

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF
CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE
AND
CONNECTICUT TRANSMISSION MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE

June 13, 2019

A Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Boards of Directors of Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CMEEC”) and Connecticut Transmission Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CTMEEC” or “Transco”) was held on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. at the offices of CMEEC, 30 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT and via telephone.

The meeting was legally noticed in compliance with Connecticut State law and all proceedings and actions hereafter recorded occurred during the publicly open portions of the meeting.

The following Committee Members participated:

Bozrah Light and Power: Ralph Winslow
Jewett City Department of Public Utilities: Louis Demicco (via telephone)
Groton Utilities: Keith Hedrick; Mark Oefinger
South Norwalk SNEW: David Westmoreland (via telephone)
East Norwalk TTD: Debora Goldstein

The following CMEEC staff participated:

Robin Kipnis, CMEEC General Counsel
Michael Lane, CMEEC CFO and Interim CEO
Scott Whittier, CMEEC Director of Enabling Services
Margaret Job, CMEEC Executive Assistant/Paralegal

Other participants:

Timothy Shea, Brown Rudnick

Ms. Job recorded.

Chair Goldstein called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m. noting it was a Special meeting and confirmed no new agenda items may be introduced. The participants were asked to speak their names so everyone would know who was at the meeting in person and on the telephone. She confirmed with everyone on the phone that they could hear the proceedings.

Agenda Items

A Public Attendance Comment Period

There was no public comment made.

B Approval of the Minutes of the May 21, 2019 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee

Chair Goldstein explained that some typographical errors were corrected in the May 21, 2019 draft Special Meeting minutes and entertained a motion to approve those minutes as amended.

A motion was made by Committee Member Mark Oefinger, seconded by Committee Member Ralph Winslow to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2019 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee, as amended.

Motion passed unanimously.

C De-Brief on Activity of Recent Legislative Session

Timothy Shea, Brown Rudnick, provided a global overview of the legislative bills tracked by Brown Rudnick on behalf of CMEEC over the most recent legislative session that ended on June 5, 2019. He highlighted those bills that passed that will have some impact on CMEEC. He stated that with the help of a strong delegation from CMEEC and CMEEC members providing testimony, Senate Bill 961, along with an amendment to another bill which could have impacted CMEEC, was neither passed, nor raised, by the Senate. Ms. Kipnis discussed a recent order introduced by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) addressing pole attachments in connection with the 4G and 5G networks. The order would establish a wireless attachment procedure to intensify the 4G network to get ready for the 5G network. The order eliminates exemptions that exist under the Public Power Act (the "Act") for public power entities. Lengthy discussion followed with respect to pole attachments in connection with this order.

Ms. Kipnis recommended that the Joint Legislative Committee authorize CMEEC to contact its congressional delegation asking for their support of legislation that would re-establish the exemption from the Federal Power Act, HB 530 and SB 1699.

A motion was made by Committee Member Oefinger, seconded by Committee Member Keith Hedrick to authorize CMEEC to contact its congressional delegation requesting support of HB 530 and SB 1699 preserving the public power exemption.

Motion passed unanimously.

Lengthy discussion followed with respect to legislation and the impact on municipal utility pole attachments.

Chair Goldstein inquired as to a report back mechanism, to which Mr. Whittier responded that he would keep everyone informed as to his contact with the legislative delegation and any further activity.

D Establish Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

Discussion took place about what would constitute a rational meeting schedule for this committee in the coming year. Based upon guidance provided by Tim Shea, Chair Goldstein opined it would be prudent to be mindful of the alternating schedules for the legislative sessions as future years' meeting schedules are planned. She also stated that the APPA Legislative Rally would need to be taken into consideration when determining an appropriate meeting schedule for this Committee.

Committee Member Oefinger suggested that a workshop or work session could be held in November or December with an eye on the next year's legislative session. Upon Committee Member Louis Demicco's suggestion, the Committee agreed that CMEEC staff could review the December calendar and poll the Committee with potential dates in early December to conduct a meeting of this Committee.

E Referred Recommendations from Special Committee / Forensic Examination

The Committee took up the Special Committee's recommendation to review the policy for hiring and oversight of lobbyists. At this point, Mr. Shea excused himself and left the meeting. Discussion followed regarding CMEEC's history of lobbying activities and the lack of reporting back by prior lobbyists. Consensus was that a lobbying policy would identify deliverables desired by CMEEC including consistent reporting back to the CMEEC Board of Directors.

Committee Member Oefinger asked that CMEEC staff confirm whether CMEEC can engage lobbyists. Chair Goldstein stated that she believed that the CMEEC Enabling Statutes do not prohibit CMEEC from engaging a lobbyist. Ms. Kipnis will verify that CMEEC can in fact hire a lobbyist.

Further discussion ensued with respect to the avenues utilized to hire a lobbying firm including using a Request for Quotes (RFQ) process.

Chair Goldstein requested help from CMEEC staff to research a policy framework for best practices in hiring and oversight of lobbyists. Mr. Lane explained that Mr. Whittier will conduct research and make recommendations.

Chair Goldstein inquired if there were recommendations for this Committee from the Forensic Examination. Discussion followed with respect to the item in the Forensic Examination relating to lobbying expenses.

Lengthy discussion ensued about travel and expense reimbursements relating to legitimate government relations travel incurred by someone who is neither a Board member, nor an employee, and the consensus of the Committee was that this should be referred back to the Governance Committee to determine whether a new policy was required, or whether the existing CMEEC Travel Policy could be amended.

There being no further business to come before this Committee, Chair Goldstein entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Committee Member Hedrick, seconded by Committee Member Oefinger to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.