

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
of the City of Norwalk
Commission Meeting
May 2, 2016

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

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

OTHERS: Michael Cassella (CMEEC)
Marvin PTO: Leia Hamilton, Marissa Mangone and Sarah Amato-Mills
Tim Currie

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tim Currie, 974 Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT – Stated he was at the meeting to talk about the first concert of the upcoming season to be held on June 26, 2016. He explained that his intention for the concert would have a title of “Political Harmony” and that he was currently recording John Lennon’s, “All You Need is Love” for the concert. His plan is to create a video about the upcoming concert in order to get the word out. 95.9 (rock station) has agreed to assist in promoting the event and will be attending the concert. Mr. Currie is also planning on sending the video out to a few of the TV news stations to see if they pick it up. He would like to stream the video live around the world the day of the concert and anyone who logs on would receive a “free” copy of “All You Need Is Love” performed by the band. He is requesting the support of the Commission to do this.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ADD AN AGENDA ITEM – TIM CURRIE CONCERT OF JUNE 26, 2016.**

**** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL MADE BY MR. CURRIE FOR THE JUNE 26, 2016 CONCERT EVENT THAT WILL INCLUDE LIVE STREAMING AND ANY OTHER PARTICIPATION THE CITY CHOOSES TO INCLUDE.**

**** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MINUTES OF MEETING – APRIL 18, 2016

- ** COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2016.**
- ** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**
- ** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN ABSTAINED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED.**

MARVIN SCHOOL PTO DONATION REQUEST

Leia Hamilton thanked the Commission for all their past support to the Marvin School PTO. She explained to the Commission that she researched other programs that would be more in line with energy conservation for the Kindergarten class, but was not able to come up with any different programs and therefore, there were no changes made in the request. For now, they need to follow the standards they have. She also mentioned that in the future, the standards will be changing and should be more in line with the criteria for requesting a donation.

She addressed a past question from Commission Goldstein with regard to the Maritime Center charging for the program. Ms. Hamilton said she spoke to the Maritime Center and they do not offer any free programs, but the school could apply for financial aid. The only “free” offer is for Norwalk residents on Friday.

Commissioner Yost was in favor of supporting all the programs and donating the full \$5,000 to the school. Commissioner Brown was still against the programs for the Kindergarten class and feels they should be removed from the donation request.

- ** COMMISSIONER YOST MOTIONED TO DONATE \$5,000 TO THE MARVIN PTO.**
- ** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN AMENDED THE MOTION TO REMOVE \$1,160 FOR THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.**
- ** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION.**
- ** COMMISSIONER YOST OPPOSED.**
- ** THE AMENDED MOTION PASSED 2 TO 1 TO DONATE \$3,840 TO THE MARVIN PTO.**

NORWALK TREE ALLIANCE

The Commission reviewed the request from the Norwalk Tree Alliance in the amount of \$2,500 for trees within the District.

- ** COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE NORWALK TREE ALLIANCE REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.**
- ** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**

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**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO AMEND THE REQUEST TO \$2,000.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED THE AMENDMENT.**

**** THE AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CMEEC UPDATE ON ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Michael Cassella (CMEEC), who has been helping TTD with these activities over the past years and is now working in conjunction with Cynthia Tenney (TTD). Mr. Michael Cassella presented to the Commission an update on all the current programs under CMEEC which includes rebates/incentives, HES Audits, solar installation, the solar farm program and commercial building retrofits.

There are currently four rebate programs being offered: Cool Choice (both residential and commercial), Attic Insulation Rebate and Heat Pump Hot Water Heater. Mr. Cassella reviewed each program and what they entail. The rebate funds are paid out of the fund balances of TTD's three accounts (Conservation & Load Management [C&LM], Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative [RGGI] and Regional Renewable Investment Fund [RRIF]) through CMEEC.

Home Energy Savings (HES) – A very popular and well-received program. Technicians go out to the homes and conduct testing for energy efficiency and identify any air leaks within the home. Technicians will pressurize the house to check for these leaks. In turn, they will apply caulk and weather stripping where needed. They will also install LED's light bulbs. A HES audit can take anywhere from 3 to 4 hours.

Solar PV's – TTD has approximately 10 customers in the District who have Solar PV systems installed. In terms of investment, Solar PV doesn't make much sense, as it can take up to 30 years for a payback on the system. Mr. Cassella presented a list of questions that customers should ask the solar vendor before proceeding. In most cases, the answers will reveal that it does not make any sense to install solar at this point in time.

Solar Share – CMEEC has taken the initiative to install 15 mega-watt solar farms at several sites in Connecticut as part of their overall power portfolio. This program will replace the current Green Choice Program that is currently in place. Customers can sign up for this program at a premium price of one cent per kWh.

Pending Projects – Cynthia Tenney reviewed and provided current status of approximately 10 projects taking place within the District including lighting retrofits, solar installation and refrigeration.

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Funds at CMEEC – Mr. Cassella reviewed the funds in the different accounts (C&LM, RGGI and RRIF) at CMEEC. Since the inception of the programs, TTD has spent \$369,785 on various C&LM initiatives.

GRANATA SIGNAGE PROPOSAL

Discussion took place at Commissioner Brown's request to revisit the issue of signs in the District – repair and repaint of signs in Roger Ludlow Park and at Hanford Switch and replacement of the sign in Constitution Park. Commissioner Brown said since the State/Metro North will be doing work around Constitution Park, it makes no sense at this time to replace the sign. He would, however, like to get the other two signs repaired/repainted. The estimate provided by Granata Sign Co. was reviewed.

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO ACCEPT GRANATA SIGN CO.'S ESTIMATE #E607 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,530.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Scofield will follow-up with Granata Sign Co. to have the work completed.

ALEX KNOPP/ALEX COHEN CONTACT

Commissioner Brown confirmed with Commissioner Yost if Commissioner Yost had reached out to Mr. Knopp to give him contact information on Alex Cohen and gave permission for Mr. Knopp to contact Mr. Cohen with regard to the Library Master Plan. Commissioner Yost confirmed that he had done so.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Update on Cost of Service/Rates – Mr. Smith has been in touch with Dawn Lund from UFS. He is expecting the update to the 2013 rate study within the next two weeks and will be able to report back to the Commission within the next 30 days.

Dr. Intrieri – Dr. Intrieri expressed his concerns about the environment of the Commission of late. He is not sure of the value of his input to the Commission and is feeling frustrated. He realizes he has no voting power. He referenced the situation about the concert schedule and that while it was fine for him to give his input in the past, this year it was not. The result was that another band was added to the schedule. This evening, when Marvin School PTO requested funds for their programs, the difference of funds they were requesting was \$1,160, which would be for the children at Marvin School. When he sees that a band can be added to make everyone happy with the concert series, but yet the school is denied, he feels his input is not valuable. He doesn't believe he's going to be spending as much time attending meetings in the future, because

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he doesn't feel he's valued. He said he only wanted to express his feelings to the Commission. He believes in TTD. He remembers Commission Brown saying that this is the best Board since he's been around for 19 years. Now, Dr. Intriери questions it. He said at the last meeting when Commissioner Brown had to look at Mr. Smith and say "I'm not so sure if I can trust you." He said, "you know what people, we need to look at ourselves." Tim Currie came to the meeting and talked about all we need is love, I believe people have certain agendas here. We can accommodate one thing, but then you attach the same level of importance when Dr. Intriери speaks out about the programs. "You guys are the Commissioners, you have to do what you want." He thanked them for their time and for allowing him to speak his feelings. At this time, Dr. Intriери departed the meeting.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ADD AN AGENDA ITEM UNDER GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TITLED LEGISLATIVE VISIT TO D.C.**

**** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Legislative Visit to D.C. – Commissioner Goldstein handed out a summarized report of her recent visit to D.C. She explained that CMEEC chose to attend the March Rally on behalf of the membership and to schedule a separate trip in April which would focus exclusively on their concerns, at a time when the Congress was in session. Timing was good because the House had recently passed a comprehensive energy bill and the Senate was scheduled to vote on its version of the energy bill the day they were there. This allowed them to present concepts for further discussion once the two versions of the bill went to reconciliation.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS/KEY PERFORMANCE

Mr. Smith said on a cash basis the Net Income is very strong due to the Rate Stabilization contribution. Net Income on a cash basis is at \$754,560. On an accrual basis, we are up about \$52,000 year-to-date. Total Expense is approximately \$197,000 higher than Total Revenues due to Cervalis underperforming, which hurts the revenue side. Other contributing factors are higher legal expenses due to the Maplewood and Schiatano legal claims.

Cash balances are strong and the outstanding principal balance with CMEEC continues to come down.

KPI's – Operating Ratio is still a bit high, but continues to go down. Power Supply Expense Ratio is on target. Bad Debt is still higher than normal due to the last month of the winter moratorium. This number should go down as residential shutoffs begin in April/May. Electric Customers per Employee will go up in the summer as one of our employees will be retiring in July. System Load Factor is coming up and will continue to come up due to the projected increase in Cervalis loads.

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PCA – Is still a little under-collected by \$11,000. Mr. Smith indicated that it should be a positive number for the April 2016 report and a decision would need to be made whether or not to adjust it accordingly.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Succession Planning – Commissioner Brown asked why a new lineman is scheduled to be hired the second half of the year and why isn't it a substation employee to replace Pete Johnson. Mr. Smith said we didn't need a substation employee, as Scott Tracy is the replacement for Pete Johnson. The Lineman is in preparation for the possible retirement of Bill Ruedeman. It's still pending.

Radio-Read Meter Upgrade – Commissioner Brown questioned why the Status indicated 47% completion versus 51% listed under the Comments. This was just an error. The correct number is 51%.

I/T System Modifications – Commissioner Brown questioned the second bullet under the Comments about Cogsdale performing upgrade requests. Mr. Smith said this is for changes in the billing system.

Maplewood – Commissioner Brown asked how Mr. Smith would communicate the result that will be reached on May 4, 2016 with regard the PURA decision. Mr. Smith said he will send an email out to the Commission informing them of the decision.

Upgrade Fuel Tanks – Commissioner Brown asked about the tanks being at the end of their useful life. Mr. Smith said the tanks are about 10 years beyond their useful life and will be replaced within the next month or two. Commissioner Brown also where will the trucks fill up their tanks when the existing fuel runs out. Mr. Smith said that an account has been set up at the local Mobil station on Winfield Street to handle this until the tanks are replaced.

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ADD AN AGENDA ITEM TO HOLD A CHAIRMAN VOTE.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED.**

There was discussion about the Chairman's seat and how often and when the Chairman should be replaced. It was suggested that it should normally be on the Wednesday following election day, but did not happen in November 2015. Considerable discussion took place about changing the Chairman during mid-term. As part of this discussion, Commissioner Yost suggested that he be able to continue as Chairman until the end of his term.

Commissioner Yost raised the issue of term limits. This issue will be addressed in the future as part of a more general discussion regarding the TTD Charter.

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**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO MAKE COMMISSIONER DAVID BROWN THE NEW CHAIRMAN THROUGH THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING ELECTION DAY IN 2017.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** COMMISSIONER YOST OPPOSED.**

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

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER GOLSTEIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District