



DRAFT

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

May 25, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 in the Board Room of Norwich Public Utilities located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman James Sullivan.

Present: Chairman James Sullivan, Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair, Secretary Frank Demicco, Commissioner Alan Remondi and Commissioner Larry Goldman. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda; NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Jeff Brining, Jeanne Kurasz and Michele Addabbo.

Item 2. Fifteen-Minute Public Comment Period. Commissioner Sullivan asked if there were any comments from the public. The following citizens addressed the Commission:

Keith Ripley, 9 Meadow Lane, - Mr. Ripley summarized NPU's procedures for the contribution to the City as outlined in the Charter. He discussed his understanding of the procedures required for increasing or decreasing the amount given to the City. He then addressed the Commissioners regarding the request from Alderman Nash and Alderwoman Caron. He said he had spoken publicly about the resource officers and urged the Commissioners to consider their request. He commended NPU for developing several options for granting this request and was in support of NPU funding the School Resource Officers.

Kathleen Murphy, 227 Boswell Avenue, stated she had attended last month's meeting, and was back again to ask that the Commissioners delay approving the rate increases, as she felt it was not necessary at this time. She asked that NPU look at other ways to execute the projects in an implemental fashion due to economic circumstances. She questioned whether the water and sewer charges on her bill were the same rate. General Manager Bilda informed Ms. Murphy that the sewer use is based on the water consumption, but the sewer and water rates are different and the water rate increase will not impact the sewer charge. Ms. Murphy then asked the Commissioners to help with the resource officers so visibility could be kept in the Norwich schools.

Mr. Ripley then addressed the Commission about the rate increase and discussed the reasons for the rate increases as related to the need to upgrade services prior to road paving. He asked if

NPU could change some of the streets on the list of those to be repaired, without detriment to the City. General Manager Bilda clarified NPU's position on road selection and coordination with Public Works to avoid unnecessary construction after the road is resurfaced. Mr. Ripley replied that he agrees with replacing infrastructure, but asked if NPU and Public Works could look at it collectively and try to delay the cost without losing funding. Commissioner Goldman reiterated the City's role as the driving force behind road resurfacing and the bonding required; to which Mr. Ripley answered that he was aware of the bonding requirements, but again requested the projects be looked at to lessen the effect on the rate increase.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Sullivan ended the public comment period at 6:25 p.m.

Item 3. Minutes of the Regular April Meeting, held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, and Minutes of the Special May Meeting, held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. Vice Chairman Boisclair, seconded by Commissioner Goldman moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular April Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, and the Minutes of the Special May Meeting, which was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, as written. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Action Items.

Prior to moving forward on the following action items, Chairman Sullivan outlined the procedure for approving three independent rate increases.

a) Vote on Electric Rate Changes. With regard to the proposed electric rate increase, Chairman Sullivan asked for a motion and a second to place this item on the floor for discussion. Commissioner Goldman, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair, moved to place this item on the floor for discussion.

Secretary Demicco stated he wanted the public to know that the Commissioners had discussed the rate changes in a lot of detail. He said the increase was a small percentage, and the time to act was now.

Commissioner Remondi stated that he was still not sure how the Council felt about the increase. He said they were trying to hold their budget to a 0% increase, but that he had not heard anything from them about NPU's.

Hearing no additional comments, Chairman Sullivan then called for a vote and asked all in favor to signify by saying "aye."

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES	NAYS
Chairman Sullivan	
Vice Chairman Boisclair	
Secretary Demicco	
Commissioner Goldman	Commissioner Remondi

Chairman Sullivan thereupon declared the motion approved 4 to 1.

b) Vote on Natural Gas Rate Changes. With regard to the proposed natural gas rate increase, Chairman Sullivan asked for a motion and a second to place this item on the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Goldman, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair, moved to place this item on the floor for discussion.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Sullivan then called for a vote and asked all in favor to signify by saying “aye.”

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES	NAYS
Chairman Sullivan	
Vice Chairman Boisclair	
Secretary Demicco	
Commissioner Goldman	Commissioner Remondi

Chairman Sullivan thereupon declared the motion approved 4 to 1.

c) Vote on Water Rate Changes. With regard to the proposed water rate increase, Chairman Sullivan asked for a motion and a second to place this item on the floor for discussion.

Secretary Demicco, seconded by Commissioner Goldman, moved to place this item on the floor for discussion.

Chairman Sullivan explained that the rate procedure has been a long process and there have been a lot of discussions that took place over the last several months. Chairman Sullivan stated that NPU had been asked to forward any and all communication from rate payers about the rate increases to the Board, but nothing had been received. He then asked General Manager Bilda if there had been any communication from rate payers, to which Mr. Bilda replied that there was no communication from the public in any form given to the staff.

Hearing no additional comments, Chairman Sullivan then called for a vote and asked all in favor to signify by saying “aye.”

Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES	NAYS
Chairman Sullivan	
Vice Chairman Boisclair	
Secretary Demicco	
Commissioner Goldman	Commissioner Remondi

Chairman Sullivan thereupon declared the motion approved 4 to 1.

d) Approval of revised job descriptions for Apprentice Field Service Technician, Field Service Technician, and Senior Field Service Technician. Commissioner Remondi, seconded by Commissioner Goldman moved to approve the revised job descriptions for Apprentice Field Service Technician, Field Service Technician, and Senior Field Service Technician. Unanimously approved.

e) Discussion and action with respect to correspondence from Alderman Nash and Alderwoman Caron. Chairman Sullivan asked the Commissioners for any further discussion on the request from Alderman Nash and Alderwoman Caron.

Commissioner Goldman stated that he expressed his opinion at the last meeting, and although he has had conversations with Council members he still feels this was not the right way to do this. He stated for NPU to honor this request and give money to what is a school board fund doesn't fit within the parameters of what NPU has been doing to help the City. He stated he was against the request.

Secretary Demicco stated that this issue had been discussed in detail at the last meeting and he felt there were two issues. He said if the Commissioners approved this request, they wouldn't know if the funds would go for the specific use of the resource officers. He also stated NPU is giving over 8 million dollars to the City, and this 200,000 would be coming out of the pocket of the rate payers for matters that are the Board of Education's responsibility. He stated he was against the request.

Commissioner Remondi stated that at the last Special Meeting he had mentioned several options where NPU can support the City and free up money, and expressed his concern that some rate payers are from other towns besides Norwich. C

Vice Chairman Boisclair stated that after reading the request letter, she feels it's a disappointment that people feel this belongs with NPU.

Chairman Sullivan stated that he was approached numerous times in the last couple of weeks on this subject and was surprised that there was so little communication on the rates, yet so many people were concerned with the officers.

He stated he was not in favor of re-directing money. He is concerned that the Council looks at NPU's annual contribution as something that can be counted on, but it can't. NPU doesn't know what the future holds in its core business for payments to the City. He stated that NPU is a business and that this needs to be made clearer to the ratepayers that we serve. He encouraged General Manager Bilda to communicate to the Mayor, City Manager, Alderman Nash and Alderwoman Caron that the consensus was not to move forward with this request, but they will be willing to discuss other ways to support the City without affecting the way in which we do business.

Item 5. Performance Reports. The following performance reports were provided to the Commissioners for their review:

a) Financial Reports: The April 2010 financial statements were presented to the Board for their information. Steve Sinko provided additional detail to the Board.

- b) Collections Reports: Informative.
- c) Customer Satisfaction Indicators: Informative.

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

- a) Operations & Construction Report. Informative.
- b) Customer Communications Calendar. Informative.
- c) Energy Efficiency Update. Informative.
- d) Construction Status Report. Informative.
- e) ConnSMART Update. Informative.
- f) Control Room Update. Informative.
- g) PGA/PPA. There are no changes to the PGA or PGA this month.
- h) Other.

- Presentation on DWSRF Projects. A presentation was made to the Board by Peter Gaewski of Tata & Howard Consulting Engineers on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects. General Manager Bilda informed the Board that NUP has applied for and been approved for stimulus money for these projects. Chairman Sullivan stated that in speaking with the Governor and Department of Health Officials, they were pleased with the way NPU has used money allocated for improvements.

- FEMA Flood Reimbursements. Chris LaRose updated the Board on infrastructure damage from the recent flooding to the Greeneville Dam, Occum Dam, and 10th Street Hydro walls. NPU is hoping to get these project approved by next week. He stated that the smaller projects are and almost immediate turn around on the cost.

Commissioner Remondi, seconded by Commissioner Goldman moved to recess the Board meeting at 7:09 p.m. to enter into the Sewer Authority Meeting. Unanimously approved.

The meeting resumed at 8:11 p.m.

Item 7. Executive Session Secretary Demicco seconded by Commissioner Larry Goldman, moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 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 and staff members Chris LaRose, Steve Sinko and Jeff Brining were asked by the Board to stay for the purpose of providing proprietary information.

The Board arose from Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Item 8. Other Business.

Item 9. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

Commissioner Goldman, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Attest:

Frank Demicco
Secretary