

**Representative Policy Board
Finance Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

Monday, May 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Transcription

Tim Slocum

OK, very good. Then I will call together the order for the Representative Policy Board Finance Committee of May 9th. It's 5:00 o'clock.

Tim Slocum

A hybrid meeting in person and remote, I'm remote. Usually remote whether I'm in person or not, so it's OK.

Tim Slocum

So with all of that welcome, we don't call attendance, but I I welcome all.

Tim Slocum

We have the safety moment. Which I had called up, but me maybe now I need to call it up again.

Tim Slocum

Does anyone have this? There we go. Thank you so much. It's preventing back injuries.

Tim Slocum

That goes without saying so. We all agree that preventing back problems is important. So with that I'll move along to the approval of the Minutes for April 11 and April 20, which was the special meeting.

Tim Slocum

Has everyone had a chance to see and review the meetings?

Tim Slocum

And the minutes?

Tim Slocum

I'll ask for a motion for approval.

Charles

I'll move.

Tim Slocum

Thank you, Charles. Second, please, thank you, Jay. With that any discussion?

Jay

Second.

Tim Slocum

OK, I'll call for a vote. All those in favor say aye.

Group

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Aye.

Tim Slocum

Motion carries unanimously of those voting.

Tim Slocum

So with that, we're going to go on to discuss the proposed FY2023 capital and operating and maintenance budgets. It's sort of an open forum. Whoever wants to lead in, I don't know if somebody in staff might want to give a little review or just want open conversation. How does everyone feel about this?

Rochelle

Alright, from here we think it open conversation would be good. We can answer any questions that might be asked.

Tim Slocum

Yeah, that seems to make the most sense. Larry. I agree. And with that, I'll be happy to open it up for discussion. I will once again compliment staff for you know, certainly the meeting that we held on April 20th, where we actually discussed the budget, rather carefully staff made its presentation, it was a good presentation. I thought there were questions asked. They were certainly answered.

Tim Slocum

I know there was also another more widely attended meeting.

Tim Slocum

Beforehand, where there was similar good questions asked. So and they were answered of course, but is there anyone who has anything more in general to ask about the operating budget? Is there anyone among us?

Tim Slocum

I don't think any management team deserves or earns 100% credit for creating a great budget.

Tim Slocum

But it's hard to argue. I think it did make a good case for it. I know Jeff certainly made a good case for supporting the budget. I don't have any deeper dive questions into the budget itself. Are any among us feeling a different view or having a question, Charles?

Charles

No, I'm all set.

Tim Slocum

You're pretty comfortable, Steve. I know you are. Were involved in a much bigger hearing. You know, there were more questions from what I had understood.

Stephen Mongillo

Yeah, we had. I unfortunately, I wasn't at the last meeting to report, but it was really well presented and and we had a number of questions, but they were they were all quite adequately addressed, I think in

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our meeting and we appreciated the information that that we got. I was just curious if you're meeting had produced anything else but?

Tim Slocum
Right.

Stephen Mongillo
From our point of view, I think most of the our Members were satisfied with the budget and the response that we got on any inquiries.

Tim Slocum
Yeah, I felt the same way. We didn't have, I know I asked a number of questions and there were other questions, of course from members. But in general, they were all answered fulsome and we were we were satisfied.

Tim Slocum
Jay, I know you always.

Stephen Mongillo
We did have the executive session too, so there was a lot.

Tim Slocum
We did, we did and there was that as well. We did. We did have some questions about that but again that wasn't overly an issue of gravity for us at that meeting. Jay, do you have anything in particular? You're one to off and opine on certain strategies you think are important. Did you have anything to say?

Jay
Offered everything that was presented and it was well done by video and any questions that were asked were answered.

Tim Slocum
Good.

Jay
Just feel no reason unless Council has.

Tim Slocum
OK.

Jamie
Did you say Jamie or Jay?

Tim Slocum
I did say Jay, but I'm happy to say Jamie whenever she wants to rise to the case.

Jamie
I don't have anything to add, but I was listening. I just, I've been called all kinds of things recently, so.

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Tim Slocum
Well, it's tough being a selectman.

Tim Slocum
So you have nothing to say Tom? Anything with your abundance of experience?

Tim Slocum
You OK?

Tom
No, I compliment management and certainly, the authority and I thank the Consumer Council as well for his input.

Tim Slocum
Right. Yeah, I think that's pretty good. We didn't have a caucus before this meeting, but I think you know the Authority's approval of budget, that's presentation by management, Jeff's support. And I think it is clear you know it's a good budget. I guess my only concern really is, is this inflation situation, are we properly positioned? But I'm comfortable enough of based on what I was told that you know you've built in enough of that in your in your planning to cover some of that. So beyond that, I guess there's nothing more to say, but thank you.

Tim Slocum
So if you're satisfied with that, we can move along to number four, which is a meeting changes and updates. And I know I've overheard a lot of conversations. So if management could inform us on.

Tim Slocum
I suppose, is the special Finance Committee meeting for the authority application. We've had no discussion on that as a group so.

Larry
Resolution?

Rochelle
The option?

Tim Slocum
What's going on with that?

Larry
Item number three. Proposed resolution. We should make a motion on that.

Tim Slocum
There should be a motion? If so, that makes perfect sense.

Tim Slocum
So is there is there a motion to? I apologize. Is there a motion to recommend that the Finance Committee advance this to the full RPB for consideration?

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Jay
I will make that motion.

Jamie
I'll make that motion.

Tim Slocum
Thank you, Jamie and Jay, will you second that?

Tim Slocum
Thank you for that. Thank you for that. My apologies.

Tim Slocum
OK, all any discussion before we vote on that. Ok, all in favor?

Group
Aye.

Tim Slocum
Motion carries unanimously. OK, thank you. Now we'll go along to the meeting changes and updates and we'll start with A, which is the Special Finance Committee meeting for authority application.

Larry
So, well, I'll just say under a an expedited schedule which this will be the first project that we will have tried the new expedited.

Tim Slocum
Thank you, Larry.

Larry
The project schedule for the approval of the Whitney Dam design application. Rochelle has been and I've been chatting about this and we're suggesting that in order to keep with the schedule and help us move this expeditiously that a meeting of the Finance Committee in Wednesday the 18th or Thursday the 19th would be would be very helpful to keep the process moving along. But do you want to add anything to that? I no, I agree with that and so assuming that the party accepted and you determined that it's complete.

Rochelle
Then we can actually get the notice in under the expedited process to potentially have the hearing on the 17th.

Rochelle
That works with everyone's.

Tim Slocum
So that that would be the 18th. And I presume 5:00 o'clock at the time.

Rochelle
7:00.

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Tim Slocum
Yep.

Tim Slocum
So 5/18 is a Wednesday, and we could do it at the normal Finance Committee time slot as far as everyone's concerned 5:00 o'clock. Is that within reason?

Charles
That will work.

Tim Slocum
OK. And then the follow up for the full RPB would be Thursday, you said the date in June would be the hearing date.

00:10:34.770 --> 00:10:35.120

Tim Slocum
OK.

00:10:37.500 --> 00:10:42.710

Tim Slocum
Does that meet the approval of the board? I mean, are we ready to? We all agree that will be fine?

Charles
It is very straightforward.

Tim Slocum
OK, sounds good. Do you need a motion for that or is that just OK with just it's OK.

Jay
That we get, be ready to go.

Charles
I don't know if their microphones are off, but I can't hear what's going on in the boardroom.

Tim Slocum
Yeah, I cannot either. So I don't know, do we have to vote on that or we just going to settle on that meeting date. It's acceptable for me, I haven't heard any problem with or conflict information constituents.

Rochelle
I don't think you need to follow as long as it's a.

Tim Slocum
OK, fine. So we can agree that's OK and that will be when the finance can meet.

Tim Slocum
On 5/18 and that the hearing date was discussed as what date please?

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Rochelle

The proposal, although there is a little bit of flexibility as long as we have 20 days from the notice date to the hearing date, but the proposal that would work would be June 17th. It's a Friday.

Tim Slocum

OK, the Friday. Is there any way to avoid a Friday date? I mean, Friday is not a night that most people want to meet anywhere.

Jay

With the 18th, any reason why we couldn't do it? The 18? It's certainly enough.

Rochelle

On the 16th, excuse me.

Tim Slocum

I mean, I don't have much of a life. Friday would work for me, but I don't wanna kill everyone else's Friday.

Rochelle

Calendar. Yeah, we should. That should work. But yeah, that should work if you.

Charles

What do they mean?

Rochelle

Jennifer, you will posted it on the 19th.

Jennifer

Post the notice. As long as it's found to be complete. If it's not it will post anyways. That's the only problem.

Rochelle

So what do you need, you wanna day and between. So the 20th.

Jennifer Slubowski

Yeah, the 18th is a Wednesday. Yes. So nineteen 20th. Yeah. So the 20th.

Rochelle

OK, so here we'll have the Finance Committee on 5/18, Jennifer will post on 5/20 and then we have a yeah, that would be fine. The 16th of June, yeah.

Tim Slocum

OK, so it'll be the 16th of June, which ends up being a Thursday.

Rochelle

Correct.

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Tim Slocum
Is that correct?

Rochelle
Yes.

Tim Slocum
And where will that be held?

Rochelle
Yeah, it will be hybrid.

Tim Slocum
It at headquarters, right?

Tim Slocum
So it'll be hybrid, OK.

Rochelle
Yes.

Rochelle
The 16th of June, if it's accepted, it is complete.

Tim Slocum
Right. OK. So we're meeting the calendar requirements. We all agreed that the 18th works, so is the 16th generally acceptable for all?

Rochelle
Right.

Charles
Yeah, on the 18th, even though it's.

Tim Slocum
OK, sounds good.

Charles
You know, we may get public comment and still can be hybrid though in the big room, yeah?

Tim Slocum
Yes.

Tim Slocum
Yeah, they did indicate that hybrid was fine for that.

Tim Slocum
OK.

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Jamie

If I. It's still be able to make quorum, is that right?

Tim Slocum

Excuse me, Jamie, I didn't hear you.

Jamie

I said if I'm unable to make the June date, will you still be able to make quorum?

Jamie

We would have a quorum of the Finance Committee for that date?

Tim Slocum

But that's for the general hearing. That's for everybody meeting that's not a public, that's for the entire RPB. So I would imagine that's not going to be a problem.

Rochelle

And I guess one other thing that just to put out there, if the full RPB is comfortable is to actually get a decision that evening that was another thing.

Larry

It's just the design.

Tim Slocum

In other words, what you're hoping is there can also be a vote that evening.

Tim Slocum

Of the full albeit. OK, well, I would imagine that everyone would like that.

Rochelle

Correct.

Larry

And of course, this was a reminder the RPB used to do that. They used to have a hearing and a decision on the same night, but it was changed.

Tim Slocum

Yes.

Larry

Somewhere around 2009, 2010 time frame.

Tim Slocum

OK, well I came on later, so I I'm willing to make that that that change without any hesitation.

Larry

But it shouldn't be fairly non uncontroversial, so it's just. That changed back.

Tim Slocum

I would think so, yeah.

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Larry
Design work.

Tim Slocum
Yep, sounds good to me. Everyone good with that.

Group
Yep.

Tim Slocum
Yeah, it's always good to take action when we can. After a public hearing. That's excellent.

Larry
Thank you. That's appreciated.

Tim Slocum
So with that. That would slide us along to be which is the topic of the July 11, 2022 meeting date change.

Tim Slocum
And now I've forgotten is that a change to July 11 and we're looking to just accommodate that? So everyone knows that it's July 11th?

Tim Slocum
OK. I remember. Jennifer, you brought that up. OK, fine. Well, that makes sense. I don't think anyone wants to hang around for the 11th, then are we good with that guys, gals.

Charles
OK, so the meeting is July 11th and we're not changing, OK?

Tim Slocum
It's a change too.

00:16:51.340 --> 00:16:51.630
Jennifer Slubowski
No.

Charles
To July 11?

Jennifer Slubowski
It a changed from July 11th.

Tim Slocum
Yeah, it's a change from to what was the 3rd or the 5th? I can't remember. It wasn't the 4th.

Jennifer Slubowski
No. We wanna change it from the 11th, which is the Watershed Fund golf tournament to another date.

Tim Slocum
Oh excuse me.

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Jennifer Slubowski
Yeah.

Tim Slocum
So is there a recommended date that's always easier for us people that have to decide?

Jennifer Slubowski
So the week prior would be the 4th of July holiday, so that is out.

Jennifer Slubowski
The week after the Consumer Affairs Committee meets at 5:30.

Jennifer Slubowski
I know you expressed an interest in that day before the Consumer Affairs Committee meeting.

Charles
How about simply the next day, the 12 of Tuesday?

Tim Slocum
OK.

Tim Slocum
Because the 5th.

Charles
Do any other committees meet on that Tuesday, Jennifer?

Jennifer Slubowski
No, not in the 12th.

Jennifer Slubowski
Change to Tuesday the 12th?

00:18:06.210 --> 00:18:09.270

Tim Slocum
I'm good with that. Personally, I don't have a problem with that.

Charles
If there's no other committees or anything that way.

Charles
If it's done early in the month of people have vacations already scheduled and that type of thing so.

Tim Slocum
Right. I I know I would have a meeting myself that night, but at 5:00, o'clock, if we're gonna meet at five, it's it should not be a problem.

Charles
It's still hybrid type situation?

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Tim Slocum
Right, it'll still work.

Jennifer Slubowski
OK.

Tim Slocum
So we basically sounds like we have a consensus around the 12th.

Tim Slocum
OK, you can book that one. Then, Jennifer, that'll be fine.

Jennifer Slubowski
Yeah.

Tim Slocum
OK, we're ready to move on to five, which is the attendance at the May 26th Authority meeting and we have Mr. Jaser, who is willing to attend.

Tim Slocum
Right, Jay, you're still up for that?

Tim Slocum
There was a strong call for me to make three months in a row, so I wanna be certain. Jay, you're gonna be there?

Jay
I'll be there.

Tim Slocum
Excellent, excellent.

Tim Slocum
Very good. OK. So we're on to new business. Is there any new business?

Tim Slocum
We're hearing no call for new business. I will call for a motion to adjourn.

Tom
So moved.

Charles
Second.

Tim Slocum
Thank you, Mr. Clifford. Thank you, Mr. Havrda.

Tim Slocum
Very good. All those in favor, aye.

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Group
Aye.