for the Treasurer and the District Clerk and Payroll Taxes of \$1,079.

Parks Groundskeeping and Maintenance of \$27,350 is for new trees and new plantings in some of the islands.

Holiday Events and Christmas Tree Lighting, they actually spent \$7,000, and they are going to propose \$7,000 again.

Summer Concert Series, they had seven bands this year. The budget year goes to June 30th, so there is money to be spent until that time. They are predicting that they are going to spend \$24,000, so they are proposing \$25,000.

The Annual Meeting, they are proposing \$4,5000 for cookies and coffee and everything this coming year.

Firehouse Building, he would like Captain Maggio after the meeting to show what they are doing at the firehouse on Van Zant Street. There are zeroes all the way across and they are going to spend money \$1,250 so they put in \$1,500 in the proposed just in case.

Firehouse Building major capital, they proposed \$20,000 but now knowing what work they have done, they are proposing \$42,530. A lot of the work is being done by different firemen at the fire station.

The Library Building Expenses and Maintenance, they are proposing \$7,000 for building expenses coming up.

Library Building Major/Capital, they approved \$5,000 and spent nothing, and they will talk later about why it is zero.

Mr. Siegel said to be clear, over the years they did submit lists of needs, but with regard to your offering zero, they were not asked for that particular item. They didn't know that what they asked for was not going to be included in their budget. And when he says they weren't asked, they did submit over the year needs, but they were not asked with regard to this particular line as to whether or not they would put their request in that line. Commissioner Brown said they can talk about this later. It always works out, maybe a contingency or whatever. They always find the money.

Library Masterplan was approved last year. Of that \$20,000 projected actual, which they haven't spent anything on it yet, it is still \$20,000 and they are proposing \$25,000.

Line 27, Cemetery, proposed \$22,000, actual spent \$20,169. Approved \$22,000, spent \$17,500, so they are putting in a proposed \$22,000 as part of the budget.

Cemetery Major Capital, if you have seen that cemetery in the spring with the dogwoods, it is absolutely beautiful. It is quite an awakening to go through that cemetery, but trees have to come down and trees have to go in, so they proposed \$16,000 for that.

Other District Services is a new one this year. He thinks a lot of people were bothered by the survey that was done, that they thought they were caught in a monopoly and that they couldn't go anywhere and were paying more than they would if they were outside the District, and he hopes that with Mr. Smith's example showed that they are paying less. There are other people that come to them and say they would like them to donate money to their organization or to their cause, and so they came up with a stringent list of things they have to do to satisfy different criteria, one being a 501(c), and they put in \$15,000.

Contingencies, like the roof on the firehouse, they proposed \$40,000. The subtotal for all of that is \$248,059. The East Norwalk Association Library operations is \$167,121, and all the way down at the bottom is Fund Balance at Year End of \$25,000, so what they are looking for you tonight is to approve the transfer from the Electric Department to the District of \$295,006.

Captain John Maggio said he owns a small business in the District and has also worked in the Fire Department for 20 years. He has heard stories that they are the longest operating firehouse in the country. He doesn't know if that is true, but he understands the building was built in 1883. The tin ceiling was still there and it was in bad shape with a lot of paint peeling, and they had always looked to renovate the building and bring it back to its original character, and there was some money that Save Norwalk had budgeted for a renovation, but really not enough to complete the project, so after several years of the money not being funded, the men at the firehouse got together and did some framing. He showed a series of pictures showing the three rooms in the layout, two of which are done. They have the new kitchen and a little addition. It is a very classic style looking

firehouse and they really wanted to bring it back to that look. They are probably about halfway done with the project.

In response to a question by Ms. Klyn, Captain Maggio said the cost of disposing the asbestos tile environmentally was included in 42,000. Some of the work was contracted out, some plumbing and some electrical. Most all the construction was done by fire personnel, either their time off or even their time on.

Diane Cece asked is the building like a historic building. Commissioner Yost said it is a city-owed building, so it wouldn't be under the purview of the Historical Commission.

Captain Maggio said he invites everyone to come in and see it anytime.

Acting Chairman Lyons said getting back to the 2015-2016 Third Taxing District Budget, are their questions?

Art Schialaba said item #26, the Library Masterplan and Improvements, he heard that it was budgeted last time for \$20,000 but the \$20,000 was not spent, and right now they are budgeting \$25,000, so is that a \$45,000 number budget for the Masterplan.

Chairman Yost said the \$20,000 was what they projected as the actual cost of the Masterplan itself. Because they didn't spend that money, the Commission went through a process this year of selecting a consultant and they have hired a consultant to work on the project, but no money has been spent so they have remaining \$25,000 this year for the projected for a proposed expense based on the Masterplan being done sometime in the 15/16 fiscal year.

Craig Cuttner said regarding line 29, Other District Services, Mr. Brown described that as something like philanthropic endeavors, which is seemingly what they are voting on on all the other line items, but this doesn't have the oversight at this meeting to really guide on that. It seems to be the first time they have done it. Is that something that is a little abnormal for the charter of the organization?

Commissioner Brown said actually he thinks the charter names certain things that they should consider. People were coming to the Commission asking for money, and they wanted this line item in there to show that they do care and they are not a monopoly. They want to be able to give some money.

Mr. Cuttner said it just seems that it would be the Commissioner's operating without some guidelines, without the oversight of the electors.

Chairman Yost said it is for items like donations to the Marvin School for certain projects, donations to Person-to-Person to help out with electric bills for people that are having tough times, things like that.

Commissioner Goldstein said just to understand it, the inclusion of this line item was an attempt at a little bit more transparency. From time to time they get requests for things like educational programs that revolve around energy from the PTO of the Marvin School. They do contribute to Person-to-Person to help with financial budgeting and coaching for some of their ratepayers who are struggling, and we do from time to time get requests from the City to contribute to events, like concerts and so on to kind of chip in and be a good corporate citizen. Recently they contributed some money to the Veteran's Plaque at City Hall, and these requests have come in kind of on a good faith basis. The Commission has been making small contributions to these over the years and they decided to put an amount of money in the District Budget to make it clear that rather than have it coming out of contingency where it is a little less apparent how much money was going to those programs, they voted on a policy for making these requests. There are criteria that need to be met and there are kind of follow-ups to make sure that the money is being utilized as it is being presented when requested.

Mr. Cuttner said will there be a list of these expenditures that will be vetted for public review in the office?

Commissioner Goldstein said what is happening with these individual requests is that people are making presentations and requests at regular monthly meetings and votes are taking place at monthly meetings at TTD. All of those requests are in the minutes at which the votes took place.

Lee Gardella said item 15 shows \$1,800 was approved for the Treasurer and \$3,000 was the actual and asked how that came about. Mr. Ron Scofield said one of their former Treasurers, when she was not reelected, she was supposed to turn the money back to us and she had had a stroke and never quite understood what they were talking about, so they didn't do anything and left the money to her.

Mr. Siegel said based upon Art's question regarding item #26, if he recalls, \$19,500 was approved by the Commission at the time of the meeting and if in fact you didn't approve the request for \$19,500, they would stand the difference of asking for \$25,000.

Chairman Yost said he thinks it was to fund any improvements, to have kind of a kitty to start a fund for capital improvements or whatever kind of improvements the consultant comes up with. It had nothing to do with bids for the RFP.

Ms. Goldstein said to clarify, at last year's Annual Meeting the recommended amount that was approved for the Library Masterplan, this is for the consulting plan and activity itself, because the consultant was just approved out of a 3-bid process at a very recent meeting, that money had not yet been spent, that \$20,000, as Stan points out I believe it may well have been \$19,500, but that money would be spent by the end of the fiscal period in which it was approved. They recognize that the process will take several months to do because a good Masterplan should involve the public and examining a lot of different things, that there may be recommendations that then come out of that plan that you want

us to start on in this fiscal year, but if they do not ask you for that money in advance and put it in the budget, they will have their hands tied until next June. So this money was allocated into this budget in anticipation that there might be improvements that come out of the Masterplan recommendations that would need to have some money funded. That does mean it will be spent, but it is available should everybody decide that that is what needs to be spent as a result of the Masterplan.

Mr. Siegel said he doesn't understand what they are putting in for Capital being a zero when they have over the years provided a list of absolute needs for the improvement of both the building and the parking lot, and what he believes would be capital improvements such as the two columns in front of the library that are 10% to 15% deteriorated already and the parking lot striping as well as the bump stops for the cars. He believes those are capital improvements that they have asked for over a period of several years.

Commissioner Brown said he speaks as one person on a three man commission, they will take care of it. They will work it out.

Mr. Intrieri said as he always says, and he believes the commissioners agree, they are working together as a team. If that is what you need, he is sure it will be done.

Ms. Cece said she has a number of questions on a number of line items. Line item 26, so having the funding available for potential recommendations coming out of the Masterplan, she just wants to make sure that by having it in the budget doesn't give the Commission the right to actually spend the money because it's a recommendation coming out of Masterplan, in the same way the City may have an approved budget but the funding can't be allocated unless there was a vote by, for example, the Common Council to actually authorize the contract and any expenditure. So I would like you to speak to on the process under which that would happen and the way that the Commission is handling it.

Commissioner Goldstein said like other large expenditures that are made on behalf of the District, she believes that the process would be that that item would be put on the agenda, brought before the Commission for discussion and then voted upon and recorded for the minutes. This is kind of unprecedented territory in terms of they did not previously have a masterplan of this size or this scope before the District before, but the process for all of these expenditures is generally to bring them before the Commission for a vote, and it is intended that the masterplan process will include some form of public participation, some form of public meeting. I don't want to speak ahead of time and call it a public hearing an nail it down, but it is intended for the consultant to come before the public and get a lot of input, so hopefully that process will be clarified at the time.

Ms. Cece said the next question is on the Historical Cemetery on the capital budget. There is \$16,000 in there, and she thinks, if she read the paperwork, a lot of that is for tree work, and do you have the backup materials for how they came up with that number,

or do you have bids that came in that support those numbers? Commissioner Brown said yes, they do have a list of trees that are going to be taken down and the trees that they are going to put back in. That's how they got the \$16,000. Ms. Cece said and the price was supplied by three companies, she assumes? Ms. Goldstein said it was. It was Olmstead and the whole bid process we went through and this was brought before the commission during the budget request season, which runs from about October to about December, and that is in the backup materials from the meeting in which it was voted upon. It's in the materials.

Ms. Cece said and on the Other District Services of \$15,000, she is not opposed to having some contingency money in there for special requests that come out of the District from legitimate organizations, and she has read the minutes where you guys have some standard for how that is to happen and what the recommended guidelines are, but she just wants to be sure that there is a maximum spent on a given amount, so for example, someone couldn't come in and take 10 or 15 of the \$15,000. She thinks they said that on the back end they would be evaluating what the programs are, and could I just make a suggestion on that. Instead of it happening potentially at every meeting of the Commission, maybe you open this up again similar to what the City does with a grant -- maybe open it up once or twice a year to submit them and make them part of your regular process in January to June, and then the public could be more engaged with it instead of not knowing from one meeting to the next who's coming in an asking for money.

Michael Sweeney said he just wanted to get your thinking on the line number 20, which is the concert series which for 2013/14 was \$11,500, now it is \$25,000, and just that is 8% of the total budget that you're requesting and you've got all these wonderful capital improvements that are coming to about 20,000, and that seems kind of out of proportion with the overall budget and he wanted to know your thinking behind it to spending \$25,000.

Chairman Yost said he thinks they want to provide added value to the ratepayers and the whole community and that's why they are doing it. They are very successful. People really come out and it's a nice crowd. People enjoy it, so provided that their finances will allow such an expense, they want to continue to do that. Just, since you brought the topic up, the calendar for next year starts on June 28th. It's Tim Curry's Motown Band, Fairfield Towns, Tropical Beat, Steel Band, Memphis Souls Spectacular, Pocketful of Soul, the Second Company Governors Football Band, and we're finishing up again with Tim Curry's Motown Band. It's a great venue. Calf Pasture Park is just a gem and we think that people really enjoy that expense, so I think it's getting back to more of the original charter of the Third Taxing District.

Mr. Sweeney said I mean obviously the grounds, the maintenance, the library, the firehouse and this just seems out of proportion to the overall budget.

Commissioner Goldstein said if I may also just point out when you talk about the incremental increase from previous years, they went from five concerts to seven last year

and that's part of the increased expense. Mr. Sweeney asked why. Commissioner Goldstein said because people were asking for them.

Dr. Intrieri said last summer he was frankly at every concert and he knows some people in the area that attend on a regular basis, some people have been hearing about the bands, and it's great to see all kinds of people joining in and enjoying themselves, and that's what they try to do.

Ms. Sara Mann said first let her say what a really good job you do for the Electric Company. You do a fine job. Thank you. (Applause.)

She said with regards to the Masterplan, there are certain expectations that the library board and staff, the chosen consultant who is going to be working with the library board and staff, first of all, they are going to be introduced to the stakeholders. There are going to be planning sessions of those groups and conversations. There's probably going to be a half day retreat at least. There's going to be work with our Executive Director to develop this plan along , around 20 hours a week, and there is going to be significant data collection. Considering all the above mentioned, as well as the fact that East Norwalk Library Board of Directors is charged with overseeing the operation of the East Norwalk Library, she would like to make the following motion: In recognition of the 100 years since the opening of the East Norwalk Library by the East Norwalk Improvement Association, that the Board of the East Norwalk Library doing business as the East Norwalk Association, after reviewing and careful consideration of the master strategic plan completed and suggested by the library planning committee and Erin Cohen Consultants, retain complete control and decisions as to what they believe as the board are realistic, affordable and sustainable with the East Norwalk Library.

Commissioner Goldstein said point of order.

Acting Chairman Lyons said now there is a motion on the floor. Are you making that motion? Ms. Mann said she is making that motion.

Acting Chairman Lyons said Ms. Mann has made a motion. Now I have a point of order. What is your point of order?

Commissioner Goldstein said did we not already have a motion on the floor to approve the budget?

Acting Chairman Lyons said no, we do not. We have no motion on the floor. We have the presentation of the budget and discussion. So during this point of discussion she has made a motion. There is no motion on the floor. Now if you want to ask is it germane to make a motion at this point when we have not put the motion forward on the budget, you could do that. Do you want to?

Commissioner Goldstein said no.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a second to that motion?

Ms. Amato-Mills said second.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, is there a discussion on the motion?

Ms. Cece said first of all, I don't actually understand what the motion is. Is the motion to somehow to amend the budget? Can somebody explain what the motion is in relevance when we are voting on the budget, and --

Acting Chairman Lyons said the motion is that if the budget passes, that that \$25,000, or the money is expended to have the masterplan done, but before anything else further is done with the masterplan, the masterplan would revert back to the East Norwalk Improvement Association board of directors and they would make decisions on what to do with the masterplan from that point forward.

Did I get that right, Ms. Mann? Ms. Mann said correct.

Ms. Cece said okay, so then the decision would be what they intend to do based on the recommendations of the masterplan but in anticipation of having the \$25,000 with no input on the use of that money after their review of that, is that essentially what they're saying?

Ms. Mann said what we're saying is that the masterplan isn't completed, what we're saying is that once the masterplan is completed, the East Norwalk Library board of directors will take into consideration what if any committee and Eric Cohen Consultants have suggested, and then the East Norwalk Library board of directors will take that into consideration and we'll decide what we're going to do with that, which will be realistic, affordable and sustainable for the library because we are the governing body of the library. We decide the operating business of the library. That's our job. They run the power company, but we run the library.

Ms. Cece said I would suggest that I think you're right. I think you have complete control over it, and you can implement or not implement based on whatever the consultant's recommendations are, but not with any District money. So if you want to have complete control over the masterplan, then you can have complete control over it without further public input, but not with control of the \$25,000 without District input coming back again.

Ms. Cece said just procedurally -- Can I make a motion? Acting Chairman Lyons said well you can make an amendment to the motion, but you can't make another motion at this point. We have a motion on the floor, and you can make an amendment to it.

Commission Goldstein said I have another point of order, if I may. Acting Chairman Lyons said I'm trying to answer a question. Just one moment. You can make an amendment to the motion or you can vote -- you can ask for the question to be called and we can vote on the motion. If the motion fails, then you can make another motion.

Now, Ms. Goldstein, did you have a point of order?

Commissioner Goldstein said I'd just like to point out that because it is a rescheduled meeting, it is a Special Meeting and I believe that we cannot alter the agenda. I would like the Chair to make a call as to whether this is adding an item to the agenda by calling for this motion.

Acting Chairman Lyons said actually I'm going to defer to our legal counsel, because our charter called for this meeting to be held the first Wednesday of the month. At the very beginning of the meeting we made a motion to ratify and confirm the cancellation and ratify and confirm that this is the annual meeting, and it is the annual meeting, you ratified and confirmed it was the annual meeting, and as such it is the opportunity for the District electors to bring forth business. This is an item on the agenda. It is germane, but I'm deferring to counsel to actually come in on this.

Mr. Bove said I would agree with Ms. Goldstein. This is the Annual Meeting. This is a line item on the agenda. Acting Chairman Lyons said so it is germane. Mr. Bove said it is germane.

Chairman Yost said, Sara, from day one we suggested, we almost demanded that we ascertain -- we're not dictating, and you I think just did it so we'll only approve this if we're in control. We're the funders, the community is the funders. We proposed a masterplan that we would do, we would complete, as a team, working with the East Norwalk Improvement Association. There will be workshops with people from the community, people from your board and people from our board, so we'll make a team working on this program.

Ms. Mann said and we'll be --

Chairman Yost said let me finish. So you're going to have ample time to work on the plan with us and hopefully at the end of this process, it's going to take some time and effort, we'll have a workable plan to go forward and make this gem of a library even better. Let us do the plan with your inputs, with the community's inputs, and at the end there will be improvements to be made, which will be done if it's feasible, but we want a plan, and that's why we brought it up and it was voted on last year. Now you're turning the tables on us. By the way -- you guys could have come to us at any of our meetings and suggested something like this. Come to the table. It's called negotiation. Don't wait for the Annual Meeting and blow us away like this.

Acting Chairman Lyons asked could I ask a question of the audience? Would there be

anyone who would like to make a friendly amendment to have, once the masterplan has been done and performed, to have both the body of the District Commissioners and the East Norwalk Improvement Association body meet to go about implementation of what items you should be implementing?

Ms. Cece said I'll make a friendly amendment that suggests that once the Masterplan is completed and that the East Norwalk Association has reviewed the recommendations of Eric Cohen, that the matter then would be before the whole commission for consideration of any of the funding of the recommendations that the East Norwalk Association to do.

Chairman Yost said repeat that, please, just for the audience and us.

Ms. Cece said I'm making a friendly amendment that the East Norwalk Association, after their review of the Masterplan as submitted by Eric Cohen, comes up with suggestions that they come back before the whole commission to then seek the funding for the improvements that they want.

Acting Chairman Lyons said, okay, that's a friendly amendment to your motion. Is there a second to that amendment? Mr. Cuttner.

Chairman Yost said I'm not sure how this is going.

Ms. Cece said maybe I'm not phrasing it right. There is a pool of money, that if this gets voted through tonight, we'll have \$25,000, a maximum of \$25,000 potentially available. The East Norwalk Association is going to do a review of the masterplan recommendation by an outside consultant and presumably pick the things that they want to implement in that program. And what I'm just asking is that then they have to come back to this Commission to get the funding for those particular components? They can't on their own decide what those components are and draw from the pool of money of the \$25,000.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. That's the amendment and now a second. We're going to Mr. Cuttner. Mr. Scialabba?

Mr. Scialabba said I would have a friendly amendment to the amendment. I think some people are concerned about who normally gets that line item and needed and that the control may be lost. Since we haven't approved the budget yet or have gotten there, this may be out of order, but let me just say that it's my intention that we reduce line item 26 to \$19,500, which is the cost of the masterplan, put the \$5,500 that's left over into the Library Building Major Capital Fund and then see what the masterplan says.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, that's your motion?

Mr. Scialabba said that would be my motion. It's a friendly amendment to the motion.

Acting Chairman Lyons said is there a second to that sub amendment to the motion?

Jim Anderson said I second it.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. Is there any discussion on that amendment, which is to take the money from line item 26 and make it \$19,500.

Mr. Scialabba said correct. The cost of the masterplan.

Acting Chairman Lyons said the cost of the masterplan. And then to take the additional \$5,500 and put that into Library Building Expense Maintenance. Mr. Scialabba said Major Capital Budget. Acting Chairman Lyons said Major Capital. Sorry. Library Building Major Capital, so that line item would now become \$12,500. Mr. Scialabba said no. Zero down. Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, fine. That's line 25. Mr. Scialabba said but the total budget doesn't change, just the allocations. Acting Chairman Lyons said right. Okay. Questions on that? Yes, ma'am?

Ms Currie said good evening. My name is Karen Currie. I have a question. I don't know if it would be out of order. But if the ultimate effect the library board -- but so the -- but all of our money is coming out of the program year are against the library. I'm wondering why -- maybe someone can answer -- there isn't a need to put together -- you want to control something. I think I heard the word control, but if I did, in the -- in the community money is appropriated to this board, they want to make the community a better library, so I'm wondering why -- maybe this isn't -- but I'm wondering why the library board wants that finer control.

Ms. Mann said, first of all, back in December of 2013 Charlie and Jim Smith approached Jim Anderson and Stan Siegel about a financial plan, and at the time it seemed like a very good idea and nobody was against it. The next thing we knew we went to the Annual Meeting and it was being proposed, and the way it was proposed was that it was almost as if the library wasn't really a player, it was almost like kind of a hostile-- the way that the perception, okay, and you have to understand this is the way that the library board perceived it at the time was that it was a hostile maneuver. Subsequently we had a joint meeting in April, I think it was April 19th or April 15th with the TTD Commissioners and it was a rather unpleasant meeting at the library, if you look it up in the minutes, and the TTD Commissioners had an agenda for their meeting and nobody planned a public meeting with our input at all. So we viewed that as being hit over the head with a two by four. Now I can understand a funding source coming in and asking a not for profit to do a masterplan, and I spent 20 years in the not for profit industry. If there had been some red flags, there were no red flags in the library. None. We've had a clean audit for years. Like I said, we were going to get a plan. The way it should have been handled in the industry was here, you guys, here's \$15,000 or \$10,000, what do you think you could do a plan with, and we would have met -- the Board would have met and we would say, here TTD, we could probably do a plan for about \$12,000, and that's really what I think Stan and I had said, we could do a plan for about \$12,000, a strategic plan, based upon our budget and the locations that we have at the library. We're never going to be

handicapped accessible unless we get about two point five million dollars, so there's history here. Okay? So that's the way it should have been done, and I believe Ms. Goldstein said at the time it was handled messily. Yes, it was handled messily. So that is why when I said -- when I made that motion about control, we want to make sure that whatever happens with this plan when it's completed, the library board can say okay, we want to take some from column A, we want to take some from column B. We want to be able to make those decisions, because we have been the drivers in the seat for the library for many years and for the arts -- Kathy is refusing to ask. I'm voting on the -- director. Marlene is a social worker. Sarah is a high school teacher. We're not a bunch of dunderheads that don't know what we're doing.

Acting Chairman Lyons said thank you, Ms. Mann. You know what, it is getting late. We have an amendment to an amendment to a motion. Is there any further questions or comments on Art Scialabbas's amendment to change item 26 to \$19,500 and to change item 25 to \$5,500? Diane? And you have to be germane right on this motion, nothing else. This is what we're voting on first, this motion. If you're in favor of it, you vote yes, if you're opposed to it, you vote no, and then we go to the next amendment. Go ahead.

Ms. Cece said so before anyone votes on this motion, I think that you should know I believe and the board can correct me, that there would have been every opportunity weeks and weeks and weeks and weeks before tonight's meeting that the East Norwalk Association could have worked with you or told you that they intended to do this tonight.

Chairman Yost said exactly.

Ms. Cece said I think it's unfair, I think that it's a deliberate maneuver on a night when likely something like this is going to be voted by what statistically are the number of voters in the District and they are asking the Commissioners to, first of all, understand that the -- this is the first time you're hearing about it tonight, and I hope you feel the same way I do, and I'm asking my fellow ratepayers to understand that this motion is coming before you tonight as a surprise and a maneuver to put this in their complete control but still use our money is I think completely unfair. I think it's disrespectful to the Commission and I think it speaks volumes to not wanting to work together and I hope you will oppose this amendment.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. I'm going to allow one more comment. Jim? I'm allowing the District electors to speak. This is your chance to decide where you want to spend money. This is the only forum that the District Electors have. Jim?

Jim Anderson said thank you. As far as the motion goes, I'm in favor of it. I think it's logical. It's moving the money around to be fair to -- we were never asked that we needed a list, and we provided that list, many times. This is a surprise to us that we see zero when someone is asking for \$16,000 in trees. Is there any maintenance, the historicals are very high maintenance free. Who's going to maintain those?

Acting chairman Lyons said, Jim, please speak to the amendment.

Jim Anderson said all right. I'm trying to cool off.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. All right. I'm going to test your minds. Are you an elector of this district? At this point I'm not -- I'm ruling you out of order. We have to move this along.

The amendment is on the floor to move the money, as I indicated before, on line 26 to \$19,500 and to move the remainder amount to line 25, \$5,500.

Commissioner Goldstein said I will second Mr. Scialabba's motion.

Acting Chairman Lyons said we've already seconded it. Commissioner Goldstein said oh, I apologize.

Acting Chairman Lyons said thank you. If you're in favor of the motion, please raise your blue cards high. Mr. Scofield said 24.

Acting Chairman Lyons said all opposed, please raise your card. Mr. Scofield said 3.

Acting Chairman Lyons said any abstentions? Okay, we have 24 to 3, the amendment passes. First order of business done.

Ms. Cece said you have an amendment to the original motion, but we haven't --

Acting Chairman Lyons said I don't know how we go from here, John.

Ms. Cece said may I make a motion?

Acting chairman Lyons said well, we have your amendment is on the floor. We have to take care of that first. Do you want to withdraw your amendment now that we've passed this motion? Because your motion was to have it come back --

Ms. Cece said right. I'll keep the amendment on the floor.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. Can you restate your amendment? It has been seconded.

Ms. Cece said the amendment is that the East Norwalk Association would come back to the Third Taxing District Commissioners with a list of recommendations for the masterplan so that the funding of those improvements could be decided by the Commission.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, there's been a second. Is there any discussion

specifically on that motion? I'm going to keep you to the fire on this. Mr. Yost?

Chairman Yost said Diane, you're saying a list of recommendations for the completed masterplan? These are recommendations from the completed masterplan? Ms. Cece said they're chosen recommendations, they're going to select them and come back --

Chairman Yost said can you amend it to a list of recommendations chosen by the library committee of the masterplan where you have public input, you have the library input, and you have our input. Ms. Cece said I will.

Acting Chairman Lyons said so you're allowing a friendly amendment to your amendment to say that it is -- the recommendations come from the library committee, which is composed of public library board members and who else? Goldstein said commissioners.

Acting Chairman Lyons said and two commissioners.

Mr. Cuttner said I will accept that. Acting Chairman Lyons said Mr. Cuttner has seconded that one and you'll accept that? Ms. Cece said yes.

Lyons said okay. Is there discussion on that amendment? Okay, hearing none, all in favor of that amendment, please signify by saying aye -- No, I mean -- sorry -- holding up your card. You can't hold up three cards. If they're not here in the room, -- Mr. Scofield said 18.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. Opposed? Mr. Scofield said 9.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, that amendment passes. Okay? So we've moved the money. We now have this amendment to the main motion. This amendment has changed your motion tremendously. I assume you want to remove your amendment -- remove your motion?

Ms. Mann said let's move it.

Chairman Yost said remove she said.

Acting Chairman Lyons said pardon me?

Ms. Mann said move it forward.

Acting Chairman Lyons Okay. So the first -- pardon me?

Ms. Mann said they want to move it.

Acting Chairman Lyons said you want to move the motion forward?

Ms. Mann said I want to move it forward.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, but the motion has been amended, so the motion now would be to have --

Ms Mann said my original motion.

Acting Chairman Lyons said but it's been amended. The original motion has been amended to have the library committee comprised of board members, community members and TTD Commissioners have the recommendation come back to them.

Mr. Bove said I think it's already been amended; amended, decided and --

Acting Chairman Lyons said yeah, we're done. Commissioner Goldstein said we didn't vote on the main motion.

Ms. Cece said back to the main motion to -- just for appoint of clarity, a procedural question. The floor is still open for the particular motion then, right?

Acting Chairman Lyons said yeah.

Ms. Cece said so theoretically I can make a motion to remove the \$25,000 line item, correct? Acting Chairman Lyons said if you wanted to at this point, sure. Ms. Cece said just want to be clear.

Commissioner Goldstein said to be clear, did they remove the highest order motion altogether? I thought they called the amendment out of play.

Acting Chairman Lyons said not necessarily because her amendment to the -- the motion was made to have the funding go to the library, and the amendment to the motion was to have it go to the committee. So if the amendment to the motion goes to the committee, then the original motion which started off everything would have to be voted no -- all right. Let's just move on on the original motion if you want to do it just for clarity sake, but we know what the response would be. I would think, based on the audience's calling for a vote. Commissioner Goldstein said are you calling the vote?

Acting Chairman Lyons said legal counsel said we're done.

Mr. Bove said Ms. Mann made the motion. Mr. Scialabba amended that motion properly. Acting Chairman Lyons said she amended it first and he amended hers. Mr. Bove said yes. And then Ms. Cece finalized it. We voted on that, and I think that's it.

Acting Chairman Lyons said yeah, I do too. Okay, is there any further discussion on the District Budget? For point of information, I would just like the District Electors here to

know that there is a provision that the Third District has followed many years ago going back to 1997 that a special appropriation was requested for Marvin Elementary School to run Cat 5 wiring to the school so it can be wired up for internet. Mr. Cuttner was there with me at that time, and we actually made a presentation to the Third Taxing District Commissioners to use some money from this fund to actually spend that money. A special meeting was called. People came out. They spoke about it in the paper and the District Commissioners voted on it then. So there is a mechanism in place to hand out money for a request. I believe the charter very specifically states that this is the only time that we can expend money for this kind of purpose, and it needs to be delineated properly and so we know what all the expenditures are. For that particular reason, I am not going to -- I'm going to abstain from voting because I do not believe Item 29 is correct in this budget as Other District Services because I do not think there's any way we can do that even though you have criteria in place. It's the District Electors who have that authority to spend that money, unfortunately, not the District Commissioners. You people are wonderful. You have wonderful big hearts. I applaud everything you're doing. I wish there was a mechanism there. Maybe it's time to look at your biannual charter.

Chairman Yost said the mechanism is approving the budget with line item number 29. Acting Chairman Lyons said no, because it just says Other District Services. There's no --

Chairman Yost said we just defined what that was, and there's a process in place to take care of it. Acting Chairman Lyons said right, but the District Electors didn't approve that process in place to take care of it. It was ultimately done --

Chairman Yost said it was a mandatory decision. It's not an elected decision, it's a mandatory -- Acting Chairman Lyons said she is just giving you my thoughts on it.

Okay, thank you very much for letting me have the chair to make that comment.

We're now on to Item number 13. Thank you, Mr. Brown.

**13. AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT BUDGET AND TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT TO THE DISTRICT ACCOUNT TO COVER THE BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016**

Acting Chairman Lyons said we're now onto item number 13. Thank you, Mr. Brown. It is in front of you. The appropriation, the transfer is for \$295,006. Is there a motion on the floor? Mr. Scialabba?

Mr. Scialabba said I make a motion.

Acting Chairman Lyons said Mr. Scialabba is making the motion. Is there a second to the motion? Mr. Cuttner, thank you. Mr. Scialabba?

Mr. Scialabba said okay. Going over what you just said, I would like to make a motion that we remove the \$15,000 from one 29. Ms. Cece said I'll second it.

Acting Chairman Lyons said you want to make an amendment to remove line 29? Mr. Scialabba amend the motion to remove. Acting Chairman Lyons said, well, you made a motion to approve the budget for \$295,000 and now you want to make an amendment, Ms. Cece seconded, to remove that item? Mr. Schialaba said correct. Acting Chairman Lyons said okay Questions Comments?

Commissioner Goldstein said clarification. It's got drop the contingency. Chairman Yost said right. Goldstein said just a clarification for the motion. Eliminating the \$15,000 from the Other District Services line also alters the contingency or the fund balance? Mr. Allred said fund balance. Commission Goldstein said it alters line 35 in that the amount that comes out, the 15,000, then gets added to the fund balance at the bottom, and that becomes \$40,000, just so that motion is 100% correct.

Acting Chairman Lyons said do you have a question, Mr. Brown? Commissioner Brown said no, I just wondered about – Acting Chairman Lyons said is there a question? Comments? Discussion on the amendment to delete line item 29?

Ms. Cece said point of -- actually are you deleting the line or are you leaving that line in the budget with zero, just to be technical, and then can you just clarify, you just said the whole thing is moved to line 35, correct? The \$15,000 in its entirety?

Commissioner Goldstein said in order for the amount to balance, that is correct. Ms. Cece said and are you striking the line or are you leaving that in in the District Budget and making it –Acting Chairman Lyons said it would go to Mr. Scialabba's motion, which you seconded. Mr. Cuttner seconded, sorry.

Chairman Yost said I thought we removed the line totally. Acting Chairman Lyons said removed the line totally. Discussion? Mr. Yost?

Chairman Yost said just to be clear for the ratepayers and the voters, we're taking the money out of Other District Services, which we discussed was money for Marvin School programs, Person-to-Person, financial help for the needy, things like that. So we're voting on whether you want to keep that money --- or leave it in for people who --

Mr. Scialabba said I don't agree with you, Charlie, since you've already spent that money -- is the point I want further questions. So how could you say we're coming to the programs, what you have already done in the future – Chairman Yost said we've spent that -- we've done this in the past. Mr. Schialaba said right, without this line item. Chairman Yost said yes. Mr. Scialabba said why is that? Chairman Yost said for transparency, we're making this -- Do you want to comment? Commissioner Goldstein said it also provides a natural cap for requests that are coming before us. As Diane correctly pointed out, it limits the scope of what the budget will be contributing to these

kinds of requests during the course of the year and we have the strength of the fact that you have voted on it and spoke to that amount and you said that is all that you would like the District Commissioners to be able to disburse for these types of requests.

Mr. Scialabba said can I ask the Director what are our total expenses for last year? Acting Chairman Lyons said do you have the total of District expenses for last year? Mr. Intrieri said I can't answer that right now. Chairman Yost said it's probably about the same, because it's the same projects that we funded in the past.

Mr. Intrieri said I just want to say that, you know, we sit here tonight. Then why did you ask or work with the library, fire department. You want to enhance the community, and I was involved in education before for 44 years, and I can tell you there is a process in place when different clubs or organizations are looking at these specific line items in front of the Commission in a fiduciary responsibility and that process is very rigid, and to hear now that you want to omit that item and not be able to fund students at Marvin, any other organization where we are really helping, helping people, helping kids, I feel very uncomfortable with that. But, again, you are the customers of TTD, the Commissioners represent you, they have a fiduciary responsibility, but I think that the sensitivities are not there, because I know that I have heard from Marvin School parents and staff at Marvin School that they really appreciate what TTD does, but you're the customers for the school, and that's only one. Person-to-Person is something else, so, again, Art, I know you made that motion there. I'd like to -- I would hope that some way we could work something out, because I hate to see Marvin School come before us and we can't do anything.

Acting Chairman Lyons said further discussion? Yes, ma'am?

Alicia Shallow said my question is if you used the \$15,000 previously to help different organizations, you have a list or total amount that you actually used, I mean some of these aren't just to Marvin School?

Ms. Amato-Mills said I can tell you the lists are, you know, exactly the amounts that went to different places or different -- I can tell you Marvin last year received \$4,400 -- they were all science based, or a conservation program, and sometimes you don't realize that a particular voice, that it's also not the cost of a program, but transportation, and we're a title one school, which means that 45% or more of our children live at or below the poverty level, so we show the paperwork, we even have testimonies for the students and the teachers in order to represent that to -- how their money is spent. Like I didn't vote or propose money. So it's all been --

Ms. Mann said the person got \$20,000.

Acting Chairman Lyons said further questions or comments on the amendment? Ms. Cece?

Ms. Cece said where did the money come from, what line item was it last year, if it's a new line item this year? Where did the funding come from last year?

Ms. Cece said but Person-to-Person is through an Electric Department directive. Okay. So so far we have \$4,000 we're talking about for the public school.

Acting Chairman Lyons said that's correct. Chairman Yost said but it should be coming out of the District. Ms. Cece said but it should be coming out of the District, the Person-to-Person or the public school? Chairman Yost said all that money, all the donations and like that. Ms. Cece said so and I would suggest that -- I assume this funding needs to come out of here and we need there needs to be better control over this, and that's perhaps all the organizations by January or December can put together their wish list. It's a very similar process of what happens in the City. I just came --

Chairman Yost said we have it in place now. Ms. Cece said okay, and have it available tonight for the Electors before we vote on whether to have this in here or not. I don't see it in the packet. I just came from a Finance Meeting at City Hall where the Director of Finance went over a pretty specific list of what those dollars are that they allocate from your tax dollars and if they can do it at City Hall in terms of all the rate money have, I think we can do it here at the Commission. Chairman Yost said we don't have it here today, but we can get that to you. Ms. Cece said so you have no idea tonight what the \$15,000 is for?

Chairman Yost said Jim? Where's Jim? Do you have any recollection of exactly what the number is?

Jim Smith said 15,000?

Chairman Yost said right.

Mr. Smith said a part of it was the Veteran's contribution, part of it flows -- the school donations. I'd have to go back and look, Charlie. Beyond those two I can't think of another.

Chairman Yost said Person-to-Person is in that number. Mr. Smith said there were a couple of others. Ms. Cece said are you talking about expenditures you already made or proposed expenditures that -- Chairman Yost said no, that's how we came up with that number from the past expenses that we've done. So we went -- we're bringing that together and so it's a line item there's still transparency, we summed all that into the one line item. Ms. Cece said but some of those things don't sound like repetitive funding, like veteran's thing, and I would suggest if you do have a number of things --

Chairman Yost said that was one that was not, you're right. Ms. Cece said okay. If you have a list tonight that in your reasonable expectation of what people are coming forward

and asking for a school, I would make a friendly amendment to fund that in lieu of the \$15,000, but it doesn't sound like you have that.

Commissioner Brown said we're asking for email addresses before you leave, if everybody would give us your email address, this information that you're looking for tonight will be emailed to you. Is that okay?

Acting Chairman Lyons said I'm going to call on our legal counsel for a moment.

Mr. Bove said I think the general consensus -- I think the general consensus is that everybody wants to be sure and I think that Ms. Cece's approach is probably what we're aiming for. We have certain constraints pursuant to the charter, so consequently we have a procedure based on the charter, and that would most likely -- and it's for the Electors ultimately to decide, specific charitable contributions. So I think that it is a process where we created this, the Electors approved this, and I think that procedure is the one we have to follow.

Acting Chairman Lyons said so we have a motion on the floor to delete this item. Are there any friendly amendments as to let's give 5,000 to Person-to-Person, let's give 5000 to Marvin and let's give 5,000 to veterans, or do you want to take it off? It's getting late. Everyone is tired. I'm with you 100%. I'm looking at your faces. Okay, seeing none, there's a motion on the floor. Does anybody want to make a motion? Does anybody want to make an amendment. Okay. Seeing none -- Jim?

Jim Anderson said he would like to make an amendment that 5,000 be allocated to Marvin Schools. Ms. Cece said for the purposes of? Acting chairman Lyons said this is your venue to do anything you want to do, Mike, so if you want to make an amendment and say you want to give 5,000 to Marvin PTO, you can do it. If you say you want to give 5,000 for science education only, you can do that too, so --

Mike Sweeney said he makes an amended motion to give 15,000 to the Third Taxing District Commission to allocate that as they see fit and make sure that -- I think we're splitting the action.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, so that's an amendment to -- you want to make an -- Mr. Sweeney said no, I think it would just be a vote. Acting Chairman Lyons said we already have a motion on the floor to remove the item, so are you making an amendment to put the item back on and give the \$15,000 to the District Commissioners to give out charitably? Mr. Sweeney said if he can do that, he would. If that's a friendly amendment, to go back to the original line. So my discussion was that I don't think we should get to specific allocations at this time.

Acting Chairman Lyons said okay. So the original amendment is on the floor to delete item 29 totally. There was a second. Is there further discussion? All in favor of deleting item line 29, which is Other District Services, put up your blue card signifying yes. Mr.

Scofield said 13. Acting Chairman Lyons said okay, all opposed to that amendment? Mr. Scofield said 14. Acting Chairman Lyons said amendment fails. We have the original motion on the floor, which is to approve the transfer from the Electric Department of \$295,006. It's been seconded. Any further discussion? Here's your last chance to say anything else. Okay, being no discussion, all in favor of approving the budget, raise your blue card. Mr. Scofield said 26. Acting Chairman Lyons said all opposed? Mr. Scofield said 2. Acting Chairman Lyons said any abstain? Motion passes. District Budget has been approved.

The next item of business is an adjournment. Do we have a motion? Mr. Sweeney moves. Lyons said second? Mr. Anderson seconds. Acting Chairman Lyons said all in favor? Thank you all very much. Democracy in action. Good job. Commissioner Goldstein said thank you, everyone.

(Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.)

## **12. ADJOURN**

Upon motion by Mr. Cuttner, seconded by Mr. Scialabba, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Pacchiana