



NORWICH BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

December 18, 2018

The Regular December Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 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 and Commissioner Michael Goldblatt. Also in attendance were: Acting General Manager Chris LaRose and NPU staff Jeff Brining, Steve Sinko, Barry Ellison, Michele Addabbo, Laura Huren, Dave Poore and Chris Riley.

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

Scott Harrington, of Rockwell Street, expressed his disappointment with the performance of the NPU Board and the actions of General Manager John Bilda.

Mayor Peter Nystrom expressed his confidence in the NPU Board and his desire for the organization to move forward. He also expressed his concern with the lack of transparency surrounding contract extensions and amendments for General Manager John Bilda that may not have followed the guidelines set forth in the City Charter.

Item 3. Minutes of the Regular November Meeting, held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular November Meeting held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. Unanimously approved.

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the Minutes of the Special December Meeting held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Action Items. Signatory Resolution Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Fund and Subsidy Transactions. Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Becker moved to approve the following resolution. Unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT LOAN AND SUBSIDY TRANSACTIONS

Resolved, that, the Board of Public Utility Commissioners (the "Board"), in connection with all existing and future Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Loan and Subsidy transactions (the "DWSRF Transactions"), hereby authorizes Christopher LaRose, the Acting General Manager of Norwich Public Utilities ("NPU"), or any other designee appointed by the Board, to enter into all grant and loan agreements and to take all such actions and to execute all such documents, as deemed to be necessary or advisable and in the best interests of NPU by him in

order to complete such DWSRF Transactions with such additions, revisions and deletions as in his judgment are in the best interest of the Board, including a schedule to fund a debt service reserve fund, and to revise the General Resolution, including the addition of information, completion of schedules, or such other changes as may facilitate the DWSRF Transactions and its financings.

CMEEC Board Appointment. Commissioner Becker, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to approve the following resolution. Unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Norwich Board of Public Utilities Commissioners hereby appoints Christopher LaRose, Acting General Manager to serve as the Utility Representative on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), and the Member Delegate to serve on the CMEEC Member Delegation, effective December 18, 2018. Mr. LaRose is being designated officially to represent Norwich Public Utilities as a Member of CMEEC and to vote on its behalf at the Annual Meetings of the CMEEC Membership, or at Regular, Special, or Annual meetings of the Board of Directors.

Item 5. NPU Leadership Team Update. Commissioner Becker complimented the new report format of the Leadership Team Update. Informative.

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

Item 7. Strategic Presentations. Gas Operations Update. Jeff Brining, Steve Sinko and Barry Ellison spoke to the Board regarding the Natural Gas Operations Update. Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 8. General Business. Board Operational Discussion. Secretary Staley spoke to the Board regarding the Board taking greater control of the processes at NPU and his desire to improve the Board's communication with the public. He stated that the Board needed to restore confidence in both NPU and the Board. Discussion followed. Informative.

Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Secretary Staley moved to recess the Board Meeting and enter into the Sewer Authority Meeting at 7:41 p.m. Unanimously approved.

The Board Meeting resumed at 7:58 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 Personnel Matters of an Employee and/or Public Official, pursuant to Chapter 14, Section 1-200 (6) (A) of the Connecticut Statutes. No actions will be taken regarding personnel except for the Acting General Manager.

Commissioner Goldblatt, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. Unanimously approved.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the following resolution. Unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION

The General Managers contract amendment signed in November of 2018 is hereby rescinded upon successful review by the Board attorney.

Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to approve the following resolution. Unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION

The Board will, upon insistence of Acting General Manager Chris LaRose, rescind the offer of an 8.5% salary increase. The salary of Mr. LaRose will remain the same. Mr. LaRose will be given a \$750 monthly car allowance and will no longer utilize an NPU vehicle. Mr. LaRose will, during his tenure as Acting General Manager, be outside of the AFSCME union, with the right to return to the union should he not be permanently appointed to the position of General Manager.

Commissioner Goldblatt, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. Unanimously approved. Acting General Manager LaRose, Division Managers Steve Sinko, Kerri Kemp and Jeff Brining as well as Stacey Smith from Jackson, Jackson and Wagner were asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. No votes were taken.

Item 10. Other Business. None.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

Commissioner Becker, seconded by Secretary Staley moved to adjourn the Meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Attest:

Robert Staley, Secretary