

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF

CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERTIVE
AND
CONNECTICUT TRANSMISSION MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE

March 11, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Boards of Directors of Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CMEEC”) and Connecticut Transmission Electric Energy Cooperative (“CTMEEC” dba “Transco”) was held via Zoom and telephonically on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was legally noticed in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes and all proceedings, and all actions hereafter recorded occurred during the publicly open portions of the meeting.

The following Committee Members participated telephonically or via Zoom:

Groton Utilities: Keith Hedrick
Groton Municipal Representative: Mark Oefinger
Jewett City Department of Public Utilities: Louis Demicco
Norwich Municipal Representative: David Eggleston
South Norwalk Electric & Water: David Westmoreland
Third Taxing District, East Norwalk: Michele Sweeney

The following Non-Voting Members participated telephonically or via Zoom:

Groton Utilities: Ronald Gaudet, Jeffrey Godley
Third Taxing District, East Norwalk: Kevin Barber

The following CMEEC Staff participated telephonically or via Zoom:

Dave Meisinger, CMEEC CEO
Robin Kipnis, Esquire, CMEEC General Counsel
Scott Whittier, CMEEC Director of Enabling Services
Margaret Job, CMEEC Executive Assistant / Paralegal

Others participated telephonically or via Zoom:

Timothy Shea, Brown Rudnick
David Silverstone, Esquire, Municipal Electric Consumer Advocate

Ms. Job recorded.

Committee Chair Louis Demicco called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He explained that today's meeting is being held via Zoom and telephonically. He asked that all participants' devices remain on mute unless speaking to eliminate confusion and background noise. He requested that those speaking state their name before speaking for clarity of the record.

Specific Action Item

A Public Comment Period

No public comment was made.

B Roll Call

Ms. Job conducted roll call with each participant responding individually as their names were called. Chair Demicco confirmed a quorum was present.

C Approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2021 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee

A motion was made by Committee Member Michele Sweeney, seconded by Committee Member Mark Oefinger to Approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2021 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

D Report from March 1-2, 2021 APPA Legislative Rally

Mr. Whittier provided an update on the recent APPA Legislative Rally. He explained that Chris Riley of Norwich Public Utilities; Rick Hendershot, Wallingford's Director of Public Utilities; Brian Forshaw, Principal of Energy Market Advisors; and Ms. Kipnis, Mr. Meisinger, Mr. Stern, and himself ("CMEEC delegation") met with staff from all of the offices of Connecticut's U.S. House and Senate Members except from Reps. DeLauro and Hayes' office. He added it was beneficial that both NPU and Wallingford were able to participate to provide input on their customers.

He stated that conversations with the congressional staff focused on recent bills related to additional LIHEAP funding to assist utility customers affected by Covid. He also noted that the CMEEC delegation was asked about the recent weather event in Texas which caused blackouts and loss of power and if a similar event could affect the North East.

Ms. Kipnis provided an overview of the talking points used in conversation with the congressional staff.

E Report on Connecticut General Assembly Legislation of Interest to CMEEC

Timothy Shea of Brown Rudnick provided an update on SB952 and the hearing held in connection with this bill on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at which Mr. Meisinger and Board Chair Kevin Barber provided testimony. He stated that Messrs. Meisinger and Barber focused their testimony on the provisions directly impacting CMEEC members, sections 6 and 7 of the Bill. He believed the testimony was well received by the Energy & Technology Committee. In addressing Section 7 of the Bill, which provides for spreading the cost of large-scaled power purchase agreements to municipal utilities and imposing a systems benefits charge against municipal utilities, Mr. Shea remarked that Messrs. Meisinger and Barber did an excellent job of educating the Committee on how the MEU's are structured and how they buy power, and the fact that they already collect a surcharge similar to the system benefits charge for similar programs.

Mr. Shea stated that the data center legislation was also passed by both chambers and was signed by the Governor on March 4, 2021. Discussion followed.

Ms. Kipnis explained that United Illuminating and the State of Connecticut have entered into a settlement agreement to offer a Covid relief bill credit to decrease and maintain distribution rates at the same level until May 2023 for its customers.

Mr. Shea was excused from and left the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

F Report on Federal Legislation of Interest to CMEEC

Ms. Kipnis explained that the U.S. House of Representatives introduced a bill in 2020 titled Clean Futures Act. The Act was recently revised requiring a cut in green-house gas emissions and introduces a national clean electricity standard requiring 100% clean electricity by 2035. The Act requires 80% clean electricity by the year 2030 with the remaining 20% being achieved by the year 2035. The Act further requires green house emissions to be net zero by 2030 and also includes money for transmission infrastructure to enable the clean energy resources.

A Covid relief bill has also passed that did not include a minimum wage provision. She stated the bill provides an extension for federal unemployment benefits of an additional \$300.00 per week through September 6, 2021 and a third Covid stimulus payment of \$1400.00 to qualifying Americans. The bill also includes \$4.5 billion for LIHEAP to help families with home heating and cooling measures. Lastly the bill contains a restructuring of advance refunding of tax-exempt bonds Discussion followed.

G NEPPA Board Nomination

Ms. Kipnis explained that she plans to draft a one-page document for the March Board Meeting detailing the vacancy on the NEPPA Board. She reminded the Committee that the NEPPA Board has a seat available with a term of one year remaining, after which the term is for 3 years. She stated that she has received interest from the operations manager at Groton Utilities to fill that seat, but that other nominations can still be considered. She explained that of the 21 members of the NEPPA Board, most are General Members of utilities and the remaining two are representatives of Energy New England. She reminded the Committee that nominations are not limited to general managers.

After discussion, Ms. Kipnis stated that this subject will be discussed at the March Board of Directors Meeting and the Committee agreed that if no additional nominations result from that discussion, CMEEC will submit the nomination of the Groton Utilities operations manager. She added that nominations are due by April 1, 2021.

H Other Business

No other business was discussed.

I Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Committee, Committee Chair Demicco entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Committee Member Keith Hedrick, seconded by Committee Member David Eggleston to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.