



NORWICH BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
&
SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH
REGULAR MEETING

August 20, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners and the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, by Teams and in the 2nd Floor Board Room of NPU's Administrative Offices at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Stewart Peil.

Present: Chairman Stewart Peil, Commissioner Robert Staley, and Commissioner Michael Goldblatt. Secretary Bill Warszecha arrived in person at 6:11pm. Vice Chairman Ashon Avent joined the meeting remotely at 6:00pm. NPU staff in attendance were General Manager Chris LaRose, Steve Sinko, Jeff Brining, Brenton Terry, Laura Huren, Shayleen Alfieri, Larry Sullivan, Chris Riley, Mary Lou Rychling, Alisa Morrison, Barry Ellison, Eric McDermott, and Simone Oliva. Russ Hissom and Amanda Lasinski from Baker Tilly joined the call virtually and Rick Robinson of Pullman and Comley attended in person.

Item 2. Public Hearing

- Sewer Rate
- Electric Energy Efficiency Rate

There were no public comments.

Item 3. Fifteen Minute Public Comment Period.

Tucker Bradock asked the Board about fees associated with new water customers.

GM Chris LaRose discussed NPU's processes. Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 4. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners Meeting and Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich, held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

- Motion to approve made by Commissioner Staley, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt. Unanimously approved.

Item 5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners Meeting and Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich, held on June 10, 2024.

- Motion to approve made by Commissioner Staley, seconded by Chairman Peil. Unanimously approved.

Item 6. Information and Updates provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

- Financial Update. No discussion.

- Leadership Team Update. Secretary Warzecha asked about PFAS testing in wastewater. Larry Sullivan provided a response. Informative.

Item 7. Lead Service Line Assessment Presentation

- Alisa Morrison provided an update on the program. Informative.

Item 8. CMECC Update

- Chairman Peil provided an update on recent CMECC activity. Informative.

Item 9. Strategic Presentations

- Proposed Sewer Rates and adjustment to Electric Energy Efficiency charge. Brenton Terry provided a presentation. Discussion followed. Informative.
- Community Assistance Rate (CAR) and Energy Assistance update. Shayleen Alfieri provided a presentation. Discussion followed. Informative.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. Larry Sullivan gave an update on the project. Discussion followed. Informative.
- PLA Discussion. Rick Robinson of Pullman and Comley provided an overview of project labor agreements (PLAs). Discussion followed. Informative.

Item 10. Action Items

Chris LaRose provided an overview for a possible approach for considering PLAs. Discussion followed. Informative.

- Motion to amend the PLA Agreement, drafted by Rick Robinson, made by Commissioner Goldblatt, seconded by Secretary Warzecha. Resolution amended to:
 1. Increase construction cost threshold to trigger the option for a PLA from \$5 million to \$10 million.
 2. Update the tradespeople section from “the community” to “the NPU service area” to offer opportunities for employment to the area NPU services.
- Motion to approve made by Secretary Warzecha, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt. Unanimously approved.

Item 11. 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(s) and/or Public Official, pursuant to Chapter 14, Section 1-200 (6) (A) of the CT General Statutes.

- Commissioner Warzecha, seconded by Commissioner Goldblatt moved to enter Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. Unanimously approved. General Manager LaRose, Steve Sinko, Jeff Brining, Chris Riley, Larry Sullivan, and Eric McDermott were asked to stay for the Executive Session.
- No votes taken.
- Commissioner Goldblatt seconded by Secretary Warzecha moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Unanimously approved. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:01 p.m.

Commissioner Staley seconded by Secretary Warzecha moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Unanimously approved.

The next Regular Meetings are scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Attest:

William Warzecha
Secretary

**AMENDED RESOLUTION REGARDING PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS FOR
THE NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, §31-56b of the General Statutes authorizes public entities such as Norwich Public Utilities to require project labor agreements for any of its public works projects so long as the agreement satisfies the requirements of subsection (c) of that statute and the entity has determined in its discretion on a project-by-project basis that it is in the public interest to require such an agreement; and

WHEREAS, §31-56b identifies the factors the public entity may consider in determining whether a statutorily compliant project labor agreement is in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, one of these factors is employment opportunities for the community, including opportunities for construction trade apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to increasing employment opportunities for the communities it serves, but understands that unless a public works project is of a sufficient scope and nature so as to make it likely that a project labor agreement will significantly increase those employment opportunities, the burdens of such an agreement may outweigh its benefits,

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. That the Board of Commissioners shall consider requiring a statutorily authorized and statutorily compliant project labor agreement on any public works project for which it will be inviting bids or requesting proposals and meets the following criteria:

- Its estimated construction costs are at least 10 million dollars;
- The contractor and/or construction manager and its subcontractors are likely to employ at least twenty-five non-managerial and non-administrative workers to perform actual construction work at the project site; and
- The project's estimated duration is at least thirty construction days.

2. If the Board determines that it is in the public interest that it require a project labor agreement for such a project, it shall require the project labor agreement it authorizes to include provisions (a) establishing goals for its signatories collectively to hire a minimum number of laborers and/or tradespeople from the NPU service area this entity serves and employ a minimum number of local community apprentices on the project; and (b) requiring the signatories to use their best efforts to meet those goals. This Board shall determine the minimum goal numbers on a project-by-project basis.