

**Representative Policy Board  
Nominating Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Minutes of August 31, 2020  
Meeting Transcription**

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A special meeting of the Nominating Committee of the Representative Policy Board (“Committee”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“Authority”) took place on Monday, August 31, 2020, via remote access. Chair Malloy presided.

Present: **Committee Members** – Tom Clifford, Greg Malloy, Tim Slocum, Tony Rescigno and Michelle Verderame

**Authority** – Anthony DiSalvo, Chairman

**RWA** – Larry Bingaman, President & CEO

**OCA** – Jeffrey Donofrio, Esq.

**Staff** – Jennifer Slubowski

Greg:

Well it's 5:03 shall we start? [crosstalk 00:04:11] Okay. Let's go over the Safety Moment. That's Lyme Disease Prevention, repelling ticks, finding and removing ticks from your body, checking animals for ticks, tick proofing your yard. Don't assume you're immune. And then in the bottom, it has your symptoms. What to look for... Okay. Next thing on the agenda is to discuss with Larry and Tony the types of experience in other cases most needed by the Authority. Larry, do you want to go first or Tony? It doesn't matter.

Tony:

I don't know. What do you want to know?

Greg:

Well, you have the... What we have down. We sent out. Are we missing anything?

Tony:

The criteria? No you're not.

Greg:

Criteria? No? That pretty much meets everything?

Tony DiSalvo:

Yep.

Larry:

The only thing I would add to that and unless I missed it in here, is that the agreement with New Haven specifically notes that the person appointed for New Haven would be appointed to whatever committee

is responsible for reviewing capital improvements. Well, of course since you know the authority as a whole reviews the capital budget.

Larry:

And so I think having either experience with capital budgeting or engineering experience that have dealt with capital projects would be very helpful. And Joe has certainly provided a value, certainly in the 11 years that I've been here in terms of his comments on capital projects or... capital project budgets or capital project applications to the RPB.

Greg:

Okay.

Larry:

And I didn't see... like I said, unless I missed it, I didn't see that specifically called out.

Greg:

Hey Jennifer, could you bring it up... The criteria.

Jennifer:

Sure, hang on just a minute.

Greg:

Thanks. Yeah.

Jennifer:

[inaudible 00:06:53] 10.

Larry:

It's got a... I don't know the work and organization background. It doesn't seem to have that. Well, it does say involvement with capital projects and programs. So I'd say capital projects, programs and budgets.

Greg:

Okay... I thought it said something about budgets [inaudible 00:07:15].

Larry:

That corporate finance, or budget experience [inaudible 00:07:21].

Tony DiSalvo:

There was a line, there was a criteria around the capital budgets and stuff like that, major projects. Larry [crosstalk 00:07:27].

Greg:

Capital projects, programs and budgets.

Larry:

Right. And then, yes.

Greg:

Anything else?

Larry:

I think the rest of it is... are relevant in my opinion.

Greg:

Okay. How about you, Tony?

Tony DiSalvo:

No, I'm good.

Greg:

All right.

Tony DiSalvo:

Hey after all it's Joe Cermola.

Greg:

Yeah. We all know.... I mean this is kind of an easy one because we all know Joe and he's been on for a long time. I would assume you think he's doing a good job?

Tony DiSalvo:

Well, that's an assumption you're making you'll never know.

Greg:

No? Well, then I'm asking you, is he doing a good job?

Tony DiSalvo:

I think he's so good that I wanted to make sure that he didn't think about retiring.

Greg:

Okay.

Tim:

That's important.

Tony DiSalvo:

I sat with him... because I hadn't heard some, sort of a chirps from him thinking that maybe he was about done with his usefulness and all that kind of stuff. So I had lunch with him and when he came back from Florida and I said, "Listen, we really need to have you here and want you here. Can you make it another year or two?" He thought for a minute and, thought for a minute and he said, "Yeah, I think I want to do that." So I know he's still engaged. He still wants to participate. And as far as I'm concerned, he's probably one of the strongest guys that are there. Quiet but strong.

Greg:

Yep.

Tim:

May I just take a question off of that, Tony?

Tony DiSalvo:

Sure.

Tim:

Where do you feel? I know you just interjected that he's quiet, but where do you think his greatest strengths are in terms of just how the authority sort of...? [crosstalk 00:09:31]

Tony DiSalvo:

Any engineering project that comes before us, most of us [inaudible 00:09:37] have to scramble to try to understand it. He knows and he becomes the immediate reference point for us.

Tim:

Okay.

Tony DiSalvo:

And it's a great way for us to check on RWA leadership folks who have opinions also. Well, they could tell us all kinds of garbage and we wouldn't understand the difference, to a large extent. Well, maybe one or two guys might, the guys from Cheshire. They did this all the time.

Tim:

Right, right. And just as a question to any of you, how long has Joe served on the Authority?

Tony DiSalvo:

It feels like it's close to 50 years. Whenever the Authority started, Joe was in the very first year. I think it was the 70's sometime, right?

Tim:

Okay. So he's been since the beginning?

Tony DiSalvo:

From the beginning, day one...

Tim:

Okay.

Tony DiSalvo:

... he was there.

Tim:

He's a founding Authority member, so to speak. Gotcha.

Greg:

He has a lot of knowledge.

Tim:

I guess he does. And stamina.

Greg:

Yeah. Any other questions, Tom? Tony Rescigno?

Tim:

No.

Tom:

I would say that relative to Joe, I think it's an important part of his makeup as he begins his day reading the wall street journal. So he makes sure he's prepared soundly, financially and ready to give his all to continue on the five member authority. So he's an incredible asset.

Greg:

Thank you. Any other questions? Okay. Larry, Tony, you're welcome to stay or you can leave now if you like.

Tony:

Do you need anything more from us? We don't really need to hear the discussion. I know I don't need to hear.

Tim:

Well, I guess there was only one thing. He does have a stated term I know you indicated he would stay on a year or two, but generally the term is three years. Is that correct?

Tony:

Five years.

Tim:

It's a five year term? [crosstalk 00:12:01]

Tony:

If you elect him this time, he's good until 2025.

Tim:

Okay. Gotcha.

Tony:

Now we could all take bets as to whether he's going to make it to the end of that, but-

Tim:

I didn't want to go there. Right?

Tom:

I have to think about that kind of stuff.

Tim:

Of course.

Tom:

I think he's got a good shot at it.

Tim:

We'll make note of that.

Tom:

No comments. Larry. [crosstalk 00:12:40]

Greg:

Nobody has a crystal ball. Tony.

Tom:

That's true.

Tony DiSalvo:

I think he's the best bet. For as long as we have him, he sits in that number two chair and I can walk out of the room and know that the place is not going to fall apart. It's going to be in great shape when I come back in.

Greg:

So when you're there Tony, say you're out on an illness or something, he takes over he's in charge of them?

Tony DiSalvo:

Yes. Now, that's never happened. It's more after that I have to go to the men's room. But if I was out sick, Joe would sit in that chair.

Greg:

As they get older, that's more frequent?

Tony DiSalvo:

Yep.

Greg:

So there's no other questions for Tony or Larry. Okay.

Tony DiSalvo:

Who's this?

Jennifer:

That's Michelle.

Michelle:

Hi guys. I'm so sorry. [crosstalk 00:13:48]

Tom:

Hi Michelle.

Michelle:

I apologize.

Tony DiSalvo:

We're just about to withdraw. And so there are any questions that you have for Larry or I?

Michelle:

No, I do not.

Tony DiSalvo:

Okay. We heartily endorsed Joe. We think he's a good player. A good, good member of the RWA qualified... Hey Tom Clifford has a picture. Look at that. We can actually see Tom.

Tom:

You're gifted.

Tony DiSalvo:

So in a nutshell, Michelle, that was where we had gotten to.

Michelle:

Thank you so much. I'm so sorry.

Tony DiSalvo:

All right. You don't have to apologize.

Greg:

Okay. Okay. Larry and Tony. Thank you.

Tony DiSalvo:

All right. We'll see you later. We're going to leave the meeting.

Greg:

Okay. Thanks guys.

Jennifer:

Bye.

Greg:

Have a nice night. Okay, next thing on the agenda is review RPB bylaw provisions deciding the nominating process. Did everyone read that? I know Tom knows it by heart. Okay. This is New Haven's pick. So they're going to submit, technically they're supposed to submit three names to us but quite often they don't. So if they submit three names, we'd have to interview all three people, but in the past they've... A lot of times they only submit one name. And that was Joe Cermola's name.

Tim:

Didn't they have a date certain they were supposed to do that or a step by our rules.

Greg:



Well they have a date it's-

Tim:

I thought it was said August 1st?

Greg:

August 1st? Well let me just tell you, Joe Cermola got a letter from the liaison for the board of alders, the city New Haven. And the letter said that they received his letter asking to be reappointed and that it's within this person's purview and they will be meeting next week to review boards and commissions appointments.

Tim:

Okay.

Greg:

Okay. So-

Tim:

So there's no others, that is the bottom line.

Greg:

We don't know.

Tim:

We don't know.

Greg:

We do know.

Tim:

See, I thought that's where there was a date to be indicated. I thought it said it in our rules that they had to... [crosstalk 00:16:26] it says by August, 1st of all of a given year, any person, any member or maybe it's any member...

Greg:

Any member who wants [crosstalk 00:16:37]

Tim:

Would have to declare by... Okay.

Greg:

Yeah.

Tim:

Right. Okay. Okay.

Greg:

And I think technically we're supposed... Jennifer correct me or Tom you correct me, I think we have to submit it at the October meeting, the recommendation. Don't we?

Tom:

Yeah, that's my understanding. If I could add just, last time I recall, I think Vin Marino was the chairman of the nominating committee, which involved the New Haven member. And I remember that he had to make multiple attempts to a mayor Elicker's predecessor to get the nomination in. And so we've gone beyond August 1, I can say that, Tim. I know.

Tim:

I know I have no issue with it. I was just wondering when we'd get a flurry of nominations expecting not to get any.

Greg:

Well, you never know Tim. You never know.

Tim:

Yep. Yep.

Greg:

It depends on how much he contributed to the mayor last time [inaudible 00:17:45]. Yeah, it [inaudible 00:17:48] we have to wait for him to get back... we get something from the mayor New Haven.

Tim:

Got you.

Greg:

Before we go forward and I may have to them there several times too.

Tom:

You might have to, Greg. I had asked if there'd been any outreach to mayor Elicker, and I believe that there has been, so we'll just have to wait and see.

Greg:

Well, I think we sent a letter, didn't we, Jennifer?

Jennifer:

We did. We did. We sent it in early August.

Greg:

Yeah.

Jennifer:

And he acknowledged that he received it. So now we're just... The ball's in his court. So he's got to come back.

Tom:

[crosstalk 00:18:32] There may be some back channel to this as well.

Greg:

Yeah. And Joe can maybe shift the bush if he knows him pretty well.

Tom Clifton:

Yes.

Greg:

Any questions on that? Okay. We kind of discussed the criteria with Larry and Tony. Does anybody want to add anything to it?

Tony R.:

Not really, I agree that he's very qualified, he's stable he's reliable. I mean, he's professional. All the things that I think we'd want.

Greg:

Yeah.

Tony R.:

I don't have an issue.

Greg:

Yeah.

Tim:

Nor do I.

Greg:

And I don't think he micro manages either.

Tim:

No. Seems like a perfect gentleman.

Greg:

The [inaudible 00:19:36] has everybody reviewed the [inaudible 00:19:38]? Any questions on that?

Tom:

No.

Greg:

I don't have the agenda in front of me. Did I miss anything?

Tim:

Well, if we want to meet with Joe, I guess that's something we would be discussing.

Greg:

I mean, Joe is the only name... I was going to bring up, Joe is the only name do you think it's...? I think it's senseless meeting with him but...

Tim:

I don't think it's important. I guess that would be my-

Greg:

Because we know.

Tim:

... my feeling. Right.

Greg:

We know the job he's doing.

Tim:

Absolutely.

Greg:

How about you Tom, do you have any feeling on that?

Tom:

It's only the formality of doing it. That's all. It would only be the formality of even though we know him, I mean, we knew Dick Bell too. We knew others, but they would have an opportunity to come in.

Greg:

... have an opportunity to come.

Tom:

But, again, it's more formal than discretionary but I'd be willing to waive it if everybody feels that way.

Greg:

Tony, how do you feel about that?

Tony R.:

I don't think it's necessary, but I'm open. It doesn't matter. I mean, we could have one of these Zoom meetings and just ask him personally, are you ready to continue to dig in? And I think we know all of the answers are going to be, but everybody's set here. It's just a matter of formality.

Greg:

Okay.

Tim:

One way or the other, Greg would just have to convey that we basically are willing to waive it unless maybe he would like to come before us. Maybe if that's the way it could happen.

Greg:

Yeah.

Tim:

But Greg, you would have to convey that there's not going to be a meeting. Right?

Greg:

Yep. How about you Michelle? [crosstalk 00:21:36] yeah. Michelle how about you?

Michelle:

Sorry. I'm trying to get off speaker phone. I agree. I don't think he necessarily needs to come in front of us, as long as he agrees to it.

Greg:

Okay. Alright. And I can't establish the next meeting until we hear from the mayor, unless it's going to be with Joe... I have a Zoom meeting with Joe.

Tim:

Okay.

Tom:

Sounds good.

Greg:

Okay.

Tim:

You got it.

Greg:

Any questions?

Tim:

None. [crosstalk 00:22:13]

Greg:

No?

Jennifer:

Question. So I'm going to make those couple tweaks to the criteria. I'll send it out to everybody. And then that will be recommended to the RPB at their next meeting?

Greg:

Yes, we have to send it to them.

Jennifer:

Okay.

Greg:

If I read it correctly, they have to receive it 10 days in advance.

Jennifer:

Yes.

Greg:

Yeah.

Jennifer:

Yep. So we got some time, but I'll get that out to you tomorrow.

Greg:

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All right. Good.

Jennifer:

Okay.

Greg:

Thank you.

Tony R.:

Wonderful.

Greg:

If there's nothing else. Everyone have a good night.