



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

May 26, 2009

---

The Regular May Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 26, 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 6:01 P.M. by Chairman James Sullivan. Present: Chairman James Sullivan, Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair, Commissioners Stanley Israelite, Frank Demicco and Alan Remondi. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda; NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Jeanne Kurasz, Janine Saunders and Michele Addabbo.

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

Roberta Paro, 246 Yantic Street – Ms. Paro expressed concern about the construction of diesel generators for use during peak power periods. Ms. Paro questioned the use of fossil fuel generation in light of the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which was approved by City Council on January 20, 2009. (She provided copies of the agreement to the Board members.) Ms. Paro asked for an explanation of the rationale for using diesel generation instead of alternative methods, such as smart meters. She asked what the long term cost of the generators would be with increasing fuel costs.

General Manager Bilda responded that these generators were the best technology, and will run only approximately six times a year, in response to CMEEC's 50 in 5 demand response program. He explained that ISO New England is requiring these generators be built. He added that if NPU builds them, we can build clean units, and control when they run. This will bring down the cost of energy from a global standpoint. NPU's customers will receive this benefit in terms of reinvestment back into the utility. In response to the question of smart metering, General Manager Bilda informed Ms. Paro that NPU has been working with CMEEC to investigate smart meter technology, but the technology was simply not advanced enough at this point to replace generators. He added that diesel generators are not a long term solution.

Chairman Sullivan assured Ms. Paro that the utility is very aware of environmental concerns regarding fossil fuel use, and that NPU would not burn diesel just to save money. He informed Ms. Paro that NPU wants to provide energy to its customers in the most responsible manner possible.

Ernie Cohen, 136 Hunters Road – Mr. Cohen stated that the generators were a great idea, but expressed concern regarding their location on a busy road near an elementary school and residential neighborhood. Mr. Cohen suggested looking into alternative locations such as Shipping Street or the Norwich Hospital property.

The public comment period was closed at 6:15 p.m.

Item 3. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Commissioner Remondi seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Approval of Signatory Resolutions for Loan Funds from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Secretary Demicco, seconded by Commissioner Israelite moved to approve the Signatory Resolution for Loan Funds from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to Repair, Paint and Cathodically Protect Water Tanks at Fairview Reservoir and Richard Brown Drive and upgrade pumping station at Fairview Reservoir. Unanimously approved.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Resolved, that John F. Bilda, in his capacity as General Manager, is duly authorized to enter into an Agreement between Norwich Public Utilities and the State of Connecticut for loan funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the purpose of repairing, painting, cathodically protecting the water tanks at Fairview Reservoir and Richard Brown Drive and upgrading the pumping station at Fairview Reservoir Water Storage Tank.

Commissioner Remondi, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to approve the Signatory Resolution for Loan Funds from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to Design and construct water mains identified in the Water Main Repair and Replacement Program Plan. Unanimously approved.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Resolved, that John F. Bilda, in his capacity as General Manager, is duly authorized to enter into an Agreement between Norwich Public Utilities and the State of Connecticut for loan funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the purpose of designing and constructing water mains identified in the Water Main Repair and Replacement Program Plan.

Commissioner Remondi, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to approve the Signatory Resolution for Loan Funds from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to Design and upgrade pumps and drives at the Deep River Reservoir Water Treatment Facility. Unanimously approved.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Resolved, that John F. Bilda, in his capacity as General Manager, is duly authorized to enter into an Agreement between Norwich Public Utilities and the State of Connecticut for loan funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the purpose of designing and upgrading the pumps and drives at the Deep River Reservoir water treatment facility.

Secretary Demicco, seconded by Commissioner Remondi moved to approve the Signatory Resolution for Loan Funds from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to Design and construct filter backwash recycle system at Deep River Reservoir Water Treatment Facility. Unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION**

Resolved, that John F. Bilda, in his capacity as General Manager, is duly authorized to enter into an Agreement between Norwich Public Utilities and the State of Connecticut for loan funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the purpose of designing and constructing the filter backwash recycle system at the Deep River Reservoir water treatment facility.

Commissioner Remondi, seconded by Secretary Demicco moved to approve the Signatory Resolution for Loan Funds from Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to Design and construct filter backwash recycle system at Stonybrook Reservoir Water Treatment Facility. Unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION**

Resolved, that John F. Bilda, in his capacity as General Manager, is duly authorized to enter into an Agreement between Norwich Public Utilities and the State of Connecticut for loan funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the purpose of constructing the filter backwash recycle system at the Stonybrook Reservoir water treatment facility.

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

- a) Financial Reports: The April 2009 financial statements were provided to the Board for their information. Vice Chairman Boisclair complimented the Finance Department on a job well done during the audit process.
- b) Collections Reports: Informative. Chairman Sullivan asked if any reimbursements for projects have been received from the State of Connecticut yet. General Manager Bilda responded that no money has been received. Steve Sinko provided the Board with an outlook of the cash flow over the upcoming summer months.
- 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) Water Division Report. Informative. Janine Saunders informed the Board that the Consumer Confidence Report will be available to customers in a few weeks.
- 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) ARRA Stimulus Grants. Informative.
- h) Other.
  - o Chris LaRose presented the proposed changes to the Field Service Charges that addressed concerns expressed by Secretary Demicco during the April Board Meeting. Chairman Sullivan asked the Board if there were any further concerns that needed to be addressed. Chairman Sullivan, Commissioner Remondi and Vice Chairman Boisclair agreed that the charges are reasonable to cover expenses. Chris LaRose added

that all existing water heater rental customers will be notified of the increase in charges. In response to Secretary Demicco's concern that the increase in charges will lead to unsafe conditions, Chris LaRose assured him that safety issues will always be addressed. The Board supported the service charge changes.

Item 7. Executive Session Commissioner Remondi seconded by Commissioner Israelite moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:40 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, Steve Sinko and Chris LaRose were asked by the Board to stay for the purpose of providing proprietary information.

The Board arose from Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Item 8. Other Business.

Item 9. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

Commissioner Israelite, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair, moved to adjourn the Meeting at 6:53 p.m. Unanimously approved.

Attest:

Frank Demicco  
Secretary