

SECOND TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018

Present:	David Westmoreland Maria Borges-Lopez Harold Bonnet Mary Geake Mary Mann Sandra Stokes Martha Wooten-Dumas	Chairperson Vice Chairperson
Absent:	None	
Also Present:	Paul Yatcko Lisa Roland Anthony Zeolla	General Manager District Clerk Director of Finance & Services
Public Present:	None	

The meeting was recorded in its entirety.

Call To Order:

Commissioner Westmoreland called the Regular Meeting of The Second Taxing District to order at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. The meeting was held at South Norwalk Electric and Water, One State Street, Norwalk, Connecticut.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes:

1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2017

Commissioner Geake moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Mann seconded. Commissioner Borges-Lopez abstained.

Minutes were approved.

(2018-01-16-1.1)

Public Participation

No Public was present.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Electric Write-Offs – October 1, 2017 thru December 31, 2017

Commissioner Borges-Lopez moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mann seconded.

The write-offs were approved unanimously.

(2018-01-16-2)

REGULAR AGENDA

3. Annual Budget Approval Schedule – Review

Paul Yatcko presented the schedule for the preparation and review of the fiscal year 2018 – 2019 budget, concluding with review and approval by the electors at the Electors’ Budget Meeting of March 20, 2018.

Commissioner Westmoreland asked if the audit for fiscal year 2016 – 2017 would be completed before the next budget (FY 2018 – 2019) is adopted.

Paul Yatcko replied audit completion is targeted for the end of January, and confirmed changes are not significant enough to necessitate presentation to the electors.

4. An Act Concerning Municipal Electric Utility Cooperatives and Establishing a Municipal Electric Consumer Advocate / Public Act No. 17-73 / Update

Paul Yatcko presented a summary of recent events. CMEEC has completed redrafting its bylaws to accommodate the statutory requirement, and the Governance Committee is meeting this week to review and approve them before forwarding them to the full board for final approval. Both Groton and Norwich have each appointed their ratepayer member to sit on the CMEEC Board.

Commissioner Westmoreland would like to meet in caucus just prior to the next District Commissioners Regular Meeting in February to review qualifications of ratepayer member candidates being considered for appointment to the CMEEC Board. Commissioner Westmoreland requested the other Commissioners bring resumes of candidates for consideration. Commissioner Westmoreland and Paul Yatcko briefly outlined the compensation package for serving.

Commissioner Westmoreland also reiterated a previously mentioned concern that the District should have a greater presence on the CMEEC Board. The District currently has only one sitting member – Paul Yatcko – and is allowed another member, as well as two alternates. Commissioner Westmoreland believes a Commissioner should sit on the board, and offered to represent the District for at least a couple of years, unless another Commissioner was interested in serving at this time. Additionally, he asked the other Commissioners and Paul Yatcko to consider alternates and to let him know before they next meeting.

5. Management Update

Water Supply Status - Reservoir Levels:

Reservoirs were at 45% today and rising due to recent snow and rain. Normal at this time of year is 90%.

Director of Finance & Services:

Paul Yatcko introduced Anthony Zeolla as the new Director of Finance & Services. Mr. Zeolla has a diverse 35 year career in finance and is a CPA. He was present to meet the Commissioners. The Commissioners welcomed him.

Director of Water Operations:

Paul Yatcko announced that an offer had been extended to an individual currently working for Aquarion and living in Norwalk. He has a lengthy career in the water business and is well credentialed. The new Director of Water Operations will start on February 1st.

The filling of this position will mark a complete turnover of the entire management team within slightly less than a three year period. Paul Yatcko is excited about his new team, and to be working with them to energize the organization.

Mall:

Construction of the mall continues. SNEW relocated some poles along Reed Street because a new sidewalk is being installed.

The decision to accept one of the bids for pulling cable was made today. Transformer bids are being reviewed, and a decision will be made within a week or two. Another meeting regarding rates will be held with GGP, and they will be put into contact with CMEEC who will be their virtual wholesale supplier.

Commissioner Mann asked if the frozen water tank on Michael Street belongs to SNEW. Paul Yatcko responded that it is and that the tank is currently out of service. SNEW is trying to figure out what to do next. Paul Yatcko is not in favor of putting it back in service just yet.

Commissioner Stokes asked about a recent pipe leak at a SONO apartment building. Paul Yatcko replied that a contractor dug in on a gas line, but obviously SNEW would not be involved with a gas line repair.

Paul Yatcko added that it's been a couple of tough weeks with the weather. SNEW has experienced 8 main breaks in the span of 8 days due to freezing, thawing and then re-freezing of old infrastructure.

Commissioner Mann asked if the District is still considering investing in infrastructure. Paul Yatcko replied that a small amount of funding has been built into the budget in an attempt to establish a pattern of budgeting and scheduling replacement every year for years to come. The fact is that debt service in addition to expenses on the water side of the house does not allow for large amounts in cash flow to be allocated to infrastructure. Replacement will have to occur slowly

over a period of several years.

Commissioner Westmoreland expressed his preference for small water rate increases over time as opposed to putting increases off until a very large increase becomes absolutely necessary.

Adjournment

Commissioner Geake moved to adjourn. Commissioner Borges-Lopez seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Attest:

Lisa G. Roland
District Clerk