

SECOND TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2019

Present:	David Westmoreland	Chairperson
	Maria Borges-Lopez	Vice Chairperson
	Harold Bonnet	
	Mary Mann	
	Martha Wooten-Dumas	
Absent:	Robert Burgess	
	Sandra Stokes	
Also Present:	Paul Yatcho	General Manager
	Lisa Roland	District Clerk
	Eric Strom	Director of Customer Care
	Darlene Young	Treasurer
	Frank Murphy, Esq.	Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Murphy
Public Present:	None	

The meeting was recorded in its entirety with the exception of Executive Session.

Call To Order:

Commissioner Westmoreland called the Regular Meeting of The Second Taxing District to order at 7:10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. The meeting was held at South Norwalk Electric and Water, One State Street, Norwalk, Connecticut.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes:

1.1 Electors' Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2019

Commissioner Borges-Lopez moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Wooten-Dumas seconded.

Minutes were approved unanimously. (2019-05-21-1.1)

1.2 Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2019

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

Minutes were approved unanimously. (2019-05-21-1.2)

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Management Update

Paul Yatcko presented.

Reservoir Status:

The reservoirs are at 100% capacity as is typical at this time of year.

Mall Project:

All eleven transformers have been set, 9 of which have been energized. There is still some underground cable that needs to be pulled once the developer installs a vault and repairs a damaged underground conduit. Switches will be installed over the summer months. Once the switches are in place, the last two transformers can be energized and the Mall will be ready for service with the four redundant feeds that were part of the original design.

Water Main Breaks:

There were no water main breaks since the last meeting.

Electric outages:

A total of 8 electric outages occurred:

April 20th – a rotted cross arm on South Main Street blew a fuse and took out 57 customers for an average of 2.2 hours, with the longest out for a little over 4 hours.

April 21st – the fire department requested 25 homes on Soundview Avenue be taken out of service in order to safely address a fire in the area. Service was restored in 2.1 hours.

April 25th – a service connection to a home on Flax Hill Road had pulled away from the house affecting that home's service. The repair was made in half an hour.

April 30th – a 140k fuse blew taking out 147 customers along Flax Hill Road, Paradiso and Bouton Streets. The cause wasn't found but the fuse was repaired and service restored in 1.3 hours.

May 7th – a service issue on Quintard Avenue affecting one customer was repaired within 15 minutes.

May 8th – a 1500 kVA transformer on the Mall property was energized causing

three fuses to blow and taking out five customers near the Mall area (Ann Street, Heritage Park, North Water, and West Avenue). Service was out for 3.3 hours.

May 8th – 159 customers had to be taken out of service in order to safely restore the previous outage. A section of the feeder line had to be de-energized in order to make the repairs. Service was out for 25 minutes.

May 15th – 30 customers were taken out of service on Ely Avenue in order to replace a damaged pole. Service was out for about 2 hours.

Staffing:

The new Director of Finance and Services, Lori Walker, started last Monday. She lives in Redding and has over 30 years of diverse accounting, finance and IT experience. Paul Yatcko stated that it's great to have a Finance Director who is a permanent employee and not a temporary contractor. We are looking forward to having her as part of the team and working with her to re-staff finance as well as fine tune some of the processes that need work over there [accounting].

Darlene Young commented that as Treasurer, she has the opportunity to work with the finance department on a weekly basis. The temps have been doing a tremendous job in moving this organization from past practices to what we are doing now. They do an outstanding job, they work very well together, and they are committed to this organization although they are just temporary employees. They love what they do and they've got great personality. They've done a stellar job along with the help of Archer and Ariel who are the only two SNEW employees. Archer will do a great job getting the new Director up to speed.

CMEEC:

Commissioner Westmoreland provided an update on the status of the CMEEC hearings he, Paul Yatcko and Dawn Delgreco have been attending. The former CEO, Drew Rankin, was terminated as a result of an exhaustive investigative report that the CMEEC Board commissioned. Changes to the bylaws have already been made to address many of the findings. There are still some items to work on. Finally terminating the CEO will hopefully allow the organization to move forward, but hopefully also keeping the politicians at bay from passing any more bad laws that would hinder what CMEEC does. At the end of the day, CMEEC provides energy at a much lower rate. SNEW's 2018 rate to customers was 21% less than Eversource and 39% less than UI.

Paul Yatcko added that value not only comes from buying and trading kW and kW-hours, it comes from investing in projects that make money and those earnings flow back into our power bills. In fact the member delegation is meeting this week to determine if there is sufficient equity in the firm to declare a dividend for the third or fourth year in a row.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion Concerning the Employment, Performance & Evaluation of a Public Officer or Employee.

Commissioner Borges-Lopez moved to enter Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. Commissioner Wooten-Dumas seconded. Commissioners Westmoreland, Borges-Lopez, Wooten-Dumas, Bonnet and Mann were present. Also present were Paul Yatcko, Lisa Roland, and Attorney Frank Murphy.

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas moved to exit Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Borges-Lopez seconded.

The actions to be taken as a result of Executive Session include the following three motions:

1. To provide a 2.25% increase retroactive to January 1, 2018 for all non-represented employees.

Commissioner Borges-Lopez moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Mann seconded. The motion carried with one objection from Commissioner Wooten-Dumas.

2. To provide a 2.50% increase retroactive to January 1, 2019 for all non-represented employees.

Commissioner Mann moved to approve the motion. Commissioner Wooten-Dumas seconded. The motion carried with one objection from Commissioner Borges-Lopez.

3. To make the following changes, applicable to all non-represented employees and the General Manager, and to include these in the revised SNEW Employee Manual to be produced later this year:

- To provide said non-represented employees with a one-time, lump sum payment, equivalent to 10% of the medical insurance premium grossed up to account for taxes,
- Move to biweekly payroll,
- No changes in medical, dental, vision, and life insurance coverage,
- Employee to contribute 10% of monthly medical premium,
- No change in vacation entitlement,
- No change in sick pay entitlement,
- Up to 3 sick days may be used as personal days,
- Vacation and sick time entitlement accrue on January 1,
- Compensatory time available to those not eligible for overtime and under certain circumstances can be used in half hour increments, and

- No change in holiday schedule.

Commissioner Borges-Lopez moved to accept the above terms. Commissioner Wooten-Dumas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas moved to adjourn. Commissioner Borges-Lopez seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Attest:

Lisa G. Roland
District Clerk