

REPRESENTATIVE POLICY BOARD
CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 16, 2023
MEETING TRANSCRIPTION

Stephen:

All right. I will call the October Consumer Affairs Committee meeting to order. Jennifer, we have a quorum I think.

Jennifer:

Yes, we do.

Stephen:

Okay, we can move ahead. First item on the agenda is our safety moment and it has to do with fall driving tips. So it is a good reminder for everybody. Take a look at that. I have never slipped on leaves, but it is a good excuse, I guess, if you need an excuse. Anyway, some serious issues there. Please look at it. Item two is our public comment. Do we have anybody from the public, Jennifer?

Jennifer:

No, we do not.

Stephen:

No. Okay. Item three on the agenda is the approval of minutes. I will entertain a motion.

Naomi:

I so move.

Tony:

Second.

Stephen:

Thanks Tony. Are there any corrections, additions, omissions? Hearing none. All those in favor of approving the minutes?

Committee:

Aye.

Stephen:

Aye. Any opposed? Any abstentions?

Rich:

Steve, I will abstain. Rich. I was not there.

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Stephen:

Okay. And minutes still pass. I guess we get to our Accounts Receivable update. Prem, I will turn it over to you.

Prem:

Thank you Steve. Good evening everyone. If you remember, we actually did an update back in June. So this is really a refresh of the update as to how we are performing on the AR side. I have two of our main players here. So Dana, whom you all know, she is our Customer Care Director. And Mohammad, who is also our Collection Specialist. He is our supervisor here, so they will be providing the update.

Jennifer:

Did you want to go into executive session?

Rochelle:

Prem, you need to go into executive session.

Prem:

Yes.

Jeff:

Somebody needs to make a motion.

Tony:

Yes, I move we go into executive session.

Jeff:

For the purpose of

Tony:

Talking about receivables.

Jeff:

How about for discussing matters covered by subsection (b)(5)(B) of Connecticut General Statute 1-210, *financial information*.

Tony:

That is what I meant to say.

Prem:

Thank you both.

Stephen:

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All those in favor?

Committee:

Aye.

Jeff:

And who else is invited besides the Committee is invited to join the executive session?

Stephen:

The Committee members, the staff that is present and there are no public members.

Jeff:

What about me?

Stephen:

I am sorry. And our public attorney as well. The OCA.

Catherine:

Can I join?

Stephen:

And any members of the board of directors that may be online. We have had an approval to go into executive session. Any opposed? Okay. We are in executive session.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 5:34 P.M. TO 6:01 P.M.]

Mark:

We are out of executive session. I just wanted to say that Prem and your staff that was a wonderful report. Very precise and it was well thought out. I thought it was a wonderful report and you know I am a little critical.

Prem:

Thank you, Mark.

Mark:

Report from the OCA.

Jeff:

Yes, good evening. I do not really have any open consumer matters. The matter that I reported to you about a couple of months ago with regard to 71 White Street in New Haven, do you recall there was an issue with a tampered meter.

Mark:

Yes.

Jeff:

That customer has been cooperating with the Authority in picking up and paying for a new curb box. So Sunny updated me a couple of weeks ago, maybe it was last week, a couple of weeks ago, and that is on path for resolution. No other open consumer matters. With Rochelle's help, I sent some additional testimony up to DPH in conjunction with the Authority's advocacy for more generous interpretation and support of the regional water Authority with respect to the interpretation of our obligations under the lead and copper rule.

So hopefully there's some progress made on that front because other types of entities are able to avail themselves of different funding mechanisms that the Authority seems to have slipped through the cracks as an entity type or an entity structure. So that's something that we're going to continue to advocate for so that the Authority receives equitable treatment from a financial perspective with regard to what promises to be a very significant undertaking and expense. Other than that, as you know, the RPB at its September meeting held public hearings on the two applications by the Authority to dispose of two pieces of Class III land in North Branford. And I wrote a memo and testified, as you know, at both of those hearings. That is my update. Thank you.

Mark:

Thank you very much, Jeff. Thank you. Can I get a motion for the approval of the OCA invoice for September 2023 for \$2,697?

Stephen:

So moved.

Mark:

Steve, seconded?

Tony:

Second.

Mark:

Tony. Thanks a lot. Okay, any discussion? All those in favor?

Committee:

Aye.

Mark:

Opposed? Okay, so you are paid again Jeff.

Jeff:

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I appreciate it.

Mark:

Okay, any new business? Any new business?

Stephen:

Mark, I have a question about sort of cleanup in one of the rivers, but I don't know that anybody's on from the land side, so I'll take it up maybe at the Executive Committee.

Mark:

That would be good. Then it can be brought up in land use if it comes out of that.

Stephen:

Okay.

Mark:

But do you want to say what it is, what river it is?

Stephen:

Yes, I live in Spring Glen, the Mill River comes into Lake Whitney and on Connolly Parkway there is a bridge, there is a tree that has been down and caught on the bridge, and debris has collected there. So I do not know if that is RWA's responsibility to clear that, it is a big blockage at this point, or if it is the town or the state.

Mark:

You know who would know that. A simple call to John Triana will take care of that.

Stephen:

Okay.

Mark:

Okay. Either he will call the proper people or if it is us, he will have it taken care of.

Stephen:

Okay.

Mark:

Okay. The next regular meeting is Monday, November 20, 2023 at 5:30 PM. Any other business to come in front of our Committee? No? Can I get a motion?

Tony:

I motion to adjourn.

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Mark:

Okay.

Stephen:

Second. I will second it.

Mark:

Thanks a lot. Good job Dana.