

SECOND TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2020

Present:	David Westmoreland Maria Borges-Lopez Harold Bonnet Mary Mann Sandra Stokes Martha Wooten-Dumas	Chairperson Vice Chairperson
Absent:	Robert Burgess	
Also Present:	Alan Huth Lisa Roland Kara Murphy, Esq. Steve Sax	Interim General Manager District Clerk Tierney, Zullo, Flaherty & Murphy Consultant
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 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. The meeting was held via web conference call initiating from a Fairfield County location.

Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes:

1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2020

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

Minutes were approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Management Update

Interim General Manager Alan Huth presented.

Reservoir Status

Water supply is at 62.6%, and although we have not yet hit the drought trigger of 54.6%, it is likely we will do so in approximately 4 weeks unless we receive significant rainfall.

In the event a drought is declared, the following will need to be done:

- Notify the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH),
- Continue to remain in contact with local City officials, and
- Continue to engage in water conservation messaging to customers (social media, SNEW website, customer billing).

The City's Office of Emergency Management has been contacted and will assist in notifying the public to conserve water by placing a variable message board at each of two fire stations and messaging on the Mall's megatron screen.

Safety

We are happy to report 390 days since the last reportable accident. The event was marked with a small in-house celebration and gifts for the employees. A red fleece throw blanket embroidered with the SNEW logo and "Congratulations One Year Accident Free" message will be provided to each of the Commissioners as well.

Water Main Breaks

On 8/11/20, a broken service saddle on Split Rock Road caused 31 customers to be out of service for 2 hours.

Tropical Storm Isaias

Early in the week, the line department made preparations in advance of the arrival of tropical storm Isaias. During those preparations line crews responded to outages on Lincoln Avenue Extension, Lexington Avenue, and Flax Hill Road. The cause of the outages were a result of tree contact and an overloaded transformer. Some of the advance storm preparations that were made included patrolling the entire overhead distribution system to identify anything that could cause a potential storm related outage. The line crew made any necessary repairs as they found them such as unsecured wires, broken cross arm braces, and any light tree contact. Tropic storm Isaias starting having an impact on Tuesday at about 1:30 p.m. The line department received outage calls on Novack Street and Shorefront Park.

At approximately 2 P.M., our substation had lost both of its incoming 115Kv transmission lines. The transmission lines are serviced and maintained by Eversource and they indicated that their entire transmission system throughout the state experienced damage. At this point, the line department started an assessment of our system and isolated all the trouble spots that could cause a public hazard. As the storm shortly moved out, the line department started their repairs on

multiple trouble spots that involved broken poles and damaged transformers. By 10 p.m., the line department had made most of the major repairs and the system was ready to be energized, however Eversource was still assessing the damage to their system. On Wednesday at approximately 10 a.m. the line department was notified that one of our transmission lines was restored and we had permission to energize both of our substation transformers. The line department started to energize the system one circuit at a time in order to gradually increase and monitor system loads. By approximately 11:45 a.m. all of our customers were restored to full service. The following day the second transmission line was restored and the line department switched the substation to normal configuration.

SNEW Water treatment plant and Wilton Pump Station ran on emergency generator power from Tuesday afternoon until Friday at 10:45 p.m. The Plant was staffed 24/7 during the outage to monitor generators and plant operations.

Commissioner Stokes extended her gratitude for all of the hard work done by everyone at SNEW in preparation for, and in recovery from, Tropical Storm Isaias.

Commissioner Westmoreland added that he was also appreciative of the SNEW line crews for assisting Eversource in the recovery effort.

Alan Huth thanked Eric Strom and his customer care staff for their support in recovery effort by keeping communication channels open.

Commissioner Westmoreland further commented that when the Substation was built, the thought was that SNEW would never completely lose power what with one feed drawn from Stamford and the other from Westport. He would like to know if there is anything SNEW can do to ensure both transmission feeds are not affected in the future, and if the addition of a third feed would be possible.

Scott Murphy responded that while it would be nice to have another substation providing an additional feed, another way to accomplish backup would be to have distribution lines from Eversource hooked up into our system to serve as backup power. However, this would require some compatibility adjustments as the systems operate at different voltages.

Commissioner Westmoreland asked that the possibility of an additional substation be investigated.

Alan Huth summed up by stating that storm damage to both the electric and water systems was minimal.

Electric Outages

- 7/27 - 2 customers on Glasser out for 3.4 hours due to burned connection,
- 7/29 - 15 customers on Bates & MLK out for .6 hours due to animal contact,

- 7/31 - 16 customers out on Lincoln Ave due to tree contact,
- 8/3 - 4 customers out on Lexington for 45 minutes to replace transformer,
- 8/3 - 43 customers out on Flax Hill for 1.4 hours due to tree contact,
- 8/4 - All customers out from 2 p.m. to 10 a.m. on 8/5/20 due to Isaias with final restoration by 11:45 a.m.,
- 8/8 - 17 customers out on Bouton & Cliff for 45 minutes due to tree contact,
- 8/10 - 1 customer out on Hemlock for 50 minutes due to tree contact,
- 8/11 - 1 customer out on Neptune for 35 minutes due to tree contact.
- 8/17 - 329 customers out around Taylor Avenue for 1 hour 20 minutes due to animal contact.

Water Quality

Water quality remains high. Waiting for disinfection by products results to come back. August is typically the most difficult month due to heat downgrading the chlorine in the water.

COVID-19 Update

Mandatory mask use in common areas continues, and self-quarantine restrictions for vacations/travel have followed. Employees reentering Connecticut from any of the states identified in the State of Connecticut's travel advisory are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. The states on the travel advisory include any with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents, or higher than a 10% test positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average. This list is updated on a weekly basis every Tuesday as the situation develops across the country.

Financial Update

Electric receivables are holding steady. Water receivables are dropping slightly. We are targeting the next meeting to review the fiscal year ending June 30th, and we just received managerial level July financials.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest:

Lisa G. Roland
District Clerk