

FINAL

**THIRD TAXING DISTRICT**  
of the City of Norwalk  
Commission Meeting  
November 28, 2022

**ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners: Johnnie Mae Weldon, Chair; Pamela Parkington;  
Michele Sweeney; Read Auerbach, Treasurer

**STAFF:** Kevin Barber, General Manager;  
Ron Scofield, Assistant General Manager/District Clerk

**OTHERS:** Peter Johnson, CMEEC Ratepayer Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Weldon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public was in attendance to comment.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

October 24, 2022 Regular Meeting

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 24, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.**

**\*\*COMMISSIONER SWEENEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS/KEY PERFORMANCE  
INDICATORS**

Mr. Barber reviewed the Financial Highlights with the Commission for October 2022. Total Income is \$3,826,110 versus \$3,312,046 for last year, a difference of 15.52%. Total Expense is \$4,245,513 versus \$3,422,173 for last year, a difference of 24.06%. Net Income before Rate Stabilization is (\$489,184) versus (\$72,889) from last year or a difference of (571%). Net

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Income after Rate Stabilization is (\$223,029) versus \$85,884 for last year, a difference of (360%).

Total cash balance on hand is \$5,678,789. Of this, the Capital Improvement Fund is \$2,353,981. Current outstanding principal balance with CMEEC is \$3,291,613. Current Fiscal Year Capital additions to date is \$120,493.

Mr. Barber reviewed the P&L for the Electric Department. Income for the month of October 2022 is \$905,281.54. Purchased Power (555-00) for the month of October 2022 is \$444,598.54 and Purchased Power for Cervalis is \$48,025.76. Operating Expenses for the month is \$361,388.02.

The P&L for the District continues to be in good shape. Parks Maintenance and the East Norwalk Cemetery is showing over budget but will even out over the course of the fiscal year.

KPI's: They remain in good shape.

RSF: The current balance of the RSF (Rate Stabilization Fund) is \$4,103,370. Mr. Barber reviewed the 5-Year Forecast with the Commission.

Accounts Receivable: Overall, TTD is doing very well. The greater than 90 days open balances is \$37,724 which is 5.7% of the overall balance. Mr. Barber noted that TTD has now entered into the moratorium. Customers who have past due balances and are eligible for hardship protection will not be shut-off for non-payment. TTD continues to urge these customers to pay something over the winter months, as their full balance will become due when the moratorium is lifted on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **PENSION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Pension Committee met with Hooker & Holcombe on November 15, 2022. Messrs. Meisner and Metzger reviewed various reports and indicated that basically everything is still down in the market. Hooker & Holcombe recommended that Third Taxing District simplify the Plan of Investment selections by eliminating some of the funds and purchasing more funds that are performing better. The Pension Committee agreed with their suggestion. The changes should be reflected in the December 3, 2022 reports.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

The Commission was reminded of the upcoming Christmas Tree Lighting to take place on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at the Roger Ludlow Park. There was discussion about what role the Commissioners would have during the event.

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Mr. Barber told the Commission that it was their hope that a new tree would have been in place in time for the tree lighting, but unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, it didn't happen. The new tree will be planted in the park in the near future. In the meantime, the existing tree has been decorated for this year's event and has had its lights doubled.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

213 East Avenue – The easement acquisition has been approved by the CT Properties Review Board. Payment in the amount of \$565,000 will be forthcoming.

Double Wood Pole Meeting – The City of Norwalk will hold a second meeting at City Hall on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. with the utility companies.

Audits – Third Taxing District's audit is in the final stages and is proceeding nicely.

Messrs. Barber and Scofield as well as Third Taxing District's accountant, Matt Allred, met with the auditor from the CT Department of Revenue Services to review the Gross Revenue Tax Audit. Third Taxing District will be receiving a credit in excess of \$15,000.

Electric Power Costs – Mr. Barber spoke to the Commission about the upcoming increase that has been announced by Eversource and United Illuminating. Currently, Third Taxing District is 26% lower than Eversource. After their increase, Third Taxing District will be approximately 40% lower. These increases are due to the higher cost of purchased power.

In anticipation of the increase in purchased power, Third Taxing District was proactive in their forecasting and raised the PCA in July 2022 from \$0.00 to \$0.04/kWh to prepare for the upcoming winter months. At this time, Third Taxing District has no plans to increase the PCA any higher.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- **PERFORMANCE REVIEW (ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER)**
- **PERFORMANCE REVIEW (GENERAL MANAGER)**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER AND GENERAL MANAGER.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER SWEENEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Treasurer, and Messrs. Scofield and Barber entered into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

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The Commissioners, Treasurer, and Messrs. Scofield and Barber returned to public session at 8:20 p.m.

**\*\*COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO CONTINUE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER RON SCOFIELD'S CONTRACT FOR A ONE YEAR EXTENSION THROUGH JUNE 2025 AND INREASE HIS SALARY FROM \$165,000 TO \$170,000, A \$5,000 INCREASE.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER SWEENEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER SWEENEY MOVED TO PROVIDE FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER KEVIN BARBER AND HIS DEPENDENTS SELF-INSURANCE, TO PROVIDE KEVIN BARBER WITH A PAY RAISE TO \$185,000 A YEAR, A \$10,000 INCREASE, TO PROVIDE KEVIN BARBER WITH FIVE WEEKS OF VACATION AND TO INCREASE HIS SICK, PERSONAL, FLOATING AND BIRTHDAY HOLIDAYS AS DEFINED IN THE UNION CONTRACT AND TO EXTEND HIS CONTRACT FOR ONE YEAR THROUGH OCTOBER 2025.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PARKINGTON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER SWEENEY SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21: p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Tenney  
Executive Assistant  
Third Taxing District