



NORWICH BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

January 22, 2019

The Regular January Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 in the 2nd Floor Board Room of Norwich Public Utilities (NPU), located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Grace Jones.

Present: Chair Grace Jones, Vice Chairman Stewart Peil, Secretary Robert Staley, Commissioner Steven Becker. Commissioner Michael Goldblatt joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Also in attendance were: Acting General Manager Chris LaRose, Steve Sinko, Kerri Kemp, Jeff Brining, Mark Decker, Larry Sullivan, Chris Riley, Laura Huren and Michele Addabbo.

Item 2. Fifteen-Minute Public Comment Period. The following members of the public spoke to the Board:

Attorney Martin Rutchik of Mystic expressed his opinion on how the Board should address General Manager Bilda's employment status.

Scott Harrington, 209 Rockwell Street, commended Acting General Manager for NPU's support for federal employees impacted by the government shutdown. Mr. Harrington expressed his disappointment with the performance of the NPU Board and the actions of General Manager John Bilda.

Alderman Samuel Browning, 671 Scotland Road, thanked Secretary Staley for addressing the operations of the Board and expressed his concern with the potential separation agreement with General Manager Bilda.

Item 3. Minutes of the Regular December Meeting, held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular December Meeting held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018. Unanimously approved. Minutes of the Special December Meeting, held on Friday, December 28, 2018. Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the Minutes of the Special December Meeting held on Friday, December 28, 2018. Unanimously approved. Minutes of the Special January Meeting, held on Thursday, January 10, 2019. Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the Minutes of the Special January Meeting held on Thursday, January 10, 2019. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. None.

Item 5. NPU Leadership Team Update. Informative.

Item 6. Financial Report. Laura Huren gave an update to the Board on the monthly financials and budget schedule. Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 7. Strategic Presentations. Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA). Steve Sinko updated the Board on the Purchased Gas Adjustment. Discussion followed. Informative. Water Operations Update. Mark Decker presented the Board with information regarding the NPU Water Operations. Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 8. General Business. None.

Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to recess the Board Meeting and enter into the Sewer Authority Meeting at 7:16 p.m. Unanimously approved.

The Board Meeting resumed at 7:31 p.m.

Item 9. Executive Session – 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. This information is commercially valuable, confidential and proprietary and is not public disclosure, pursuant to Public Act No. 98-212; and,

To Discuss the employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of an Employee and/or Public Official pursuant to Chapter 14, Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Commissioner Goldblatt, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. Unanimously approved. Acting General Manager LaRose, Steve Sinko, Attorney Paul McCary and Attorney Anthony Palermino were asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.

Item 10. Other Business. Review, discuss, consider, and possibly take action relative to the General Managers employment status with NPU.

Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to accept the resignation of John Bilda, dated December 31, 2018. Unanimously approved.

Commissioner Becker, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to authorize the Chair of the NPU Board to execute the General Release and Settlement Agreement dated January 22, 2019, which was signed by Mr. Bilda on this date. Unanimously approved.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

Commissioner Becker, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Attest:

Robert Staley, Secretary