

FINAL

THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
of the City of Norwalk
November 6, 2014

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

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

OTHERS: Will Redden (CMEEC), Michael Imbrogno (Benefit Planning)

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public present to comment at this time.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO HAVE AGENDA ITEMS #4 AND #5 BE MOVED TO AGENDA ITEM #2 AND #3 SO THAT CMEEC STAFF COULD GET BACK ON THE ROAD EARLY.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REVIEW OF WINTER MARKET CONDITIONS

Will Redden, a representative from CMEEC, was in attendance to go over the current winter market conditions. It is expected that our area will experience a warmer than average winter compared to last year. Currently, TTD is hedged at 94% for January and 96% for February of our projected loads at a price of \$65.50/MWh. It is anticipated that additional hedges will be purchased which will bring the number over 100%.

Dr. Intrieri asked if there were any safeguards for any unexpected severe weather. Mr. Redden stated that the additional hedges will cushion this in case of a more severe winter than anticipated.

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SOLAR PRESENTATION

Will Redden gave a presentation on Renewable Energy Integration. He talked about the advantages and disadvantages of retail solar. Some advantages include real time energy, potential transmission cost reduction and potential generation cost reduction.

He then continued his presentation about the Community Solar Gardens that are beginning to be put in place. The garden is being built on “brown field” sites and need to be at least 2 acres in size. The solar garden contains ground-mounted panels. Currently, there are 4 locations within Norwich, Groton and Jewett City which are being developed.

Commissioner Goldstein suggested that they look into the Manresa property as a possibility for one of the gardens.

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting

The following changes were noted:

Page 1: Correct the spelling of “Hendrick” to “Hedrick”.

Page 3: Last line on the page – change the word “Arborist” to “Landscape Architect.”

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2014 REGULAR MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2014 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

October 28, 2014 Special Meeting

The following change was noted:

Page 2: Under Executive Session, Dr. Intrieri should be added to the attendees.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2014 SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (YOST AND BROWN) AND ONE ABSTENTION (GOLDSTEIN).**

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mike Imbrogno (Benefit Planning) presented the final recommendations to the Commission for the renewal of the health insurance. The recommendation was to stay with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield's Anthem Preferred DirectAccess plan. The recommended plan will have an increase of approximately 11% over last year and is a close match to the current plan. Mr. Smith then explained that he thought this would be the best choice as there would be no disruption in service, no negative goodwill and will maintain continuity for the employees.

Commissioner Goldstein questioned why the existing plan needed to be transitioned. Mike Imbrogno stated the existing plan was not compliant with the ACA.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD GOLD PLAN WITH THE \$1000/\$2000 DEDUCTIBLE AS RECOMMENDED BY OUR HEALTH CARE CONSULTANT AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE 2015 ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR AN APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OF 11% AND AN ANNUAL RATE OF APPROXIMATELY \$224,540.88.**

**** COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Annual Operating Budget – 1st Quarter Results

Mr. Smith presented results of actual 1st quarter operations as compared to the 2014/15 Operating Budget. The report has been set up to mirror the Operating Budget, showing each line item for comparison. Overall, TTD is on track with their budget from an overall category standpoint. Mr. Smith then went over some of the individual expense line items which appear to be significantly higher or lower than the 25% benchmark.

One very significant item was #923-45-Engineering. This is due to the SCADA project related to the Fitch Street sub-station. Dr. Intriери asked if there was anything that could be done to control this. Mr. Smith indicated that there are certain obligations (federal) that has caused this number to be so high and unfortunately this particular account was under budgeted when the budget was initially prepared.

Commission Yost asked if the report could include a comparison to the spending in the prior year (2013). Mr. Smith replied that they would ask the accountant to add a column for the prior year.

Interconnection

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Mr. Smith informed the Commission that TTD now has Interconnection Applications and Agreements in place for Tier 1 (10kW or less) and Tier 2 (10kW or greater) renewable generation projects. One example is the TTD customer at 9 Moore Place, who is just finishing up installing a Tier 2 installation.

Commission Goldstein asked/suggested that publicity be put in place with the current customers that have installed or are going to install solar into their homes. It could be used as a selling tool for future installations.

Discussion continued with regard to pricing and Commission Yost suggested that Mr. Smith have a conversation with Dawn Lund from UFS on this issue and report back to the Commission.

Holiday Party/Holiday Luncheon

Mr. Smith asked if the Commission would like to once again have a Holiday Party for all of the employees/spouses similar to last year. Commissioner Yost replied "yes". Mr. Smith asked the Commission if they would provide some dates that would work for them.

Mr. Smith then spoke about the Holiday Luncheon which is held at the TTD offices during the holiday season for the employees only. Over the next couple of days, Mr. Smith will come up with some available dates and let the Commission know.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Mr. Scofield informed the Commission that Tim Currie's Motown Band had accepted to play at the tree lighting for the budgeted amount. Tim Currie has already given Mr. Scofield the songs they are planning on performing that night. He also indicated that Marvin School was on board and will perform two songs.

The next step is for Mr. Scofield to do a draft program and send it out to the Commission by November 12th/13th. The Commission should then review the program, decide on what part of the program they wish to partake in (if any) and let Mr. Scofield know by no later than November 18th.

2015 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2015 Commission Meeting schedule was presented at the October 6, 2014 meeting, but no formal vote was taken that night to accept the schedule. Therefore, the Commission was asked to make the motion to accept the final schedule as presented.

**** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2015 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER 6, 2014 MEETING.**

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- ** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

SIGNAGE

- ** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO APRIL 2015.**
- ** COMMISSIONER YOST SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS/KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Mr. Smith reviewed the September financials with the Commission and informed them that September was not very good. This was due to the fact that sales were down and costs were up. It was also a residual effect of July and August. Discussion ensued and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Cervalis – Mr. Smith was a bit disappointed with how things netted out with Cervalis. It appears that they over-promised and under delivered in terms of customer load and did not ramp up as quickly as expected. They have indicated that they are in the hope of bringing on a new customer which should help turn things in a more positive direction.

Maplewood – There is no new activity on this. Maplewood appeared on the shut-off list, but Mr. Scofield has taken them off. They are still in arrears with their security deposit in the amount of \$24,400. Their current bill is approximately \$14,000.

Commissioner Goldstein asked if it's possible to put a lien on their property. Mr. Scofield indicated that it can be done, but Mr. Smith felt that this suggestion should be brought to Atty. John Bove to make the decision. Mr. Smith said that he is trying to find a different way to handle the situation, possibly going directly to the owner. It was suggested that the next step be to send a registered letter to the owner and copy the owner's attorney. Mr. Smith will speak to Atty. Bove about getting such a letter written and sent.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** COMMISSIONER GOLDSTEIN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney
Executive Assistant
Third Taxing District