

SECOND TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2012

Present:	Mary E. Burgess Maria Borges-Lopez Mary Geake Sherelle Harris Mary Mann Cesar Ramirez	Chairperson
Also Present:	John M. Hiscock Gwendolyn Gonzalez Kevin Barber	General Manager Asst. District Clerk Director Admin & Customer Service
Public Present:	Jim Clark Corrine Weston Thursa Merritt Helen Marshall Patty Genuario Shawn Wong Won Yolande LeCoz	Golden Hill Association Sono Alliance Shorefront Park Improvement Sono Alliance Harborview Harborview Norwalk PD Sono Alliance
Absent:	Al Ayme	Vice Chairperson

Call to Order

Chairperson Mary E. Burgess called the Regular Meeting of the Second Taxing District Commissioners to order at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday February 21, 2012. The meeting was held at South Norwalk Electric and Water, One State Street, South Norwalk Connecticut.

Acceptance of the Minutes

Commissioner Burgess: "I will call this regular meeting of the Second Taxing District Commissioners for the City of Norwalk to order, Tuesday February 21, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. looks like from here and first thing I need is a motion for acceptance of the minutes of January 17, 2012.

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "I move to accept the minutes of January 17th."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I second the motion."

Commissioner Burgess: "Any discussion? All in favor?"

Simultaneous: "Aye."
Commissioner Burgess: "Opposed?"

Regular Agenda

2012-2013 District Budget- Analysis and Discussion

Commissioner Burgess: "Analysis and Discussion of 2012-2013 District Budget, Mr. Hiscock."

Mr. Hiscock: "Okay, we provided you draft #1 of the District Budget about a couple of days ago, I think last Wednesday to be exact, it was generally constructed in a fashion similar to prior years the format is almost the same we did make a few changes based on some issues we thought would help a little bit, with respect to clarity in the budget process, and you'll see as we go through it, one of them is sort of a timely subject that we decided to make certainly a little bit easier for everybody to understand and we'll get to that when we get to it. I'm assuming everybody got a copy so there's no problem there, thank you, we start off with page 1 the draft budget 2012-2013 same format, you'll see the first column is the general fund the second column is the Water Department and the third column is Electrical Department and remaining column is combined District all three columns. I'm going to start with the general fund which is easier to see on page number 3, because it's done in detail as opposed to aggregated on page 1 and 2. This page, excuse me, is set up so that the left column of the numbers of the proposed 2012-2013 and the other two columns are the prior two years budgets for comparisons purposes. We start off with the actual revenues of the general fund of \$3,650 and that is simply interest, and that's all it is. We just like to point out that obviously that's a very small number it reflects the current banking market and what's available for interest and as you know we have almost a million dollars in that fund and we're getting \$3,500 or so in interest. Okay, certainly not a good situation but something we can't control. We move down to the next section expenses and we list them as operations the same numbers that you're use to seeing, Commissioner's salary, Clerks salary, Treasurer salary, all set by the electors except for the clerks salary which is set by the Commission, we have meetings and printing which is all of the things that we do to support the meeting structure from minutes and transcription to notices and legal notices and other information, anything clerical in nature relating to the District Commission meetings. From there we move down to legal, legal varies tremendously from year to year \$10,000 of the \$40,000 is the annual is the annual retainer and which I think you all know we have a annual retainer we had it for a long time of \$10,000 and in trade for we that we get discounted legal fees, from legal counsel and I will comment that we're a long term client and I'm not here to talk about the legal arrangement with counsel, I do just want to point out that the rates are significantly below market rates, that's clear to me when we go to outside counsel for things there's no doubt that in house counsel based on volume in there has been a big volume this years the hourly rate is relatively low. Auditors, simply the annual audit fee, it's been consistent for quite a few years and we're budgeting the same amount as in prior years, and we believe it will be sufficient enough to cover the

auditors and as you know we will be going and have actually gone out to bid for auditors we're on the three year cycle, and the bids were actually due today. Insurance that just that just insurance for the Commission and it's just a small portion of the total insurance bill that we allocate to the District it's fairly small it's not, it's mostly the directors insurance (inaudible) and liability, errors and omissions, the bulk of it goes towards the utilities because that's where the risk is we do allocate \$5,000 so total operations very consistent with previous years \$128,250 and I think you all know that the first three lines are fixed, and the remaining the three lines rather the remaining four lines we generally do not approach those numbers. The audit is close legal varies widely and that's why we (inaudible) \$40,000 some years it can be a very small number other years it's a big number depending on what's going on and how busy counsel is, and some the issues with respect to legal are paid through the utility budgets, so you will also legal businesses, legal fees included in the utility business, okay. Community Service Projects when this budget was put together we relied on previous years and previous assumptions and made particular changes, I think all of you received today a document which speaks to the Community Service Projects in a recommendation of the Committee that was put in place by Chairman Burgess to review these listed item, there is a memorandum that you received I'm assuming, I apologize for it coming out in the middle of the day today but we had to get it approved and agreed to by the two members of the committee, there's a copy for you.

Commissioner Mann: "Thank you."

Mr. Hiscock: "You probably, anybody else need a copy?"

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "I didn't print mine."

Commissioner Geake: "Yeah, I didn't print mine either."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Sorry."

Mr. Hiscock: "Not a problem."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Thank you."

Mr. Hiscock: "This recommendation as you can see has a significant impact on the budgetary process and the dollar amounts in the budget. I'll give you minute to read through it."

(Silence while reading the memo)

Mr. Hiscock: "Okay, thank you."

Commissioner Mann: "Wow."

Mr. Hiscock: "Just waiting for everybody to look up and is done and ready to go."
Laughter

Mr. Hiscock: "I didn't want you to rush through this so, that is the document that was issued, the Commission needs to decide whether or not it's going to deal with the document in question and make any changes, but I want to make it very clear that because this is a committee report and not an action of the Commission we presented the budget as we had previously presented the budget."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Through the Chair, are you expecting to get any questions at the end or."

Mr. Hiscock: "No, this is going to be so long that I think the Chair would prefer that we talk as we go here."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Is that will, that be okay?"

Commissioner Burgess: "Un huh."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I really would like to go on the record, it's kind of disturbing to me that umm, and I hope my colleagues do not get offended, but I was going to say but, this is a very unique community service projects and asking that the community has or had have many years. I know that we go through a process of economical, financial problems at the same token I do not believe and I cannot believe that this committee had recommended such a drastic cut of a 43 correct me if I am wrong \$43,230 plus \$25,000 of assistance, electrical assistance for those customers that in really need for those that qualify for the assistance, it is special and such a dramatic financial economics but a lot of people have no jobs and they depend to a least for every penny that is out there in the community to assist them. Yes, we have to run this organization (inaudible) business, but I do believe I strongly believe that we also have an obligation to our customers, to our clients, to assist our community in any way shape or form that we can. I do not agree in anyway shape or form to accept \$43,000, \$43,230 plus \$25,000 brings to a total of \$68,230 that should be eliminated this includes the Summer Youth Employment Program, how can we recommend, to cut tremendously on such a program with our recipients, our clientele children, benefit at such a program, I don't believe the organization going through the whole process of emergency. Why don't we allow this budget remain as it was before without cutting these programs, one more year to see how we could survive and do better for the next following year. I hope my colleagues can look deep in their hearts and see what the needs in our community are. And I know that they have an obligation also to run this, to make the right (inaudible) what they believe that was the most appropriate accommodation due to the fact of the budget issues. I personally believe and I hope that everybody agrees with me that this project, community services financial budget shall remain, and should stay as it really was before, not to

eliminate anything else. I have a question for you? John, if this project remains as it was or I say this right now as it stands in our books, would that make any difference any serious damage to our future budget for year 2012-2013? Can we manage to survive by leaving this in place? “

Mr. Hiscock: “Well, yes, you certainly, you can survive, It’s not a question of can survival, its \$43,000 out of the District Budget to share by the utilities, It’s simply cash, its \$43,000 in cash that would be saved by implementing this, and will \$43,000, remaining in the budget create a crisis for the district, no it will not.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Well, thank you Sir, I really appreciate it and basically you statement satisfied my statement to the rest of the Commissioners and I can make my case and I hope the community realizes what we are going through, but I truly believe that we must comply to the obligations that actually at one point in time we promised to our community that we are here to run this business as entrepreneur at the same time to assist in anyway shape or form to our community, and that’s where I gonna rest to.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Yes.”

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: “Through the chair, I’d like to bring to everyone’s attention here that, first and foremost we have an obligation with our Electors, and, and this is not a Social Services Agency, but an Electrical and Water Company, we’re talking about we increased the water rate and we’re right now discussing the rates for the electrical rates and we have to cut our expenses, and the amount of funds that I was going through, the, these services for example; Heritage Wall, Bill Peter’s Art Park some of these are not even on the 2nd Taxing District, and we’re funding these services, so I’d like to point that out. And also the Summer Youth Employment Program, we funded for many years, for quite a few years we’ve been funding it. We increased it a couple of years ago but due to the economy and we have to cut back. And it was proposed to the Commissioners by the Committee that we cut in these areas as well. And I think most will agree that social programs and most people in need are best served by the public sector.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “May I?”

Commissioner Burgess: “Yes.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “I believe that I agree (inaudible) way with you Commissioner Lopez. At the same time though, yes we are not social agency, we do have an obligation to our electors especially when it comes to the youth program. We see the crime is increasing every single day for those children that have no place to go, have no jobs, and we, not only we going to increased the water and possible the electric to create a little extra burden for our community and now we tell them then that we gonna cut you guys services on the electric and we gonna cut all the rest of the programs because yes we have a problem, we do and acknowledge the problem, but that doesn’t mean that we are in a

very serious crisis to eliminate this. I do, I might conceive based on your request and basically what I am reading here out of the 2nd District, the Heritage Wall perhaps maybe I will agree to cut it in half, maybe Peter's Art, also in half, perhaps if we, can I ask you a simple question?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Yes, Sir."

Commissioner Ramirez: "On the Heritage Wall, what exactly, besides cutting the bushes, what else do we do?"

Mr. Hiscock: "We cut the grass, we apply fertilizers, and herbicides to keep the grass in good condition we trim the bushes, and we neaten the area up and clean it up. That came about when the former Mayor Tommy O'Connor approached then, District Chairman Otha Brown and it goes back as far as I can remember, he couldn't get anyone else in the community to step up and he was afraid that he would put all the effort into, and I was involved in the conversations that he would put all of this effort into Heritage Wall and then it wouldn't be maintained by anybody."

Commissioner Ramirez: "What about Peter's, Bill Peter's Art Park?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Bill Peter's Art Park is in the highway right of way it is between..."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Route 7 and I95."

Mr. Hiscock: "Yes, it is between Route 7 and I95, it is where those metals."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Sculpture, they do the same thing cutting the grass?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Yes, some people call it art other people don't call it art, but..."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Ok."

Mr. Hiscock: "The facilities that are located there, we got involved in that because Don Nelson, Clean and Green came to the District Commission and asked that we maintain that area, I'm gonna with the risk of offending other agencies, in both cases the individuals that came to the District to request the services felt that the groups that were responsible for cleaning mowing taking care of the area would not do so. And that was the concern and the risk and at the time the District stepped up and decided to do it, that's about the only information that I can give you why we did it and how we did it, but those are the two areas."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Ok."

Mr. Hiscock: "Bill Peter's Art Park is a highway interchange."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I will."

Mr. Hiscock: "And Heritage Wall is also a highway remnant."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Okay, based on."

Mr. Hiscock: "Both owned by the State."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Based on the circumstances that have been (inaudible) kind of refresh my memory I agree with eliminating that perhaps, \$5,760 Heritage Wall if you want to leave it with just perhaps \$6,000 or \$5,000 at least to maintain the grass, I do agree with it. The rest assist Clean and Green that goes with our District is that correct?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Yes, that's generally in kind services, generally trucking and drivers when they have community cleanups, they haven't done a lot in recent years, it really depends on if someone is active or not at time assist Clean and Green has been very active and at other times it doesn't happen at all during a given year. We've been budgeting it with these numbers, on the bases that somebody might get active and we would need to provide assistance to Clean and Green."

Commissioner Ramirez: "In the Miscellaneous Community Project that goes, correct me if I'm wrong, that also includes, that also includes the Thanksgiving donation that we provide to the Community is that correct?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Yes."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I would conceive to, leave Heritage Wall with the \$5,000, eliminating the Peter's, Bill Peter's Art Park completely, and rest especially I cannot perceive the Summer Youth Employment Program gets eliminated neither the Miscellaneous Community Projects which assist a lot of other projects in our Community, I hope the Commissioners will keep that in mind and consider the very strong, that our children in our Community is very much involved in this, thank you."

Mr. Hiscock: "The only and I'm only providing you information at this point, I'm not in any way attempting to alter the debate or the discussion here, legal counsel after the meeting of the Committee was asked to draft an opinion with respect to whether or not these items were appropriate under the statue of the charter and that has that document has not been completed."

Commission Ramirez: "Okay."

Mr. Hiscock: "So there may be some comments from Counsel that might impact some of this, I don't specifically know until the formal opinion is completed, I anticipate it will be completed at least based on my discussion with Frank Zullo today I expect by the end of the week it will actually be completed."

Commission Ramirez: "So by you saying so this will this numbers will have to be presented back again to the Commission."

Mr. Hiscock: "Well as I said, this is the first draft, this is for discussion purposes, this is for the purpose to put items on the table and getting direction from the Commission."

Commission Ramirez: "Chair, I leave my comments as they stand, leave it open for the next meeting based on the facts on what will be suggested by the Counsel, I appreciate for you time, we can proceed unless we have other."

Commissioner Burgess: "Go ahead."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Do we need a only discussion, or we need to have a resolution on this since its going to impact the budget?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Certainly if in fact the Commission has a desire to adopt any or all of these recommendations it certainly would be helpful for us to know that, because as you know essentially what happens is we go through this process and based on you know comment by the Commission we will come out with a second draft and you'll look at the second draft and we have indicated in the schedule an extra meeting if we need to, to discuss all of this, but certainly an indication would be helpful."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "So do you need a show of hands to see who would like to keep it this way or what needs to be changed so we can move on?"

Mr. Hiscock: "That's certainly would be helpful."

Commissioner Burgess: "May I ask something? The Community Services part does not include the Customer Assistance Program? That's separate."

Mr. Hiscock: "It does not, to this point we've been talking Community Service, mostly."

Commissioner Ramirez: "So let me make it clear so at this point we are currently due \$43,000 and 280 I thought it was also suggested, to the elimination with the \$25,000 contribution?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Yes, there is a recommendation here, but for the most part you've been talking about the Community Service portion I'm assuming you will next talk about the \$25,000 unless you want to defer that until the Electric Budget, that's whatever process you want to go through, the \$25,000 is in the Electric Budget the \$43,000 of Community Service Projects is in the District Budget."

Commissioner Ramirez: “Okay, the discussion is, correct me if I’m clear this, if I get this clear the \$25,000 is also a suggestion to be eliminated and that is also to the discussion tonight.”

Mr. Hiscock: “Oh, absolutely.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Okay. So Chair for the record, it is included my suggestion will be not to eliminate the \$25,000, okay the customer assistance and if you wish I agree to eliminate the \$5, 000, 5,760 for Bill Peter’s Art Park and to leave it only with \$6,000 to the Heritage Wall if that, the rest shall remain as it stands or as it is in the previous budget. Even though that is talking about when it comes to millions it will be pennies, but.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Well I think our staff needs guidance on how to continue to prepare the budget, correct.”

Mr. Hiscock: “Yes.”

Commissioner Burgess: “So I think we need to...”

Mr. Hiscock: “From a staff perspective I don’t know how you do half of a project...”

Commissioner Ramirez: “No?”

Mr. Hiscock: “Either we are going to mow it and clean it or we are not.”

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: “Yes, we do it all or we do nothing.”

Mr. Hiscock: “I mean, I wouldn’t know how to make an arrangement with the City, and say to them oh guys, hey guys you gotta mow it one week we are mow it the next, or you do it for August and we’ll do it July and you know.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “If that is the case, based on the fact that how the Heritage Wall is being utilized by the different member of our Community when on a single yearly basis it is not, it is a place where a lot of members of our Community celebrate their heritage, it is a place where they honor the flags, it is a place to honor the American Flag, and it place where a lot of people congregate themselves to honor their own heritage. I’ll agree at this point if that the case to stand it the way it is I agree to \$5,000, \$760 to be eliminated and that the final suggestion.”

Commissioner Geake: “Through the Chair.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Yes, Commissioner Geake.”

Commissioner Geake: "Just for the record the Director of Parks and Rec. is taking credit for the way that Heritage Farm, that Heritage Wall looks like, he is accepting it as one of their projects, so I don't understand how he can be doing this. But my husband was on a tour and he made a point of saying something about it so."

Commissioner Ramirez: "If I understand correctly all along I've also heard for many year different members of our Community have very well knowledge that SNEW is the organization that has dedicated the maintain this place I don't know how this gentleman can take the accountability of perhaps the knowledge or credit of such a help but as far as I know most of the people and I have personally been involved many times and different groups and they are very well aware that it's not parks and recs. But SNEW that is responsible to assist and maintain such a nice, beautiful place."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes."

Commissioner Harris: "Through the Chair, my recommendation would be to reconsider the Summer Youth Employment Program and the electric customer assistance program, since we can't cut in half or I guess mess with the amounts of the others, I'm fine with the elimination of others but I would ask to reconsider the Summer Youth Program and electric customer assistance program."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Chair, you realize Commissioner that the Miscellaneous Community Project that includes the services that as a matter of fact we have one of the pioneers here Mr. Dumas assist okay, to provide many homeless and as well those individuals that have become without a job to go and assist, I mean receive a Christmas, not Christmas a Thanksgiving Dinner it is very well done in the community and as a matter of fact he himself can testify as well as some members of community. We have we cannot deny (inaudible) groups that are in very serious need that you yourself have experienced when they requested assistance with 1,000, \$2,000 for very serious needs in our community so, I will have very tough time to even agree, to even consider it that we gonna eliminate, that we consider to eliminate such a amount. Commissioners we are not talking about that \$10,000, plus it's only \$7,500 okay."

Commissioner Burgess: "Ah, yes Commissioner Harris."

Commissioner Harris: "I don't know if we should table this for later but I'm not sure of what the Miscellaneous Community Projects are, so we might need a listing, I mean I'm sure we can go back into our old files but I'm thinking we should probably table this, until we can get a print out of what these Miscellaneous Community Projects are and just further discuss other possibilities."

Mr. Hiscock: "I can give you just a small amount of clarification as to how we deal with this in the budgetary process."

Commissioner Harris: "Okay."

Mr. Hiscock: "The Miscellaneous Community Service Projects are unspecified projects up to \$7,500 they are approved presuming the Electors approves the budget and it has that amount in it, they then come back to the Commission for individual approvals , no money is issued out of the Miscellaneous Community Projects without formal vote of the Commission, at a regularly convened meeting or a special meeting if there was some desire to do that and that the information that I've given to the Electors about this item for at least the four or five years, when questioned have been asked about it, some years we use it all other years we use less of it."

Commissioner Harris: "Are there ones that we fund annually, like one that come back year after year after year?"

Mr. Hiscock: "In recent time we have sent \$1,500, I believe its \$1,500 a year to the SONNIC Program, through City officials, one David Shockley and I believe the proceeds, the final resting place of that \$1,500 is the turkey dinner that we're talking about or have been talking about in the past, it's a situation where the City program and I don't even know the structure of SONNIC, I don't know what is, I don't know if it has any specific legal structure, I don't know if it was an acronym for something, and it seems like it gets some sort of support from City Government, maybe it's in kind services or whatever and we deal with David Shockley, and David sort of sends a request every year, also sends a thank you at the end and assures us that it was used under his supervision for the intended and purpose."

Commissioner Harris: "And that's the turkey dinner?"

Mr. Hiscock: "That's the turkey dinner, yes, we do not directly issue funds to any individual, and one of the things that I do know from discussions from Frank Zullo and he is still working through it with members of his staff, one of the comments about it is, it's gotta be for a sort of a nonprofit community based activity, but they haven't flushed through all of the detail because there are general sections of the statues, there's our charter and there's other section of the statues that talk about public money we are a government for and it is public money we are dealing with, this is not private money, this is not money contributed to a agency to dole out for a specific purpose. So this is the difficult their having coming up with this opinion, and that's you know covered I guess by sending it to the City of Norwalk, the check is written to the City of Norwalk and it goes through their process however it goes through their process and then eventually goes to Mr. Dumas for his project."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Mr. Dumas is back there."

Mr. Hiscock: "I'm, we're all aware that this exists we know what it is but we don't have direct contact with it."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes."

Commissioner Harris: "John, how long, soon does your staff need to know what the recommendations are to move forward with the budget?"

Mr. Hiscock: "After this evening we will go through this document and based on what the Commission says if there's a firm consensus we will obviously make all of those changes. If there is not a firm consensus we're going wait for a vote of the Commission."

Commissioner Harris: "Would that hinder you? If you have to wait until like, a special meeting?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Basically what happens is that this is all computerized it's all in a big database and it's all in a budget program and as a example if you said tonight eliminate Bill Peters Art Park and Heritage Wall and you know or whatever you tell me by the next go round depending on how much comments you make it could be as early as tomorrow afternoon it would be a revised document or it could be towards the end of the week there be a revised document, so it really depends on what happens here tonight."

Commissioner Harris: "But it's not something that can wait until next month or until after we get the information from Zullo?"

Mr. Hiscock: "No, oh, by the end of the week you will have Mr. Zullo's opinion."

Commissioner Harris: "Okay, alright."

Mr. Hiscock: "No doubt about that, I was at Mr. Zullo's office for a different reason today and we had some additional discussion and the Committee has been to Mr. Zullo's office and he has sort of verbalized where he's going but has not produced a specific document that I can hand to you."

Commissioner Harris: "Okay."

Mr. Hiscock: "I will press him for that document."

Commissioner Mann: "My preference would be to wait number one until we get legal opinion, but my position at this time I don't have a problem eliminating anything that is outside of the Second Taxing District, those are not our responsibilities so I don't have a problem with that, I do have some issues and concerns in regards to Clean and Green because I personally know that the assistance is needed especially for the neighborhood clean-ups those trucks coming out people getting rid of garbage instead of just leaving them on the streets. I have a problem with eliminating Miscellaneous Community Projects, and maybe we can consider lowering that cost because I think there are something's worthwhile out there that we can contribute to, everybody knows how I feel about the Summer Youth Employment Program, you know anything that's going to get our kids at work."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Absolutely."

Commissioner Mann: "I don't want to see the funds taken away, and I'm not in agreement with the elimination of the \$25,000, so once again I would like to state that I would like to see what legal opinion is number 1 and number 2 I'm a little distracted that we would get this, this evening without having an opportunity for me to at least call and ask some questions about something's I'm a little curious about, you know at least a day or two's notice for discussion in regards to a budget that we would have to vote on, you know that people are wanting to vote on tonight, so that my opinion and would I approve it no."

Commissioner Burgess: "Well may I weigh in on this?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Absolutely you're the Chairman."

Laughter

Commissioner Burgess: "My concern is always been that, when we spend our rate payers money it some how goes back to the rate payers, that it doesn't pay for events that are basically to bring in people from out of town and what have you, I would certainly go along with the recommendations as for as the first part of the budget, the money for the people for energy assistance I think should stay in place I think that is clearly our customers, we can get a list of those people who are helped and they are definitely our rate payers. The rest of it I don't know, I don't know who goes to Heritage Wall, I don't know who, they've come up with such things as we want to bring in 20,000 people from around Fairfield County and we want you to contribute, I'm not interested in that, if we spend our taxpayer, ratepayers money I'm interested in benefiting only our rate payers with their money, so I don't have a problem eliminating a good many of these things, my only thing is that \$25,000 at the end, and that how I'll be voting. If everybody wants to wait that's just up to everyone else."

Commissioner Mann: "We should wait."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Through the Chair, I really appreciated the concern for the rest of the Commissioners, in what I had presented my concerns, what I had present to you folks before, okay I really appreciate it for you to consider the youth programs, the miscellaneous projects, the assist Clean and Green okay, I can only believe that you are going to deep inside think about in deep and the most sensitive part of your heart and believe that this programs should stay and remain as we have provided the funds from the past year. I hope that that's the way we vote, please."

Commissioner Burgess: "I think you made yourself clear how you feel. Is there anything else you would like to say to the Committee?"

Commissioner Ramirez: “No, I just want to say thank you to the rest of the Commissioners that agreed.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Anything else you’d like to say? No, well could we just, want to wait then until we get a legal opinion?”

Commissioner Harris: “I think that’s best.”

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: “We’re going to wait for the legal opinion.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Okay.”

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: “That’s just going to delay the ... let’s just get this clear this is going to delay the approval of the budget right? The recommendation to the Elector’s, until we have those figures?”

Mr. Hiscock: “We have scheduled a meeting for the first Wednesday and possible the second Wednesday in March, we have up until right before the Elector’s Meeting, for our final recommendation.”

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: “Okay.”

Mr. Hiscock: “We have some requirements in the Charter to publish our draft but it is a draft and it can be changed right up until we get to the actual Elector’s Meeting. Some years we have approved it in accordance with the first go round, in other years we had the special meeting to talk about it and don’t quote me on it because it’s been quite a few years but I believe it was one year when it really went right to the wire and I can’t quite remember and that’s where we are.”

Commissioner Mann: “So the Electors Meeting schedule is on the 20th? Am I correct? I mean we have a meeting prior to that? If were to it the week before that?”

Mr. Hiscock: “Sorry, I believe you’re correct I just before I say it on the record I just want to make sure that I’m not going to mislead anybody. Yes, the Elector’s meeting is on the 20th we have a meeting the week before on the 13th, and just to refresh everybody’s memory I will get out the schedule to make sure everybody remembers exactly what it is so they can see the timeline I did not bring the schedule with me tonight.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Chair thank you, thank you for the time I appreciate it.”

Mr. Hiscock: “Continuing on with the District Budget this is the change that I was talking about earlier, we have moved the, and we have done this because of the current situation we’re dealing with, we have taken the street lighting information out of the Electric Budget and placed it into the District Budget and it has to do with the research

we have been doing with respect to the charter and street lighting, the numbers are no different just in a different place okay, these are exactly the same numbers we would have left in the Electric Budget if it were not for some of the issues that we are currently exploring, with the City of Norwalk with our Counsel, with Corporation Counsel, the Mayor's office some Councilman and obviously some Electors. So we are in the process of looking at all of this, we moved it from the Electric Budget to the street lighting budget, we moved it from the Electric Budget to the District Budget and the numbers are identical, first internal draft of this, not the draft to the Commission but the first internal draft of this we had the street lighting placed in the Electric Budget it was a very specific line item, so each thing that you see here were also including broken out as purchased electricity and then street lights operations and maintenance that's a separate line. These numbers are based on historical numbers, and what we believe is appropriate to match what we've completed previously, and this section of the budget is not a capital section of the budget its (inaudible) section. We move down to coming up with total expenses of 396,450 comparing on page 4 and comparing to the prior year of 188,450 and most of the difference is the street lighting issue of 206 and a few other minor changes. We move down through the process and you can see there is no debt within the District fund and we have a net change in the operations for the District for -392,800 the difference between 396,450 and 392,800 is the interest income we have, and then we move down to the transfer section of the budget and we transfer from the Water Fund to District Operations 94,000 which adds up to 188,000 which was the prior year number and we list a separate transfer from the Electric Fund for street lighting, so as you can see by this process the money for street lighting still comes from the electric rate payers, we're making zero change to that we're just simply displaying it on the budget the way it is spelled out in the charter and this. I think there are several reasons why we want to do it that way after preliminary discussions with legal consul and preliminary discussions with others we need a specific mechanism to spell all of this out, and then make it very, very clear, I think you all know that the, or you may not but I've sent you memorandums that the cost of street lighting in the Second District by charter is spelled out to be paid by a District Tax, spelled out to be paid by a District Tax in the First District, its spelled out to be paid by a District Tax in the Third District each of those three Districts eliminates the District Tax for lighting by in the First District a contribution from the Water utility to cover the cost of street lighting , they have no Electric Company so they literally pay CL&P's to the City for lighting in the First District, that how they do it. In the Second District we just simply absorb it in the electric customer's bills so they are simply just paying and while they don't see it they don't know about it that is in their electric bill. In the Third Taxing District it is the same way in years back the Third Taxing District use to issue a District Tax and it was part of a process. Everywhere else in the City it appears as a line item in the budget and estimate taxation list, it list right on it street lighting so for the other District in the City they have a street lighting tax right on their bill. Now when you get your bill it doesn't show street lighting because it's in the actual portion that approved by the Board of Estimation and Taxation I mean it doesn't say on your tax bill, street lighting but it is a defined component, so the reason that the First, Second and Third do not have a defined component through the Board of Estimation and Taxation for street lighting tax is that the utilities pay it in one form or another. I wanted to spend a

little bit of time making that clear because obviously street lighting is now an issue. So those are the transfers that we are recommending or need to making in order to cover all of the expenses the final piece of information is the opening balance in the reserve fund for the District 979,274 return the reserve fund from prior years audit of 52,000, so that what we has appropriated in the prior year \$52,000 of it was not spent and was returned back to the fund so the ending balance of the reserve if the budget is approved as submitted with no further changes as submitted is 1,032,509 okay, any questions on the District Budget?"

Commissioner Mann: "Through the Chair, just for my own personal, the amounts that was returned is it indicated in the budget anywhere that I could look at later? That's all?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Ah yes."

Commissioner Mann: "Page."

Mr. Hiscock: "5."

Commissioner Mann: "Okay, thank you."

Mr. Hiscock: "Okay, not in quite as much detail as the previous page but I think it gives you a good indication, obviously as I said to you before the salaries, there's no variance there exactly what was budgeted because we budget exactly what's been approved. The 52,000 represents community service projects, legal accounting and insurance, meetings printing and other."

Commissioner Mann: "Thank you."

Mr. Hiscock: "Okay, and if there's a desire for more detail than that I certainly can provide it, or actually Kevin can provide it. Alright, page 6 is the is the water operating budget, we'll start off with um the revenue, and as you can see the revenues go from 6.6 million to 8.5 million and that's strictly related to the increase in the rates the only other thing that varies slightly is power sales continuing to decline over the last ten years, sales of water have declined on average about 1% a year and I'm not talk dollars I'm talking gallons, and it varies from year to year based on weather, some years up 3 or 4% other years its down a percent or 2 or 3, we plotted out and look at the trend over the last ten or so years and it's about a percent a year so we use those numbers, to try come up with a reasonable estimate of sales. As you know we don't control sales but we can do a fairly good job of estimating it so that number is relative accurate. At the middle of the page there is other revenue of \$199,000, we do outside laboratory services for private parties who need their wells tested we charge a fee for it, net merchandising and jobbing is what we make on working for contractors and others, occasionally there are services we render to contractors or developers which we bill out, and we bill out at our standard labor rates, and this represents the difference between our standard labor rates and work that actually incurring and actual expenses, each individual has a (inaudible) rate depending on who

they are therefore the overhead is different so, we have a small profit on that. Miscellaneous customer charges in the, miscellaneous customer charges are fee that we get for doing final reading, shutting off individuals curb boxes, there's a whole list of things that we do and the you the numbers are relatively consistent with prior years, customer late fees is the interest that we charge customers you know we collect interest in the water utility on a statutory bases because there considered to be taxes by law so the statutory interest rate 18% per annum 1 ½ per and that's a statutory requirement, that's not something that we do differently. Any questions on revenues? We move down to operating expenses, pretty much consistent with prior years some areas they're up some areas they're down the one difference in the budget year is transmission and distribution maintenance and I believe that the extra ordinary maintenance project as we call it painting, Kevin on Price Street tank?"

Mr. Barber: "That's correct."

Mr. Hiscock: "I don't know if any of you drive Connecticut Avenue but the Price Street tank is in awful, it sort of behind Swanky Franks, behind the new shopping plaza its really in terrible condition, we have delayed that project as long as we can delay it for financial reasons so the difference is the approximately \$550,000 or so to paint the tank, painting steel tanks is an ugly, ugly issue because of all of the environmental regulations, of paint and dust control, and sandblasting, and safety regulations. I remember the days when we use to paint the tanks for \$35,000, but I've been here way too long."

Laughter

Mr. Hiscock: "Other than that the maintenance items are similar to prior years even though our expenses in certain areas have increased or labor is declining because we are leaving positions vacant, and we are not filling positions as you know we have positions vacant on our organizational chart that, and there are a significant number at least a portion of them get charged to the water operating budget, and then in the maintenance and construction area the bulk of it gets charged to that department. So we've been able to maintain relative closely what we've paid for the last several years, but only because of attrition. The bottom line is that our total expenses go up from \$5.6 million in the prior end of year budget numbers to \$6.3 represented almost exclusively by painting of the Price Street Tank and by the way for your information tank painting cycles go about 10 or more years if we do well, sometimes 15 years depending on the painting of the tank in the past and what has to be done. We have five steel tanks so it between one tank every two to three years some much larger than others are more expensive than others. We move down to total income minus expense income is up significantly that has to do with the rate increase. We move to the next section we got principle on debt we know that has to do with the Filtration Plant project, we have interest on the Filtration Plant project so the interest in principle is about \$1.5 million one small piece of good news is the current year we're in we made the last payment on the New Canaan reservoir purchase bond issue, so you'll see that there's no debt on New Canaan and there's no interest on New Canaan. Capital Appropriations on the next page \$440,000, a little higher than last year,

we can go over the list. The bottom when you get to the change in the reserve fund the opening balance which was -\$1.7 million the return from the prior year of \$1 million the increase in revenue the transfer, the closing balance is -\$322,000, significant better than the closing balance the prior year, again it was increased revenue. If you look at the report between the projected expenses in the rate report we've added a few of capital projects on (inaudible) slightly negative, we can explain those as we go, that's the over kill, are there any questions about these sections? If you go to the next page and that's where we are going to sort of finish up on this Water Budget, capital project bottom two thirds of the page 2012-2013 vehicle replacements, hydrant replacements, back-up air compressor for the Filtration Plant, that's a new one that that wasn't in the rate report, back-up permeate pump and motor, that's a new one, back-up PLC for the SCADA system, that's new, Bartlett Avenue SCADA, replace services, we put some money into that, because we've got services to replace on Cedar Street with the City construction or the State construction project and the City construction project, we're purchasing water meters and modules that was in our original version, miscellaneous capital purchases that was in the version that we handed in the rate study, for \$440,000, if you go further down the page you'll see you see the extraordinary maintenance projects, we're replacing a valve that needs to be replaced that's broken on the transmission system and again paint the Price Street tank at \$601,000. Questions on the Water Budget? And as you know the rest of the details behind it we are not going to go over its there for your detailed analysis and information and it spells out exactly (inaudible) the budget and Departments and each of the sheets in the back add up to the sheets that we are going over. On page 9 you can see the water audited figures verses the applicable for the prior year, we talk about this during the audit meeting but we did considerably better in the budget, which was certainly a good thing way better than the budget. We can finish this up by going to the Electric Operating Budget, again there's very little difference between this and the prior year's our metered sales are slightly higher than the prior year based on our experience, this does not take into account the other item we are going to talk about this evening, we have a comparison of \$15.2 million in operating revenue versus \$16.0 we move down to other revenue of in the prior year of \$442,000, versus \$358,000, interest revenue we did a very bad job of budgeting last year, and we kind of thought things would be okay, well they weren't we're down to \$36,000 in interest revenue compare that to the \$500, 600, \$700,000, that we were doing in 2006,[20]07, [20]08, that lack of interest income has a lot to do with why the cash is declining slightly in electric fund, along with some other issues that I've explained to you in another document. Operating expenses dropping from 16.7 in the prior year to 16.4, you can see when you go down through and I'm not going to go over each one of them, very, very similar all the way down through you will see that under purchased electric street lighting we put 0 in this section last year it was \$122,584, and that has to do with a change that I previously mentioned about the District Budget and if you look at street lighting expense in the prior year it was \$100,000, and its 0 in this budget because we've essentially taken out of the Electric Budget moving it to the District Budget, but the cash from the revenue it all comes from the same place, okay. We go over to the next page and you see the net operating income is down -389 last year it was estimated to be considerably higher, we're also returning a significant amount, capital appropriations we'll go over in a minute on the next page of \$1.1 million change

in the electric fund financial reserve of -1.4 return to the budget of 1.1 so that one sort of negates the other the opening balance in the electric fund 5.2. We cancelled some previous projects for 95,000 and then we transferred 94,000 to the general fund for the general fund operations and 206, to cover the lighting, and it show a closing balance in the electric fund for 4.6 now you do recall I just sent you a long memorandum with a big spreadsheet telling you there was actually \$12.5 million of cash in the electric fund, and went to an explanation of that and we could discuss later this evening if you wish or we could discuss that at the next budget meeting if you wanted to adjust it all that fine but I want to make it perfectly clear to you because I have received some questions about the difference between the audit cash and the budgeting process so we laid it all out for you over the last 10 years so you could see the numbers and I think its reasonably self explanatory but we can go into any of the questions that you would like to either now or at the next time we go over this, and it's really important when we did the electric rate presentation to the public we very specifically said there was going to be \$12.5 million in that fund and we want to make it very clear that part of it is this is a time delay problem, part of it is that we invest nothing anymore everything in now in very short-term money receiving 0 interest. Any question on the operating portion of this budget? The next page is carryovers and prior year's budget, if you move to the section of the budget that's capital project 2012-2013 we have \$1.1 million for capital projects, pole replacements, transformer 80,000 and drill trailer 40,000, replace underground switches 440,000, we are doing our best to replace the underground switches as they fail and caused a lot of reliability problems, I don't know if it's been obvious to you but the last two years we've been doing pretty good on reliability we haven't had as many of the system wide failures, we haven't had as many of the circuit outages, and a lot it has to with we are replacing obsolete switches as fast as we can go and the switches are the items that were given us the most of the problems and the most of failures, and that's why we stepped up to 440,000 we've got an additional 250,000 for the 115 substation that we're working on to cover permitting through the end of the fiscal year, we've got additional funds for the AMI project for 100,000, electric meters of 50,000 and miscellaneous purchases of coming to 1.1 million. And that's where we end up with the Electric Budget, I can answer and questions about the Electric Budget, you have the opportunity after this discussion tonight as you always to go back and look through this budget and think about the thinks that I've talked about this evening and this is ordinary, so any of these items that you have questions about please get a hold of me, if you need more detail on any of them get a hold of me, if you have questions about the specific capital purchases, I will answer it probably in writing for you so that I can answer the same question for all the Commissioners so that I'm not going to be dealing with anybody differentially, you'll all get the same answer, if somebody call and has I'll clarify it and send a clarifying memo to the rest of the Commission, again this is our first shot at it and there it is. I know it took longer than anticipated a little bit longer than normal but I just wanted to go over."

Commissioner Burgess: "No action tonight right?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Absolutely no action tonight, no votes, no requirements."

Commissioner Burgess: "So we can move on?"

Mr. Hiscock: "Simply introduction and brief less than brief clarification."

Commissioner Burgess: "Item 4, Electric Rate Modifications."

Electric Rate Modifications

Mr. Hiscock: "Okay, we've been going through the electric rate process for a year now, since we've hired a Consultant, the Consultant has been before the Commission about three times, we held a public meeting to discuss this in detail, recently we notified the public. We had a significant number of the public here in relationship to other meetings we went over this in detail there were significant number of questions and comments by the public. We went over it, we had the opportunity to discuss this several times with the rate consultant based on at least what occurred at the public meeting we have no changes to this final report. It's really at this point in the hands of the Commission as to whether or not to go forward with the changes we're simply going to if you don't mind highlight the recommendation in just two areas. If you'll look at the bottom of the cover introduction executive summary it basically compares the recommendation to CL&P's rates and for the first time in a very, very, very long time this recommendation leaves us only 12.5% lower than CL&P for residential customers, we've all heard why, we all go the explanation about the gas purchases and the gas market the higher than normal cost at CMEEC with respect to this. The combined general small electric service is going to be 1.4% on average higher than CL&P, the combined medium general 1.4% below CL&P, and the combined large general 1.3 below CL&P so in general on average we're 5.6 below CL&P. We have to start (inaudible) way better than that, I just want to make it clear that despite the difficulty we're having we are still competitive and for residential we are better than CL&P. The other page I think is very important is page, let me find it now, okay on page 6 the final rate designs remember that we had discussed that you've already approved \$1.0 million to come out the rate, section 4.2 final analysis, and if you don't report with you I have more and it a pile of them right behind you on the counter."

Commission Mann: "No wonder I'm looking for this stuff and can't find it. Thank you."

Mr. Hiscock: "4.2 on page 6, remind you that we've already removed a million dollars from the competitive municipal trust to stabilize rates and lower the rates for the customer so we can implement these rates we have \$750,000 to decide where it's going to come from, your choices were out of the economic development fund or out of pure cash, we'll talk about that in a minute, and then we have the rates starting on page 7, the residential rate the average customer bill will increase by 6.5% still we'll be lower than CL&P by 12 ½ %but the average customer bill if you accept this report will increase by 6.5% if you move to (inaudible) small generation rate 12 on average customers in this class receive a 4% decrease in rates if you move to 4.5 you'll see that the median general service rate decreases by 3% and if you move to 4.6 you'll see that the large general service rate show a 2% decrease. The rate Consultant gave a (inaudible) explanation as

to why we had to raise the residential to and lower the rates to this group of commercial customer was to keep them below CL&P but again we needed to subsidize the rates to the tune of \$1.75 million to accomplish this, the sections we just went over show the different rate structures as they compare to the current rate structure, I don't think it's important to go over the detail we've gone over it before. So we have these recommendations to establish rates at this level and if we do establish rates at this level the final decision as to where the additional \$750,000 comes from has to occur. Procedurally from here if, I'm only saying if, if the Commission adopts these rates or something else other than what we have now under the rate modification policy we just adopted, we would require, we're required to notify our customers thirty days in advance of a change if it occurred this evening the very earliest we could implement the change would be the April 1 timeframe, that is optimistic because as you're aware we changed the entire rate structure itself it's not just changing the existing rate structure this is a new structure. This new structure has to be placed into our customer billing system and the billing what we call the rate engine, that's the thing that actually calculates the bills has to be significantly changed and we may not be able to get it changed in time for the April 1, minimum timeframe in which we can implement. I'm not sure I'm hoping we can do it for the May timeframe that gives our Staff and the Consultant, the service the Advanced Utility System rate, or the Advanced Utility Software Supplier the time to create the rate engine for us, to actually implement the changes so this fairly complex change, as you know we're going from something like none rates down to four and that was one of the major reasons for doing all of this to make our rates easier to understand, to allow our customers to compare rates better to CL&P and UI, so they can understand what we are doing and not doing, and so that we track current industry standards and it gives the customer the better ability to see if we are doing a good job of what we're doing or not, and that's really the reason we went through this and started this about a year ago. So I'm going to stop her and entertain questions or comments or where ever we want to go with this. I will tell you, I'm not going to leave on (inaudible) I tell you that it is my recommendation that you implement the Consultants rate report and go forward, and or give me further directions."

Commissioner Burgess: "Any questions or comments?"

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "I make a motion that we accept the rate analysis as presented."

Commissioner Harris: "I second."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "And you need a motion also for the 750,000?"

Mr. Hiscock: "I was going to ask you to treat that as two separate motions."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Two separate motions okay, so one is on the table."

(inaudible)

Commissioner Burgess: "All in favor?"

Simultaneous: "Aye."

Commissioner Burgess: "Opposed? Abstentions? None."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "And I make a motion that we approve the \$750,000, cash subsidy."

Mr. Hiscock: "It was going to be my recommendation that it comes out of cash and not the economic development fund, because cash is very easy to deal with its part of the process and that would be the appropriate place to take it from, the economic development fund we may want to use for a special project or projects and that's what it was set aside for."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I second the motion."

Commissioner Burgess: "Any discussion on that motion? Alright, all in favor?"

Simultaneous: "Aye."

Commissioner Burgess: "Opposed? Abstentions? None. That is the end of our agenda correct?"

Mr. Hiscock: "That is correct."

Commissioner Burgess: "Other than public participation."

Public Participation

Commissioner Geake: "Would you come up and state your name and address, just for the record."

Corrine Weston: "Sure, Corrine Weston 15 Sable Street, South Norwalk, I'm on here on behalf of Sono Alliance, we're a group we have an alliance with the Community Police the Neighborhood Associations and we're here to ask and request and procedure and guidance on street lighting. We're requesting additional and improved lighting for South Norwalk, we've been working with Mr. Hiscock on certain areas that we feel need improvement, and we're asking for guidance in us getting that accomplished."

Shawn Wong Won: "Shawn Wong Won and I'm going to list the PD address cause I'm representing the Police Department, 1 Monroe Street, Norwalk CT. And we're revisiting a request that we initiated last year actually 2010, and in January last two months, we went out into the field and did an assessment (inaudible) and we found that there were

number of deficits in many the neighborhoods, light were either nor not working and it's the Alliance's belief that this is contributing to unsafe conditions in the neighborhoods, Police Officer's that are task with the responsibility of patrolling those area's depend heavily upon the lighting, as we well. So we are requesting that we're giving the guidance and you know if any additional measures need to be taken to move this forward I know that SNEW had acted upon this, some of our request and some of the lights that are being replaced and at this point we, it's not the Alliance's (end of tape 1)."

Ernie Dumas: "Ernie Dumas 162 South Main Street, and yes I'm a part of the Sono Alliance and we have been have this issue going for quite some time now about the lighting in our Community and we're asking and pleading with you that you would look further into this, that we would get better lighting if it's the wattage or whatever it is that needs to be raised we ask you to do so, because it is a need in our Community, because of the Police officer's that are patrolling in our area the children in our area at night and the drug activity that goes on, on South Main Street. It needs to be bright and would appreciate that very much."

Mr. Hiscock: "Thank you Sir."

Commissioner Burgess: "Anyone else?"

Helen Marshall: "Good evening my name is Helen Marshall I live in the Community of Harborview and attend a number of the meetings discussing improved lighting in general South Norwalk District of the City. I tried to call this shine a light on crime, and may (inaudible) at the last meeting that replacing a light bulb or upgrading lighting was more a whole lot more human than, and a whole lot more economical than replacing a Police Officer, whose out there every day trying to make our lives safe. I cannot fathom any reason why this improved lighting initiative should not go forward with all possible speed, and I thank you for your time."

Jim Clark: "Hello Jim Clark 9 Golden Hill Street, also a member of the Golden Hill Association, just a couple comments about this evenings meeting, first of all, it seems from the discussion that you might be looking to change auditors every three to five years and if that the case, I commend you on that those practices, this is just comment no question and answer? As far as the tanks painting the tanks, this is obviously a huge expense for the District and we as the rate payers are shouldering this and so I want to urge you to cast your nets very wide on this I'm not sure how that's happening I haven't seen that little detail but encourage you all to drill down and see how wide we're casting out net with the vendors, especially in a down economy people are hungry and are often willing to do a little better with deals so if we were able to save 10% of \$500,000, all of our Community programs for the year there not even that point is (inaudible), we've covered them without any problem. So, as a ratepayer myself you know I see a lot of diligence and a lot of vigilance going on here, which is very encouraging but I do want us to also look at some of the things that we consider just, oh this is the same as its always been and it sounds like this is one of those cost that's there that every couple of years

we're cycling through oh all these tanks to maintain so if you could just give us some piece of mind, down the road give us information that lets us know how you're proceeding with that'll be very helpful, thank you, and then finally I know that our Association would also be interested in understanding in terms of the attrition of vacant positions within the Taxing District just at some point it would be nice to see how that has happen over the last five years or so possibly and how that's impacted your ability to maintain service to us in the community, so we as electors can weigh in on that as well, as you Commissioners have to do as well. A lot of municipalities are using the method of attrition to ease their budgets, then the thing you have to be careful of is if you do that too much we strip our workforce so bare that we can no longer provide the services that our, in this case our ratepayers need. I just urge you to look at that and if you wouldn't mind sharing with those of us who take an interest in that kind of thing, I would really appreciate it. Thank you so much for the time for all your work I really appreciate it."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Thank you."

Commissioner Burgess: "Thank you."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Anybody else?"

Commissioner Burgess: "Anyone else?"

Yolande LeCoz: "Hi my name is Yolande LeCoz I'm from Shorefront Park 39 Shorefront Park."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I'm sorry, what was your name again?"

Yolande LeCoz: "Yolande LeCoz 39 Shorefront Park, well I'm here for the lighting initiative, I'm kind of new to this whole process and I have to say for something kind of simple and probably obvious it's taken a lot of steps. So we do need your guidance and since we've been working on it, it looks like for two years if you can help us make this fast or expedite it, it would be so much better for our community and the primary area as you know there have been a lot of shootings and as a concerned mom I would like to have my daughter live, even everybody else kids live a safe area so lighting is very important for law enforcement, I would rather give law enforcement the advantage rather the perpetrator, so if you can help with that (inaudible). And I could help but notice the 550,000 for the tank so I do have a couple of questions, I'm a little nervous so it's every ten years? Has it been ten years yet or past it? "

Thursa Merritt: "Fifteen, maybe I'm guessing from the looks of the tank."

Yolande LeCoz: "I've never seen it."

Thursa Merritt: “There suppose to done in a certain amount of time. Every year the price goes up, the paints not cheap, they can’t let the dust dispense, from the looks of the tank I’d say its fifteen years maybe Mr. Hiscock?”

Mr. Hiscock: “Where do you want to go with comment versus answers?”

Commissioner Burgess: “Pardon me?”

Mr. Hiscock: “Where do you want to go with comment versus answers? These are reasonable easy to answer if you like.”

Yolande LeCoz: “I’m sorry, no, no, I didn’t have to ask a question.”

Commissioner Burgess: “I would like to limit comments.”

Yolande LeCoz: “Okay, so basically I wondered if it was more than ten years. Is there something that happens would it burst apart if it not painted? Okay, that my questions on that.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Anyone else?”

Mr. Hiscock: “I’ll be quick, I think you need to update you.”

Commissioner Burgess: “I do think you need to.”

Mr. Hiscock: “Yeah, with exactly where we are with the lighting issue. I’ve talked to our counsel about it and our counsel is reviewing my analysis of what the charter says and doesn’t say. I was at City Hall today for another reason related to our substation, but we got into a very cooperative discussion outside of what our agenda was between the City and ourselves with respect to street lighting and we sort of both side talked about what we need to do to move it a long. It was a high level meeting because it was with the Mayor and Corporation Counsel it was with our Counsel it was with Myself and another lawyer and a city staffer that don’t need to be because they weren’t involved in street lighting. So the discussion is happening rapidly now we I expect a procedure and an agreement between the District and the City to occur very shortly. Once that occurs we can deal with lighting and I mean very shortly within the next couple of weeks at the very most. Very productive discussion today and so that’s a good thing. Tank paintings, that tanks been more than ten years and they do fail if they rust too much.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Thank you.”

Mr. Hiscock: “If you have any questions about the street lighting update, I’ll be happy to do it other than that I’m done.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Through the chair, I would like to commend our CO, the Director for the job very well performed as well as the gentleman I called the numbers

gentleman who deals with the most sophisticated talent numbers, we appreciate that, thank you. And folks thank of your dedication.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Motion to adjourn. I’d like to place a motion to adjourn.”

Commissioner Harris: “Second.”

Commissioner Burgess: “All in favor?”

Simultaneous: “Aye.”

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Attest:

Gwendolyn Gonzalez
Asst. District Clerk