

FINAL

**CITY OF NORWALK
THIRD TAXING DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011
2 SECOND STREET**

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

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

OTHERS: John Bove, District Counsel; Connie DiScala, Treasurer; Cathy Cray, Sarah Mann, Stanley Siegel, East Norwalk Library Board; Christopher Hodgson, Labor Counsel; Michael Imbrogno, Benefit Planning Services

Mr. Plunkett called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present this evening and wishing to speak.

MINUTES OF MEETING – December 14, 2010

Mr. Brown requested that the following be included in the minutes under the discussion about the Marvin School PTO.

Part 4. Third Taxing District EN

§ 1-114. Body politic and corporate; rights in general.

All the electors of this stat dwelling within the territorial limits of the Third Taxing District as hereinbefore established are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the Third Taxing District of the City of Norwalk and by that name shall be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, purchasing, holding, selling and conveying any property, real or personal and having a common seal and as such corporation shall succeed to and posses all property, both real and personal, of the East Norwalk Fire District of said Town of Norwalk, and all the rights, powers, franchises, privileges, and immunities heretofore granted to said East Norwalk Fire District in relation to the construction of electric light works and the generation and purchase of

electricity for the use of said district and the inhabitants thereof, and the erection, placing and maintenance of poles, wires and all other necessary fixtures within said district for receiving and distributing electricity, and the same are hereby vested in said third Taxing District, and said third Taxing District is hereby authorized to manage, operate, and control its electric light works with the same authority, rights and liabilities, and in the same manner as said East Norwalk Fire District and except as herein otherwise provided, to care for, maintain and keep in repair, all estate, both real and personal, which said district may acquire, to sell and convey any of said property, any indebtedness of said district. The district shall pay one hundred dollars (\$100) or more yearly toward the support of the East Norwalk Improvement Association Incorporate, Public Library. (Sp. Laws 1913, No. 352, §34; Sp Laws 1921, No. 189, §3.) §1-115. Taxation liability.

All the inhabitants and property within the limits of the third Taxing District shall be liable to taxation to defray any burdens, expenses, and liabilities of the former East Norwalk Fire District at the time of the passage of this act and such other liabilities as said taxing district may incur under the provisions of this act. (Sp. Laws 1913, No. 352, §35.)

- ** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED
- ** MR. BROWN SECONDED
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mr. Leary explained that the health insurance policy is due for renewal. Mr. Brown asked why Mr. Hodgson was present. Mr. Plunkett said that he was here because of the Union aspect of the health insurance changes.

Mr. Imbrogno explained the two options: Oxford or ConnectiCare. Mr. Hodgson said that he met with the Union and believes they will be in agreement to move forward with Oxford. He said that he would discuss this further in Executive Session. He said that compared to other plans, this one did not go up a lot. Mr. Kokias asked if it was possible to re-open bargaining because he wants to save the ratepayers where ever possible.

Mr. Hodgson said that they are trying to work to find the least expensive medical plan; however, changing the employee contribution would be subject to bargaining. The contract is set and there is no way to re-open that unless there is a significant change to

FINAL

the health insurance. Mr. Brown said that if they ask for something from the Union, the Union will ask for something from them.

- ** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE 2011 PROPOSED HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED**
- ** MR. KOKIAS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION

Ms. Mann explained that the East Norwalk Library was 98% in compliance. The two issues were rectified immediately. They expect to be 100% in compliance with the auditors next year.

Mr. Siegel distributed their proposed FY 2012 budget. He said that they are asking for \$12,000 over last years' request because they are getting more residents using the Library. He said that they are making an effort to raise funds over and above their request. They have also received in-kind services.

Mr. Leary explained that there is one more meeting before the Annual Meeting. He distributed and reviewed the budget recommendation. Mr. Brown pointed out that the Library should become a member of the City/State Library Association so that they will be eligible for grant funding. Mr. Leary said that they felt it was too expensive to join. Mr. Plunkett asked Mr. Brown to discuss this with Mr. Siegel.

The Commissioners discussed the proposed budget and will e-mail any questions to Mr. Leary.

Mr. Leary said that regarding the capital improvement fund they are getting more interest but loosing on investments. The money is invested for 2-3 years at the longest.

MARVIN SCHOOL PTO PROPOSAL

Mr. Bove said that in reviewing the Charter he did not think it provided the Commission of the Third Taxing District to make contributions; however, CMEEC expanded the definition of their use of funds to include educational programs. The district has the right and ability to petition CMEEC for funding for educational programs within their district. Mr. Bove said that the Marvin School request seems to fit within their guidelines.

FINAL

Mr. Brown said that this is a very noble cause, but he still feels that this should go before the residents at the annual meeting because it is coming out of the residents' bills. Mr. Bove said that this is an avenue that is designed for this use. The funding is set up for conservation and educational purposes.

Mr. Plunkett said that this is the same as spending money for the Christmas tree lighting or the electric bulb program. He added that \$27,000 was spent on one individual house to get it off the grid and that benefits one person; this would benefit a lot of students. Mr. Kokias said that this is a great investment in educating the children for a better future.

- ** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO APPROVE AND REFER TO CMEEC THE REQUEST FROM THE MARVIN SCHOOL PTO DATED DECEMBER 2, 2010 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,460**
- ** MR. KOKIAS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. BROWN)**

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING REVIEW

Mr. Brown suggested changing the lighting for Santa. Mr. Scofield said that they received a lot of positive comments about the new tree. It was suggested that the musical group begin performing as people arrive. It was also suggested the each person write their name on a piece of paper and the family name drawn will light the Christmas tree.

REPLACEMENT OF RADIX METER READING COMPUTERS

Mr. Leary reported that the meter reading computers are 10 years old and can no longer be fixed. Mr. Plunkett asked if there is a significant savings if they choose another brand. Mr. Leary said that he would have to investigate. After further discussion, the decision was made to purchase the units.

- ** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) RADIX METER READING COMPUTERS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$11,290 PLUS ANY APPLICABLE SHIPPING FEES AND TO REVIEW THE NECESSITY OF A MONTHLY MAINTENANCE FEE AND TO DEDUCT THAT AMOUNT FROM THE COST IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY**
- ** MR. BROWN SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REPLACEMENT OF PICKUP TRUCK

Mr. Plunkett asked why they were planning to replace the truck if it only has 118,000 miles and they just spent \$3,000 on repairs. Mr. Brown asked if the Silverado is the top of the line. Mr. Plunkett explained that there are multiple levels of the Silverado, which is Chevy's work truck. Mr. Leary said that the truck is a basic model.

Mr. Kokias said that he did not feel it was necessary to replace the truck. Mr. Leary asked when he felt would be the optimum time to replace the truck.

The Commissioners discussed no longer permitting smoking in the trucks.

The Commissioners agreed that they were not in favor of purchasing a new pickup truck.

RETIREE BENEFITS

Mr. Scofield said that Mrs. Regan would like to keep her spouse's medical insurance and pay for it. He said that they did this before where the Commission paid three months premiums and then the surviving spouse paid the monthly premiums to Benefit Planning Services and they reimbursed the District, similar to COBRA payments. There is no cost to the District.

- ** MR. BROWN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MEDICAL INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENTS FOR MRS. REGAN FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2011 AND IN APRIL, 2011 SHE WILL ASSUME PAYMENTS**
- ** MR. PLUNKETT SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

SUBSTATION DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Leary said that he had nothing new to report. He said that they will have to get a permit if they plan to install a fence that is over 6 ft high.

FY 2010 AUDIT

Mr. Leary reported that they had a good audit and a clean opinion. Mr. Plunkett suggested that everyone read and review the audit. Mr. Leary said that the auditors would be happy to come in to answer any questions.

FINAL

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT – continued

- ** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:17 P.M.**
- ** MR. KOKIAS SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Messrs. Plunkett, Brown, Kokias, Bove, Leary and Scofield went into Executive Session at 9:17 p.m.

- ** MR. PLUNKETT MOVED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:50 P.M.**
- ** MR. BROWN SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

ADJOURN

- ** MR. KOKIAS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- ** MR. BROWN SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services