

**Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Joint Meeting
Consumer Affairs Committee
and
Land Use Committee**

Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) and the Land Use Committee (“LUC”) of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RPB”) took place on Monday, April 19, 2021, via remote access. Committee members present were: P. Betkoski, N. Campbell, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, M. Horbal, M. Levine, S. Mongillo, J. Oslander, F. Pepe, T. Rescigno, and Jamie Mowat Young.

RPB members present were: C. Havrda and M. Ricozzi.

RWA members present were: L. Bingaman, R. Kowalski, B. Nesteriak, T. Norris, J. Reckdenwald, and P. Singh.

D. Borowy and K. Curseaden attended from the Authority, and Jeff Donofrio, Esq., from the Office of Consumer Affairs (“OCA”).

RPB staff present: J. Slubowski.

Chairman Stephen Mongillo of the CAC, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

He stated that the meeting is a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee to review the RWA’s proposed FY 2022 capital and operating budgets. The business of the regular CAC Committee will take place after managements presentation of the FY 2022 proposed budgets.

Mr. Bingaman, RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the FY 2022 capital budget outline and summarized the key points of the capital budget history. He reviewed assumptions used to develop the proposed budget. He noted that the FY 2022 capital budget includes funding of 84 projects and programs in four categories: Natural Resources, Treatment, Transmission and Pumping, and General Plant. He reported that the total budget for capital projects would be approximately \$42.9 million and is within the recommended range of GHP’s expenditure forecast audit.

Mr. Norris, RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, Ms. Nesteriak, RWA’s Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Singh, RWA’s Chief Information Digital Officer and VP of Customer Care, provided information, breakdown of costs, and cost highlights for the following:

- Prioritization methodology
- Natural resources
- Treatment
- General Plant
- 5-year Plan of Capital Improvements

Mr. Bingaman discussed 5 new budget categories for FY 2023, which will include:

- Growth
- Long-Term Planning
- Regulatory Compliance
- Capital Renewal
- Technology

Mr. Bingaman summarized the FY 2022 proposed capital budget and stated that the organization would continue to pursue lower cost financing alternatives such as federal and state grants.

Discussion took place regarding levelized spending, materials, capital budget increase, infrastructure funding, and grant funding.

The Authority then reviewed the proposed FY 2022 operating budget. Mr. Bingaman provided an introduction of RWA's budget by reviewing its mitigating strategies due to COVID-19 uncertainties, reserve fund balances and FY 2021 capital sources.

Ms. Kowalski, RWA's Vice President of Financial Reporting & Analysis, provided the Authority with the FY 2022 Operating Budget financial summary. She stated that the proposed operating budget is \$59.7 million. Ms. Kowalski also reviewed trends and revenue and expense assumptions, which included:

- Highlights
- Declining consumption trends
- Revenue and expense trends and assumptions
- Maintenance Test
- Opportunities and vulnerabilities

Discussion took place regarding debt leverage decrease, Moody's assessment, invasive species and educational program budgets, wholesale services.

Attorney Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, reported that he has reviewed the FY 2022 proposed capital and operating budgets and will be preparing his letter for the RWA. He commented on the RWA's challenges and adaptability for its FY 2021 budgets and deferment of the rate application due to the pandemic. The OCA's perspective of the FY 2022 budgets is that there is balance between the impact on customers while taking into consideration capital needs and deferred projects from FY 2021. His position is that he is satisfied with the proposed budgets.

At 7:00 p.m., Messrs. Bingaman, Eitzer, Harvey, Norris, Oslander and Singh and Mss. Kowalski, Reckdenwald, and Young withdrew from the meeting.

On motion made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Pepe, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to approve the minutes of its March 22, 2021 meeting.

Attorney Donofrio reported on an ongoing consumer complaint from an owner of a rental in Milford. The owner is claiming relief for unpaid bills from a prior tenant in 2017. He anticipates the matter to be resolved by next month. He will report back to the committee at its next meeting.

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On motion made by Mr. Pepe, seconded by Ms. Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the OCA's March 2021 billing (\$1,962.50).

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Stephen Mongillo
Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman

Peter Betkoski
Land Use Committee Chairman