

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT

of the City of Norwalk

Commission Meeting

October 3, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: David Brown, Chair; Charles Yost, Debora Goldstein
Treasurer: Dr. Michael Intrieri

STAFF: Jim Smith, General Manager; Ron Scofield, Assistant General Manager

PUBLIC: Diane Cece and Joseph Schnierlein

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Brown recognized Diane Cece and allowed her to come forward to speak to the Commission. Ms. Cece expressed her thoughts and ideas to the Commission with regard to the agenda items. One major point she made was she felt the Commission should be involved with the Walk Bridge project as it is impacting East Norwalk residents and would like to see them issue a position statement.

She also offered up a few suggestions with regard to the District Donation Policy, Marvin School donation, Christmas Tree Lighting and the Summer District Concerts.

Commissioner Goldstein addressed Ms. Cece's point on the Walk Bridge and stated that the Commission will be working on a public statement in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Yost addressed Ms. Cece's question about the Marvin School donation. He explained that this donation would be specifically for school supplies for families who could not afford them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO REMOVE THE ITEM EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM THE AGENDA.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FINAL

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO REMOVE THE ITEM, EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MINUTES OF MEETING

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 REGULAR MEETING.**

**** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

WALK BRIDGE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Yost introduced Mr. Joe Schnierlein, who has taken an interest in the Walk Bridge project as a resident of the City, not through his employment. Mr. Schnierlein reviewed his extensive background which includes chemical oceanographer, educator of science at Brien McMahon High School and currently with the Maritime Aquarium. He has also been involved with the Mayor's Water Quality Committee and the Shellfish Commission.

Mr. Schnierlein spoke about the detailed letter that he wrote and sent to the City's Council, State Representatives, Senators, federal level staff and the DOT. He received responses from approximately one-third. Their response was that they were "looking into it."

Commissioner Goldstein asked whether or not the channel straightening would have any environmental implications. Mr. Schnierlein replied that it would and would cause the banks along the channel to erode over time. He also explained a way to build the bridge so that it would allow for an additional clearance of up to 15 feet for the boats upstream. He continued to talk about the bridge and implications over time.

Commissioner Brown asked if Mr. Schnierlein would be willing to assist/oversee in the writing of the Commission's position statement. He said he would be happy to assist and that the Commission was welcome to use excerpts from his letter.

Commissioner Yost suggested that the Commission hold an East Norwalk Town Meeting and invite all pertinent politicians, the media and the public. The consensus was that the Commission should schedule a meeting for a planning session to discuss a Town Meeting, i.e., who to invite, agenda, date and what venue should be used. Mr. Schnierlein agreed to assist where he could with the process. Mr. Smith suggested that the Commission consider speaking with the Second Taxing District as well to get their position.

A Special Commission Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with the agenda item, District Public Forum on Walk Bridge Planning Meeting.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS/KEY PERFORMANCE

Mr. Smith stated that overall finances are in good shape for the first two months of the year. Net Income was down approximately \$45,000 from last year due to weather conditions. Expenses are up slightly due to CMEEC being up a couple of percent on the purchase power side. Contributions to Rate Stabilization is up \$26,000 over last year.

Mr. Smith pointed out that a new category under Cash Balances labeled Savings has been added. These funds are the result of the accelerated repayment from CyrusOne for the 20-year construction loan.

Principal Balance with CMEEC shows no change as the CMEEC statements were not available for updating this category.

Energy Conservation Fund Income (424-00) is up approximately \$12,000 over last year due to the energy conservation auctions that the State holds.

KPI's – Operating Ratio is high. Power Supply Expense Ratio is on target. Bad Debt Ratio and Electric Customers per Employee are coming down.

PCA – Starting to get into an over-collection position. Need to keep a watch on this and possibly adjust the fuel adjustment around the first of the year.

MARVIN SCHOOL DONATION

The reason behind the request for the Marvin School donation is that some of the families in the District are not able to afford all the school supplies that are required.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE A \$1,000 DONATION TO MARVIN SCHOOL SPECIFICALLY TO ASSIST WITH STUDENTS' SCHOOL SUPPLIES.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN OPPOSED.**

**** MOTION PASSED 2 TO 1.**

TTD POSITION ON RENEWABLES

Mr. Smith asked the Commission what their position is on renewable energy projects that are currently taking place and continue to “pop up” within the District. Commissioner Brown would like to see TTD selling their own solar to the ratepayers versus the net metering which is currently in place for rooftop solar. Mr. Smith indicated that a solar rate would need to be instituted in the future for these types of projects.

Commissioner Goldstein feels that TTD should be partnering with their residents/commercial accounts on these projects. After discussion with the Commission it appears that there are mixed positions on this subject or not enough knowledge at this time to take a position. Mr. Smith will provide more comprehensive information to the Commission on this subject over the next few months or so.

REVISION TO TTD PURCHASING POLICY

The Commission discussed the limits within the current TTD Purchasing Policy. Per Commissioner Yost’s request at the September 12, 2016 meeting, the raising of the limit to \$100,000 in Item #4 is too high. The Commission continued to review the policy and determined new limits in Items #1 through #4.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED THAT THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES BE CHANGED TO THE PURCHASING POLICY AS FOLLOWS: ITEM #1 - \$0 TO \$10,000; ITEM #2 - \$10,001 TO \$20,000; ITEM #3 - \$20,001 TO \$50,000; AND ITEM #4 - \$50,001 OR MORE.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN OPPOSED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED 2 TO 1.**

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ELIMINATE ITEM #8 AND RENUMBER ITEM #9 TO #8 AND ITEM #10 TO #9.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO CORRECT THE TYPO ON PAGE 1 IN THE TITLE.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion continued with Item #6 and warrants further clarification. Mr. Smith will prepare a draft rewording of the item and present it to the Commission at the October 17, 2016 meeting for their review and possible approval.

DISCUSSION OF CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Mr. Scofield talked to the Commission about the upcoming Christmas Tree Lighting to take place in December. He reviewed some of the highlights and asked the Commission what they would like to do. Tim Currie was selected as the band of choice. Suggestion for the Invocation was St. Thomas Parish.

Mr. Scofield made a suggestion to change the date to the first Sunday of the month, December 4, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The Commission agreed provided it did not overlap with any other City tree lightings. The rain date was set for Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Goldstein suggested in addition to holding the annual food and toy drive, that perhaps we could ask the library if they would like to hold a book sale to help raise funds for the library. Commissioner Brown is not in favor of the book drive. Commissioner Goldstein also suggested a school supply drive for Marvin School as well, but it was this was not the appropriate time to do this.

The Commission and Treasurer agreed to keep their current roles in the program.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Status of 6/30/16 Financial Audit

Mr. Smith informed the Commission that he had received the Library Audit on time. The audit is on track and should be complete by mid to late October.

Public Power Week Activities

Mr. Smith informed the Commission of the two activities that TTD was participating in for Public Power Week. The first is a give-away of a 2-pack of 60-watt LED light bulbs for the first 100 ratepayers from Wed., 10/5 to Fri., 10/7.

The second activity will be an interactive demonstration to Marvin School on Fri., 10/7 on how power lines transmit electricity to residences and businesses in the community. Mike Adams and some of the TTD crew will be leading the activity.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Radio Read Meters – Commissioner Goldstein asked if TTD has depleted the meters that were purchased from Jewett City and Mr. Smith had responded, yes.

FINAL

Frontier Pole Rental Agreement – Mr. Smith said that Frontier has rejected the offer to buyout their share of the poles in the service territory. They have agreed to address TTD’s response issues on pole change-overs and provide expedited assistance on all service and joint pole issues and requests moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District