



N O R W I C H
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2009

The Regular March Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in the Training Room at the NPU's office located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair.

Present: Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair, and Commissioners Stanley Israelite and Alan Remondi. Chairman James Sullivan was present by conference phone. Absent was Commissioner Frank Demicco. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda; NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Melissa Young, Robin Elgin, Jeanne Kurasz and Michele Addabbo.

Commissioner Israelite, seconded by Chairman Sullivan moved to appoint Alan Remondi as Acting Secretary. Unanimously approved.

Item 2. Fifteen-Minute Public Comment Period. Vice Chairman Boisclair called for public comment.

Patricia Adamik, 16 East Avenue – Asked why there appears to be no concern over the issue of sanitation in her neighborhood and why no one wants responsibility for the sewage leaking into the groundwater. She asked the Commission if it's possible to access the funding that had been approved by the City Council for the Newton Street Sewer Project to fix the problem. She also feels that a sewer project would bring jobs to the community and asked for an explanation from the Commission on the vote and to review the impact on the community and revote based on the same standards as other projects.

Mrs. Adamik read a letter Larry and Linda Stafford, 18 East Avenue – The Staffords are disappointed in the vote and need the sewer; asking the Board to reconsider and revote.

Brandon Macko, 17 East Avenue – informed the Board that he can't sell or do anything with his house because of the sewage problem. He has been waiting for sewers for more than 10 years and would like a definitive answer if a sewer line will ever be installed.

Margaret Job, 5 East Avenue – stated that sewage problems started after new development was built on Alice Street Extension. Her mother lives on Newton Street and wants

sewers for the good of the neighborhood. She added that the sewage odor can be smelled from Stanton School.

Lee Poplett, 25 East Avenue – would like the sewer to be built, which would be a cheaper alternative than an engineered septic system. Changes occurred after the Alice Street project was built. Conditions are not sanitary and would like the project redrawn to leave out areas not interested.

General Manager Bilda responded that he had been asked by the Board to re-examine the project to help those in need. Legal counsel has been sought to determine the feasibility of re-examining the project.

In response to Commissioner Israelite's question to the residents asking for an explanation of what is required to fix a failed system; one resident stated that he was told by a contractor that the contractor wouldn't even consider the job because of the lot size.

In response to questions about the voting process, General Manager Bilda explained that because of how the project was funded, it came under the requirements of the Special Act and required a super majority vote. General Manager Bilda further explained that to reach the part of the neighborhood experiencing the greatest problems, the sewer line would pass through areas that don't want the sewer. NPU staff is attempting to redesign the project to bypass areas not currently in need. He hopes to have answers on the feasibility of this, and response from Counsel, within 30-60 days.

Maurice Scully, Executive Director of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC) provided an update on the Municipal Trust Vote by the Commission and thanked the Board for their vote of confidence.

Item 3. Minutes of the Special Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Acting Secretary Remondi seconded by Chairman Sullivan moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Performance Reports. The following performance reports were provided to the Commissioners for their review:

- a) Financial Reports: The March 2009 financial statements were provided to the Board for their information.
- b) Collections Reports: Informative.
- c) Customer Satisfaction Indicators: Informative.
- d) 2009-2010 Budget Presentation: Steve Sinko presented a budget overview to the Board. General Manager Bilda requested that the Board review the budget, which will be submitted for approval at the April Regular Board Meeting.

Item 6. NPU Tactical Information. The following tactical reports were provided to the Commissioners for their review:

- a) Operations & Construction Report. Informative. Chris LaRose presented information on the current water heater rental program and Field Service rates. The Board was asked to consider approving changes to cover the costs associated with the program.
- b) Water Division Report. Informative.
 - General Manager Bilda discussed a request for water service submitted by the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority to provide water supply

at wholesale to serve a proposed development on Route 32 in Franklin. The Commissioners stated that they would support a project that would result in NPU selling water directly to the development at retail, but not to the Water Authority at wholesale for resale.

- General Manager Bilda provided the Board with a copy of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments' policy on regional water supply for their information.
- c) Communications Calendar. Informative.
- d) Energy Efficiency Initiatives. Informative.
- e) Construction Status Report. Informative.
- f) PGA/PPA. There are no changes to the PGA or PGA this month.
- g) Other.
 - General Manager Bilda presented information on the Federal Stimulus Package.
 - General Manager Bilda discussed NPU's involvement in the City's 350th Celebration.

Acting Secretary Remondi seconded by Commissioner Israelite motioned to recess the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and enter into the Sewer Authority Meeting.

The Board Meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

Item 7. Executive Session Acting Secretary Remondi seconded by Commissioner Israelite moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to Discuss Confidential Trade Secret & Commercially Valuable Confidential or Proprietary Information Not Subject to Inspection or Public Disclosure Pursuant to Section 1-210[5] and 7-232a of the CT General Statutes. Unanimously approved. General Manager Bilda was asked by the Board to stay for the purpose of providing proprietary information.

The Board arose from Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Item 8. Other Business.

Item 9. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

Acting Secretary Remondi, seconded by Commissioner Israelite, seconded by moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:59 p.m. Unanimously approved.

Attest:

Alan Remondi
Acting Secretary