

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF
CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE
AND
CONNECTICUT TRANSMISSION MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE

October 11, 2019

A Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Boards of Directors of Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CMEEC”) and Connecticut Transmission Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CTMEEC” or “Transco”) was held on Friday, October 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of CMEEC, 30 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT and via telephone.

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

The following Committee Members participated:

Bozrah Light & Power: Ralph Winslow
Jewett City Department of Public Utilities: Louis Demicco (via telephone)
Groton Utilities: Keith Hedrick; Mark Oefinger
South Norwalk Electric & Water: David Westmoreland (via telephone)
East Norwalk, TTD: Debora Goldstein

The following CMEEC staff participated:

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

Other participants:

David Silverstone, Esquire, Municipal Electric Consumer Advocate

Ms. Job recorded.

Chair Debora Goldstein called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. noting it was a Special meeting and confirmed no new agenda items may be introduced. The participants were asked to speak their names so everyone would know who was at the meeting in person and on the telephone. She confirmed with everyone on the phone that they could be hear the proceedings and that there was a quorum.

Agenda Items

A Public Attendee Comment Period

There was no public comment made.

B Approval of the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee

A motion was made by Committee Member Mark Oefinger, seconded by Committee Member Keith Hedrick to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2019 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

C There was no Agenda Item C

D Special Committee Referral: Review the policy for hiring and oversight of lobbyists

Chair Goldstein referred the Committee to the memo contained in the materials provided to the Committee in advance of today's meeting. She explained that the Governance Committee was tasked with monitoring the status of the recommendations made by the Special Committee. Chair Goldstein stated that the memo was created to memorialize the discussion by this Committee at its Special Meeting in June wherein this Committee conducted thorough discussion of the creation of a policy on hiring a lobbyist.

Discussion followed at length with respect to how lobbyists had been engaged by CMEEC in prior years and how a lobbyist hiring policy should be drafted with respect to any conflicts of interest between a municipality, member utility and/or CMEEC utilizing the services of the same lobbyist. Mr. Silverstone offered that when drafting a policy for hiring and oversight of lobbyist both classic conflict of interest review as well as what positions a lobbyist has taken for their client should be outlined. He stated that a policy should include three elements: full disclosure by the lobbyist of its activities and positions taken for his or her client, lobbyist be hired by the Board of Directors and the lobbyist must be aware that the Board of Directors is fully engaged and will monitor his or her activities. He also suggested that there be full visibility between the Board and a lobbyist in terms of hiring, conflicts and fees charged.

Further discussion ensued as to the type of document to memorialize lobbyist hiring and oversight and which CMEEC Joint committee would draft it. After considerable discussion, it was determined that a policy would be drafted by the Legislative Committee and a special meeting would be convened to discuss the first draft. The Committee determined that November 1, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. would work for all members.

E Report on CMEEC activity related to H.R. 530 and S. 2012 to restore local control over pole attachments for not-for-profit utilities

Chair Goldstein explained that the poll attachment legislation had been discussed by this Committee at its meeting in June. At that meeting, this Committee recommended that the Board authorize CMEEC to reach out to its congressional delegation. She explained that the letter that was included in today's meeting packet was drafted by Scott Whittier and sent to all CMEEC's congressional delegates. Ms. Whittier explained that he had not heard from any of the delegates that he sent the letter to, but he intends to contact them again to see if there are any questions they might have stemming from the letter.

Attorney Kipnis added that the Federal Communication Commission's order removing municipal exemptions from federal regulation of pole attachments through its Communications Act is being challenged at the 9th Circuit Court and that legal challenges to the removal of those exemptions have been filed.

F Discussion and Possible Action on Executive Order No. 3

Chair Goldstein explained that the copy of the Governor's Executive Order No. 3 addressing renewable portfolios provided to this Committee in advance of today's meeting was circulated to the full Board of Directors by Attorney Kipnis.

Ms. Kipnis stated that in a conversation with Timothy Shea of Brown Rudnick, it was suggested that CMEEC and each individual MEU be prepared to be asked about carbon reduction plans.

Discussion followed with respect to Section number 6 of the Executive Order which identifies the membership, appointed by the Governor, of the Governor's Council on Climate Change which includes, among other members, "Two municipal or local government leaders or representatives thereof," listed as item q under section 6. The Committee discussed reaching out to Mr. Shea to inquire about the likelihood of amending Executive Order No. 3 to reflect either an additional municipal membership on the Council or expand item q to include additional representation from a municipal or an industry business.

G Establish a recommended Legislative Committee meeting cadence

Chair Goldstein suggested that the Governance Committee provide guidance with respect to frequency of meetings.

Ms. Kipnis offered that the meetings could be scheduled monthly, and if there is no business to discuss in a given month, that meeting could be canceled. She suggested that the monthly meeting schedule be made through June 2020 with a final report of the efficacy of that schedule being made at the June 2020 meeting.

Chair Goldstein stated that this suggestion would be passed on to the Governance Committee to assist in their setting meeting schedules.

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

A motion was made by Committee Member Oefinger, seconded by Committee Member Hedrick to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.