

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
of the City of Norwalk
Special Commission Meeting
September 27, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners: David Brown, Chair; Debora Goldstein

STAFF: Ron Scofield, Interim General Manager;

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brown asked Commissioner Goldstein to open the meeting on his behalf. Commissioner Goldstein called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public was in attendance to comment.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DECISION AUTHORIZING CORPORATE
COUNSEL TO RETAIN ADDITIONAL COUNSEL**

Commissioner Goldstein stated that when TTD retained District Counsel on June 19, 2017, the Resolution read as follows: Commissioner Brown moved to select Attorney Steve Studer as the new District Attorney and authorize Jim Smith, General Manager, to contact Atty. Studer and negotiate his rate. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Goldstein and passed unanimously.

Subsequent to that General Manager, Jim Smith, did contact Atty. Studer and discussed hourly rates. At the time, it escaped the notice of all concerned that the way the motion was written it was not typically the way you would retain a law firm such as Berchem Moses to be District Counsel. You typically retain the firm and then appoint an individual at the firm to become District Counsel and he/she becomes the lead attorney for your account. It was noted that Berchem Moses is currently performing legal work in the HR area under the direction of Atty. Chris Hodgson, so each of them would function as lead attorneys for TTD.

FINAL

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED THAT TTD SELECT THE FIRM BERCHEM MOSES AS DISTRICT COUNSEL AND APPOINT ATTORNEY STEVE STUDER FROM BERCHEM MOSES AS THE LEAD COUNSEL AT THAT FIRM AND AS OUR DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO WILL ATTEND MEETINGS AT THE PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED RATE AND UNDER THE RETAINER CONTRACT THAT TTD PREVIOUSLY SIGNED.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED THAT THE DISTRICT IS EXPLICITLY AUTHORIZING STEVE STUDER AS THE LEAD ATTORNEY AT BERCHEM MOSES AND AS TTD'S DISTRICT COUNSEL BE ABLE TO RETAIN ATTORNEYS WITHIN HIS OWN FIRM FOR THE PURPOSES OF ASSISTING THE DISTRICT WITH THEIR LEGAL BUSINESS.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District