

MINUTES

PATERSON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE: **October 21, 2013**

PRESENT: **Chairman Erik Lowe, Commissioner Charles Pettiford, and
Commissioner Janet McDaniel,**

Absent: **Commissioner Kenneth Simmons**

PRESENT: **Bruce Ackerman, Legal Counsel**

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Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting of the Paterson Municipal Utilities Authority was held on Monday, October 21, 2013.

Chairman Lowe called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Legal Counsel read the Statement of Compliance, followed by the roll call.

Approval of Minutes:

The Commissioners considered the review and approval of the minutes of June 4, 2013, and, after discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Pettiford to approve these minutes as presented, seconded by Chairman Lowe and approved unanimously by those Commissioners. Commissioner McDaniel abstained.

Public Portion:

Motion made by Commissioner McDaniel to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Commissioner Pettiford and approved unanimously.

There being no request by anyone present to speak to the Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Pettiford to close the public portion, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel, and approved unanimously.

Bills and Communications:

The Chairman presented the financial report with income of \$20,962.50, and proposed expenditures of \$18,652.40, including invoices for two months for various providers as set forth on the report. The Chairman noted one item to W.J. Grotty, being an emergency repair for a leak to the porch area of the building. The Chairman noted the invoice to Mizzone and Assoc. for the budget work that was completed, and for the airfare which was under the approved amount from last month's meeting. After further discussion by the Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Pettiford to approve the financial report and pay the bills indicated, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Legal Report:

Legal Counsel reported that the insurance renewal was sent in and was also forwarded to Algonquin for payment by Great Falls Hydroelectric. We were informed that the ownership of Great Fall Hydroelectric was transferred without notice to the MUA. Counsel has requested copies of all transfer documents. The attorneys for Algonquin have informed legal counsel for the MUA that they will have the new owners contact us and resolve document issues. They will proportionately pay the insurance invoice.

After approving the trip to India, legal counsel was contacted by the Division of Local Government Services to provide responses to the Supplemental Questionnaire, copies of which were in the packets provided to the Commissioners. Legal Counsel explained that the one area relating to web site requirements was being handled through the City website director. The MUA has a page on the City website, and the Chairman was going to work with the City's web director to have the requisite information posted. That will be reported on in the future meetings.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the Supplemental Questionnaire and send it to the State agency, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel, and approved unanimously.

Chairman Report:

The Chairman distributed the power production report for the hydro plant, which was reviewed by the Commissioners.

The Chairman discussed the trip to India, noting that a further report would be provided at the August meeting.

The Chairman reported that Anthony Salter is working without any contract on the water project. In response to questions, the Chairman responded that Mr. Salter is not to be paid for his work thus far, but is requesting that he be engaged as a consultant. Commissioner Pettiford requested that Mr. Salter attend a meeting and present the report of his accomplishments from the last engagement. The Chairman reported that Mr. Salter had secured a website presence for the URL named “greatfallswater.biz and a company name “GF Water, LLC”. The Chairman reported that Mr. Salter has a source to provide 34,350 water bottles at \$.39 per bottle. Mr. Salter has secured a water supplier, but a third party contract with the supplier has not been provided to the MUA and needs to be negotiated. After further discussion, no formal action was taken.

The Chairman reported that he had a shared services proposal from the City’s Department of Public Works to be discussed and voted upon. The Commissioners have received the contract and payment schedule, and Commissioner Pettiford volunteered to review and recommend the nature of the services/costs to be undertaken, then to have the proposal brought up at the next monthly meeting. No formal action was taken.

The Chairman discussed the Passaic County Open Space Grants and that the request from Director Lanisha Makle to transfer the MUA’s grants for use at Mary Ellen Kramer Park has been withdrawn. However, there was a Community Development Open Space Grant provided to the City and Director Makle intended to undertake that project starting as early as August this year. The Commissioners discussed and determined to have a special meeting to go over the proposed project by the City. The Chairman would advertise for a special meeting for this purpose, at which time Director Makle would be invited to attend and review the project, on Thursday, July 25th, at 6:00 p.m.

The Chairman reported that he had contact with the hydro company, Eagle Rock, and they have hired Algonquin’s former individual operator to stay on to run the plant. The Chairman expressed his concern to keep tours operating as required, especially in the summer months. Commissioner Pettiford requested more information to evaluate the transfer. He requested that the Chairman ask that a representative of the buyer attend the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that the Great Falls Festival was being discussed to be held by a different group, but no request for permit had been received.

Unfinished and New Business:

The Chairman reported that the Jazz Festival was being proposed for 5 weeks this year, and that a budget of \$20,000 was requested, to start August 3. The Commissioners requested to receive the schedule of events and details for the Festival, which would be advertised and reviewed at the special meeting to be held July 25th.

Commissioner Pettiford requested an update on the National Park Service paying its share of building upkeep/utilities. Chairman Lowe would look into rental rates with Community Development and the Parking Authority. Chairman Lowe would discuss the issue with the NPS representative. No formal action was taken.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Pettiford, Seconded by Commissioner McDaniel, and voted upon unanimously.

Submitted by:

Next regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.