

FINAL

**CITY OF NORWALK
THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Timothy Plunkett, Chair; David Brown; Paul Kokias

STAFF: George Leary, General Manager; Ron Scofield, Assistant District Manager

OTHERS: Connie DiScala, Treasurer; John Bove, District Counsel; Joe Cristino; Peter Johnson

Mr. Plunkett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

MINUTES OF MEETING – May 3, 2010

**** MR. BROWN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2010 AS PRESENTED
** MR. KOKIAS SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Leary reviewed his written report. He explained that there are issues with staffing in the office, because one person is out. The original injury was sustained while on a cruise, but the employee claims that they fell and re-injured themselves in the office. This employee was offered light duty and other accommodations, but refused.

Mr. Leary said that he was concerned about providing customer service and requested authorization to allow the rest of the staff to work overtime to do the administrative work. Mr. Kokias suggested that this could wait another month. If this employee is not back in 30 days, they will revisit this request. Mr. Plunkett agreed.

Mr. Leary said that it is not clear if non-union staff are supposed to contribute to their health insurance. Mr. Plunkett said that they should work under the existing contract.

FINAL

Mr. Leary discussed tree trimming in the District. Mr. Plunkett said that they need bids for the work. Mr. Leary agreed to put the job out to bid and will provide those bids at the next meeting.

Mr. Leary reviewed the financials. In response to Mr. Kokias' question about the loss in interest income, Mr. Leary said that he will provide that information at the next meeting.

COGSDALE ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER PROPOSAL

Mr. Leary reviewed the item and said that several things have changed since the last discussion. He said that the quote was up to date.

**** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED THAT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INCREASE EFFICIENCY TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COGSDALE PROPOSAL OF JANUARY 7, 2010 FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$10,980. IN ADDITION HE MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF MR. SCOFIELD TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VERASERVE TO ACT AS GATEWAY TO TRANSFER FUNDS ELECTRONICALLY**

**** MR. KOKIAS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

FIREHOUSE DECK

Mr. Bove suggested that the Building Department inspect the deck.

Mr. Plunkett and Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 8:18 p.m. to inspect the deck.

They returned to the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Plunkett recommended replacing the entire deck. Mr. Plunkett said that he will call Mr. Ireland at the Building Department to find out what is needed to replace the deck.

TRANSFORMER INSURANCE SETTLEMENT

Mr. Cristino explained that this item went to bid to three companies. The transformer has been on East Avenue for almost a year. One company responded that they needed \$4,000 to perform an evaluation. Mr. Leary said that if they do not go that route, the junk dealer would give them something for the transformer.

FINAL

Mr. Cristino said that they did not receive bids from LaJoie or Shavonne.

**** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO APPROVE SPENDING \$4,000 TO INVESTIGATE THE INSURANCE CLAIM OF THE OLD T2 TRANSFORMER**

**** MR. KOKIAS SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

STORM OF MARCH 13, 2010 AND EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Leary distributed copies of the emergency plan.

Mr. Kokias said that he needed to address some issues regarding the response to the March 13th storm. He said that from a commissioners point of view, the procedures failed. None of the emergency procedures that were supposed to happen, happened.

Mr. Kokias said that a big issue was that all of the employees were supposed to be present during an emergency. None of the accommodations, according to the plan, for the employees who worked were available. In addition, for safety reasons, employees were not supposed to work over 16 hours at a time. He said that no one worked less than 16 hours, which resulted in them being paid double time for the next day's work.

Mr. Kokias said that the District had to call SNEW and a company from MA to help which resulted in a \$30 - \$40,000 bill. He said that with extra help, that bill would have been less.

Mr. Kokias asked why this happened and why are new emergency plans being written. He said that from what he saw, it is the same plan. He said that the plan was not the problem; it was the people managing the plan. Mr. Kokias said that another major criticism is that the line people did not understand the obligation to tell people, within reason, when the power would be restored.

Mr. Brown said that he did not know of any deficiencies. He noted that there has never been an emergency like this. He added that for those people who were away, planes were not permitted to land. Mr. Brown told Mr. Kokias that as far as he was concerned, he could be making this up. Mr. Kokias said that every single issue he brought up was legitimate. Mr. Plunkett said that he would like to give Mr. Leary a chance to respond.

Mr. Leary said that the emergency plan was written in October 2003 and they never had to use it. He said that the bottom line was that the plan was not followed and it should have been. Mr. Leary said that it was not until Mr. Scofield came in and asked why the plan was not being followed. He said that the plan was written with this type of

FINAL

emergency in mind. Mr. Leary said that they should have followed the plan and that they would have if he had been here. He said that he was in Phoenix, but was on the phone with them a lot.

Mr. Leary said that it seemed to him that the staff was following the plan. He said that if he was here, he could have gone out into the field to provide information to the customers. Linemen are bad at providing information because they do not want to provide wrong information. He said that they can ballpark an estimated time. He said that they are not unwilling, but they feel that they are unable.

Mr. Plunkett asked Mr. Leary if it had crossed his mind to come back. Mr. Leary said that it did, but by the time he would have gotten back, the emergency would have been over. Mr. Kokias said that the storm went through Thursday. Mr. Leary said that the longest anyone was without service was three days.

Mr. Leary said that when he returned from Phoenix he wanted to have a blackboard session, but that did not happen. Mr. Kokias said that he told Mr. Leary not to have it. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Kokias if he thought that the power would have been back in one day if the plan was followed. Mr. Kokias said that as a commission they are obliged to hold the staff responsible; they did not do it from the top.

Mr. Brown said that if the plan was followed, or it was not followed is inconsequential. Mr. Plunkett said that it was not inconsequential; it cost the District over \$88,000.

Ms. DiScala said that she did not lose electricity. Mr. Leary said that Strawberry Hill Avenue was bad.

Mr. Leary said that the plan calls for the staff to go into rotation after 48 hours; he said that it now says 36 hours. If the plan was followed, they could have worked 48 hours. Mr. Leary said that they can't send people home when there are live wires coming down. Mr. Leary said that Sundays are always paid at double time.

Mr. Kokias said that people stayed past the 16 hour mark and then clocked out. Mr. Leary said that he told people to get off the streets on Saturday night because it was dangerous. He said that CL&P also pulled their people from the street.

Mr. Scofield said that communication in the field is a problem and has to be solved. There was one person trying to coordinate people while trying to restore power. Mr. Kokias said that they have a responsibility to the customers.

FINAL

Mr. Leary said that SNEW came a day later than they said. Sterling also came a day late. It was not easy in the trenches and you do what you can with what you have.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Leary if the power would have been restored sooner if he had been here. Mr. Leary said that it would not have been restored sooner, but he would have been able to communicate better to the customers.

Mr. Kokias said that he now feels better with Mr. Leary moving forward with a blackboard session to review the emergency plan with the employees.

Mr. Kokias said that he takes full responsibility that he chooses to be hands on. He said that he would like to shoot for 100% knowledge of everything.

NORDEN GENERATORS

Mr. Leary explained that there is a proposal in the meeting packet from Planning & Zoning. This item will be heard tomorrow night and he encouraged anyone who can to attend. The issue is that the site is within 50 feet of a wetland.

Mr. Leary distributed and reviewed the Norden generator pro forma which covered four years of revenues and expenses.

Ms. DiScala left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Leary explained the agreement with CL&P.

**** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SIGN THE LETTER AGREEMENT DATED JUNE 3, 2010 BETWEEN CMEEC TTD AND CL&P WHICH EXTENDS THE DEADLINE DATES IN THE THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE NORDEN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

**** MR. BROWN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

SUBSTATION SITE

Mr. Bove said that they are dealing with a property that is a residential site. There do not appear to be any glaring problems and he said that he would not feel comfortable commissioning a Phase II at the cost of \$25,000.

Mr. Leary said that the decision is if the Commission wants to hire J. Seaman and how much site work they want done. All of the trees have to be removed, except for one

FINAL

decorative tree. He said that he wants to put in grass, which would mean installing a sprinkler system. Mr. Kokias said that he did not see the need for a sprinkler system. Mr. Plunkett told Mr. Leary that he has to be sure that they are permitted to remove trees. Mr. Leary said that it is permitted because they are on private property. Mr. Leary suggested installing fencing on the property.

The Commission agreed to hire J. Seaman as the demolition contractor. In addition they agreed to remove the sprinkler system and water meter from the proposal.

The Commissioners reviewed a comparison showing the costs of building their own sub-station and building one with SNEW.

Mr. Plunkett said that when this Commission is charged with a forever entity they need to look forward. Mr. Leary said that the transformers are old. He said that he would like to do a study to determine the best way to integrate the new substation into the system at a cost of less than \$20,000.

Mr. Plunkett suggested authorizing J. Seaman to pull the permit. Mr. Leary said that he has already started. Mr. Leary said that they have to talk to the neighbors; there is one hostile neighbor. Mr. Leary suggested talking to the Priest at St. Thomas to help with relations with the neighbors.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item refers to Mr. Leary's contract and will be discussed at a meeting on Monday, June 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the office.

ADJOURN

**** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MR. BROWN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services