

SECOND TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2014

Present:	Mary Burgess Maria Borges-Lopez Mary Geake Mary Mann Cèsar Ramirez David Westmoreland Martha Wooten-Dumas	Chairperson Vice Chairperson Arrived at 7:08 p.m.
Also Present:	John M. Hiscock Lisa Roland	General Manager District Clerk
Public Present:	Ernie Dumas Darlene Young	

Call To Order:

Commissioner Mary Burgess called the Regular Meeting of The Second Taxing District Commissioners to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014. The meeting was held at South Norwalk Electric and Water, One State Street, Norwalk, Connecticut.

Acceptance of the Minutes:

Commissioner Burgess: "Ok, I will call the Second Taxing District, Regular Meeting to be held Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:01 p.m. And I need a motion for acceptance of the minutes of February 18th."

Commissioner Geake: "So moved."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "Second."

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

Commissioners Unanimously: "Aye."

Commissioner Burgess: "Opposed? Abstentions?"

Regular Agenda

2. Appoint OPEB Trust Advisory Committee

Commissioner Burgess: "Ok, appoint an OPEB Advisory Committee and this is advisors to the full Commission, correct?"

John Hiscock: "That is correct. If you look at the language, it is advisory to the full Commission."

Commissioner Burgess: "Right."

John Hiscock: "And the full Commission is the one who actually has to direct the financial advisor and the Trustee."

Commissioner Burgess: "Alright, I would like to move as a nomination, Mary Geake..."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I would like...I am sorry."

Commissioner Burgess: "Maria Borges-Lopez and David Westmoreland."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I have a question. Maybe I missed something here but this member is three members. What is the length of time to be appointed I guess? A yearly basis, maybe I am missing something, yearly, two years or how long?"

John Hiscock: "It is at the will of the Commission. It's their decision because the OPEB Trust Agreement is very specific. The Board of Commissioners may, in its sole discretion, so there is no specific terms unless something comes out of this tonight that sets terms and as I said in my quick little write up to you, it is not mandatory that there is an Advisory Committee but if there isn't an Advisory Committee than the whole Commission is going to have to meet with the financial advisor and trustee."

Commissioner Ramirez: "And I do believe also that if you are going to appoint trustees, I will call them a trustees or financial advisors, whatever you want to call, there should be a timeframe so a person or persons will not feel like they are there for life until their terms expire."

Commissioner Burgess: "No."

Commissioner Ramirez: "You know meaning five years, four years, whatever the case is. I think that is my feeling that it should be a year or two year terms and then you give the person a chance to continue to say yes or perhaps to give the opportunity to someone else to be a part of the committee."

Commissioner Burgess: "Well, what does everybody feel? Do we want to put a term limit on this too now?"

John Hiscock: "I don't really have an issue, there is nothing that in anyway indicates that you cannot, certainly it is this Commission's decision as to how you want to appoint people to the Advisory Committee. Presumably, what would happen is the Advisory Committee would meet with the Trustee/Financial Advisor. There would be a written policy statement. That written policy statement would go to the Commission. It probably and I am not trying to dictate here, it probably would go to the Commission on the

Consent Agenda and if the Commission disagreed they would pull it off and discuss it. And that is not mandatory either; I am just indicating that is usually how these kind of committees work that is all I am trying to say.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “I do believe that the body at large, I am sorry, the body at large would have the final say. The Trustees, I keep calling it Trustees, the advisors will submit the request or the advice whatever the case might be but we as a body will be having the final say. And I also believe there should be an alternative so you don’t have to change the three at the same time perhaps one could be a year, the other one could be two years, you know what I mean? So there will always be somebody with experience that can keep advising the other party and will remain there so...the reason is that later on if somebody really wanted to join this Committee, you as a Chair or anybody for that matter, how does it feel if I say ok, sorry, you are coming out because this person here wants to get in. It kind of begins to put that little bad taste or an unhealthy relationship to the Committee itself. By having terms, the person/persons will know when the term expires and therefore if somebody else wants to join, so be it. It would create a healthy Committee though.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Ok, I find staggered terms to be difficult to keep up with so I will amend my motion to say that those three serve for a two-year term.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “I will suggest, you want me to put a...I don’t know if you have a second or if you want to do another suggestion?”

Commissioner Burgess: “No, there has not been a second yet.”

Commissioner Westmoreland: “I will second it.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Ok, there is a second.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Can I place a little suggestion to it, an amendment to it?”

Commissioner Burgess: “Yes.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “I agree with two years, I do agree that we put a motion to perhaps maybe but one person out of the three had a one year term so you can have a choice every year for somebody wishing to be on it and so everybody is happy and if he or she wants to continue, it is fine but we should keep it moving.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Is there a second to the amendment? No, then we vote on the motion right?”

Commissioner Mann: “Yes.”

Commissioner Burgess: “All in favor of the motion?”

Commissioners Unanimously: “Aye.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Any opposed?”

Commissioner Ramirez: “I will have to oppose it.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Ok. Thank you. Item 3 Select Auditors.”

3. Select Auditors for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

John Hiscock: “One of the items that is taken up at the Electors’ Meeting next week is to ratify the decision of the Commission with respect to our auditors. We at this point did not have a decision of the Commission with respect to auditors but I wanted to sort of reiterate where we are with respect to that issue. I think most of you know that once every three years we issue an RFP, we get proposals from various auditing firms and once we have those proposals from the auditing firms, we give that information to the Commission and the Commission chooses an auditor. We make it clear in the process that, in accordance with the Charter, the assignment of auditor is for one-year only. However, we also indicate that it is anticipated that it would likely be a three-year engagement if the auditor wanted to continue and if the Commission wanted to continue and I believe there is something in there with respect to the price, if agreeable. We last solicited for this during fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Last year, for 2013, we chose the same auditor based on the process we’ve used and the engagement at this point would be for fiscal year ending 2014. That generally means that if the Commission agrees to continue with the process we have used, next spring there will be a solicitation for auditing firms to submit proposals. We did not do that this year because of the three-year cycle that we have historically used. I do know there have been some comments about it over the years off and on about the process but that is what we have done and we have never been directed to do anything different. Last year we paid \$28,975 for the audit. When we contacted Bob Bailey of the firm of Hope & Hernandez and asked him if he was willing to continue if the Commission was willing to continue the engagement, what would the fee be? He came back with a draft letter of engagement with a fee of \$29,550 which is, if I do my math right and usually under pressure I don’t, \$575 additional over the prior year. I asked obviously if he was willing to continue and certainly by submitting a draft letter of engagement he clearly is interested in continuing. So that is sort of where I leave it.”

Commissioner Burgess: “Yes Commissioner Westmoreland?”

Commissioner Westmoreland: “So how many years in a row has Hope & Hernandez been our auditor?”

John Hiscock: “I don’t specifically know but I will venture a guess that this will be the 12th year I believe.”

Commissioner Westmoreland: “In a row?”

John Hiscock: "In a row, the 12th year."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "My concern is not the lowest bidder it is just the...typically as a best management practice of a board is to, even if it is more expensive and it usually is, to change the auditor every so often so that you have a different set of eyes on the books and a different person who...people who are questioning your accountants who may not have the same relationships and things like that. That is why you change auditors; at least that is what I have always been familiar with as a process."

John Hiscock: "And I certainly don't think that is unusual by any stretch of the imagination."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "A 12 year stretch really seems pretty long. I mean if we are in the middle of a cycle where there is a commitment, that is one thing but I don't know how the other Commissioners feel but it just really concerns me."

Commissioner Ramirez: "May I?"

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes go ahead."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I personally feel that these fellows have been doing an excellent job but I do agree with you. As a matter of fact last year, I actually thought about making that comment. I think I mentioned something similar but we definitely have to go through the whole process to see who will be the new company that would be willing to participate in it. But in general and from what I see of this company, they are very respectful and an excellent job they have done so far."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes Mary?"

Commissioner Geake: "Through the Chair. If I remember correctly last time when we sent it out, the closest one came to an unbelievable amount of money. He was so much higher than anyone else and because he was so much higher and with our limited income we had to go with Hope & Hernandez and maybe that is because they have been doing it for so long and they feel so comfortable they are willing to do it. But I just remember and I am not sure, you can correct me if I am wrong, that it was so much of a difference that it wasn't worth us even considering."

John Hiscock: "It was more costly, I don't know if I would characterize it as a significant number. I have been involved in a lot of organizations over the years and auditors generally get comfortable and once they get used to the process, their costs of doing business is generally lower than a new firm and I am not using that as an example as to why we should do it that way, but I am saying that usually what happens is the price changes and then the new firm gets comfortable and we sort of go through this kind of cycle. We did it I think four or five years ago at CMEEC; we changed auditors and went through the process. It takes a year or two for the auditor to really get comfortable with what is going on but it is also another set of eyes. So, I am..."

Commissioner Westmoreland: “Well, I just...Enron Corporation had Arthur Anderson arguably the best accounting firm in the entire world as their auditor and now neither Enron or Arthur Anderson exists anymore. So, I just...I think it would behoove us to consider a change. It is nothing about Hope & Hernandez or their performance. It is simply a best management practice to change auditors every so often, to have a different set of eyes asking questions.”

John Hiscock: “We have...ok I am sorry.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Through the Chair? What would be the...approximately what would be the fair price if you recall, to go through the new whole process of trying to change? You know, look for bids?”

John Hiscock: “From our perspective it doesn’t cost us a large amount of money to solicit proposals. It is some staff time. Most of the requests for proposals are essentially boiler plate. It is the same kind of request because we are not a different organization from year-to-year. There is no doubt about that. It is hard to say. I think it is going to be a couple of thousand, two, three, four thousand more maybe than we are currently spending. The other issue that you run into in these kinds of situations is if you continue to just choose the same firm you get people less interested in sharpening their pencil and coming back with a good proposal. We have in the past, but in the way past, we have indicated in an RFP and this was in the 90’s that was how long ago this was, that the Commission was not going to engage the current firm and that made all of the people who you were requesting proposals from come to the realization that yes we indeed were looking for good proposals for a change by simply saying we were changing auditors and we weren’t even permitting the existing auditor. Now, having said that there were other politics involved in the situation so I am not going to go too far with these comments other than to say that you certainly could do that and solicit next year that way. You know if the Commission has a specific directive that we should change, we can accommodate that. If you want to do it now midstream, that is a logistical problem.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “No, I don’t think so.”

Commissioner Westmoreland: “Well, how is it a logistical problem?”

John Hiscock: “Well, we would end up having to pull...well; we would end up doing it where we would go for proposals now. We would withdraw from the Electors’ Agenda the ratification of the Commission’s decision because there was no decision. We would go through the process, solicit and bring the proposals back to the Commission and then reschedule an Electors’ Meeting for the ratification vote. It is not insurmountable; it’s not difficult. But that would be the process we would have to go through if we made that determination. If the Commission tonight said that we want to change auditors, we would simply go through the same process that we went through two years ago. Solicit proposals; just simply alter the boiler plate. If the Commission said we were not going to use Hope & Hernandez again, we would simply indicate that and that would be sort of a level playing field for all of the other firms.”

Commissioner Westmoreland: "I believe this issue will come up at the Electors' Meeting."

John Hiscock: "Ok. It has come up in the past. There have been questions about it occasionally. Over the years there have been questions."

Commissioner Burgess: "And this is the third year?"

John Hiscock: "This is the third year."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "So then do you propose that the Commissioners receive a proposal, if so when?"

John Hiscock: "I am sorry what?"

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "When, what timeframe should the Commissioners receive proposals from auditors?"

John Hiscock: "If we started now, with an affirmative decision that were not going to go forward with Hope & Hernandez and that was an affirmative statement, we could have proposals back for the April meeting and the April meeting is...I am getting somebody looking at me like wow. Hang on one second."

[Laughter]

John Hiscock: "Oh, early in April. April 16th would be the date. That is four weeks."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I think that would be a little too early though."

John Hiscock: "That might be a bit tough. If it was the following week, five weeks might make it but presuming a decision was made tonight, it would probably be Friday at the earliest the document would be prepared. We would take a list, ship them out and give them two weeks or so. It could be done in that timeframe. It would be tight. It would be easier, I think, if the Commission made an affirmative decision not to hire Hope & Hernandez again; that would then clue the audit firms we were serious. If we do this blind without doing that, I don't think you are going to transmit that signal to potential bidders. The pool isn't that small but generally the people who bid municipal government work are sort of a specialty. I think we normally had five to six credible bids from firms that were familiar with governmental accounting and have filed the appropriate statements with the State of Connecticut under the State of Connecticut's Municipal Accounting Rules, which aren't terribly different or erroneous, that is not a problem."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "When would we start asking for bids if we were to make the decision in 2015, for the 2015 audit?"

Commissioner Ramirez: "That was the question I was going to ask."

John Hiscock: "We would probably start late January putting the document together. It doesn't take much to put the document together and then move forward so that you would have bids for the March or if so desired for the February Commission Meeting. Either could be done, there wouldn't be anything wrong with that. We are not under an obligation, by the way, to name the auditor until just before the close of the fiscal year, which isn't until June 30th. So, we don't have a legal mandate to move this fast. It is a Charter mandate from our perspective because it says, this will happen in this particular time frame."

Commissioner Ramirez: "With all due respect to everybody and to be fair. When we do things we want to make sure that everything goes precisely, especially on accounting business? I will definitely agree following the suggestions that perhaps we might want to look into it next year, not this year. That would be my opinion. If you are all feeling that we need change, but I do not feel comfortable to put the staff in such a rush when I don't see any need for this at this point. I think we have a very healthy relationship; it is very healthy, what has been presented to us. I don't see the need for a rush and to put such pressure on the staff."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes, David."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "Certainly I would agree, if the Commissioners are more comfortable sticking with the plan this year if we could make an affirmative decision that we were not going to continue with Hope & Hernandez next year. If people are comfortable with that, I would be happy with that. Not that everybody has to please me anyway."

[Laughter]

Commissioner Ramirez: "And perhaps they can do a follow up. It has been a very healthy relationship but perhaps going back to your suggestion and yes it is very well received by the public but a new set of eyes and a new well known company kind of go through this but I don't feel comfortable with such a rush right now, definitely."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "I will make a motion that we explore a new auditor for 2015 in order to maintain a seamless transition."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "Second."

Commissioner Burgess: "What was the motion Maria?"

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "I am sorry?"

Commissioner Burgess: "What was the motion?"

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "The motion is we continue with Hope & Hernandez for the audit of 2014 and that we begin in late January to search for new auditors for the 2015 audit. Is that the...?"

John Hiscock: "I think that is fine and you probably at the same time should direct staff to have bids back to the Commission for the February meeting so that you have a longer timeframe to review them."

Commissioner Burgess: "Is there a second to that motion?"

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas: "Second."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Second."

Commissioner Burgess: "Is there a discussion on the motion? All in favor say aye."

Commissioners Unanimously: "Aye."

Commissioner Burgess: "Opposed? Abstentions? Ok, Item 4 Recommend to the Electors the Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015."

4. Approve and Recommend to the Electors the 2014-2015 District Budget

John Hiscock: "Yes, as you are obviously aware, you did at the last meeting approve the Budget as submitted. So this year the Resolution just says 'Be it Resolved, the Commission of the Second Taxing District hereby receive and recommend to the Electors the proposed consolidated District Water and Electric Budget for 2014-2015' because we didn't do that at the last meeting, we didn't make that recommendation and you usually do make a recommendation to the Electors that they approve the Budget."

Commissioner Burgess: "So what we need is a motion to move this Resolution?"

John Hiscock: "Yes there is a proposed Resolution in the book, if that suits everybody."

Commissioner Burgess: "Any discussion? Can I have a motion?"

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas: "So, I make a motion that we accept the Resolution of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015."

Commissioner Geake: "I will second it."

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

Commissioners Unanimously: "Aye."

Commissioner Burgess: "Opposed?" Abstentions?"

John Hiscock: "And I have one informal comment, if you don't mind?"

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes."

John Hiscock: "When you receive your electric bill at the end of the month we are placing a community clean-up day flyer in the bill announcing a City and a South Norwalk clean-up."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Is that the flyer?"

John Hiscock: "That is the draft of it but it hasn't been approved yet but that is the draft. I have looked at it."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Have you done it in English and Spanish?"

John Hiscock: "No."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "It should be done in Spanish too."

Commissioner Ramirez: "If you don't mind please I believe it would be wise if you do have it."

John Hiscock: "That is two sides too. Ok."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I think you have a lady who works here right? If not the library also has someone."

John Hiscock: "Oh no, we have no trouble with translations. The last time we hired a customer service agent we made sure that we had a customer service agent whose first language was Spanish and she is very good at English so the translations are great."

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas: "Can I say something? They are already in Spanish and English. I have seen them."

John Hiscock: "Ok and the reason I was hesitating for a moment was I am not sure whether our stuffing machine is set up to put two flyers in. It has the capabilities."

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas: "No, it is back-to-back."

John Hiscock: "Oh ok well this one is...we are sort of helping the City wide clean-up too because this is the Norwalk clean-Up, which they asked us to put in front and back side of the South Norwalk clean -up which are on different dates. That was why I was a little hesitant. I didn't know if I could stick a Spanish version of this in and have two of them."

Commissioner Westmoreland: "Make it all smaller."

[Laughter]

Commissioner Ramirez: "There are two documents that obviously, based on the fact that

we do have a very large section of a Latino community and within then they are also, with all due respect, there are some that have a little lack of knowledge to really comprehend exactly what is really going on. We want to make sure everybody understands exactly what is going on.”

John Hiscock: “Ok, well, I certainly have a choice here. And one of the choices is, if I can’t stuff two pages front and back, one English and one Spanish, I certainly could take the South Norwalk one and have it translated into Spanish and simply tell the City sorry.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Well, that would not be fair also for the City. We want to have a good communication and help the relationship. I think...what would be...it is two pages, the only thing you have to do is just put the other version on the back so it is still two pages.”

John Hiscock: “Oh, no I am sorry. The flyer will come out printed both sides.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Right.”

John Hiscock: “In English.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Well one side in English and one side in Spanish.”

John Hiscock: “No, you are missing my point. The flyer, I should have...”

Commissioner Ramirez: “Oh I see what you are saying. Ok, I got it.”

John Hiscock: “That is the flyer, one sheet, both sides. That is my problem.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “So right now it would be coming only one page and by doing it the other way, it would be two pages.”

John Hiscock: “If my machine will insert both, it is solved. If the machine won’t insert the only other choice is to take the South Norwalk version for the South Norwalk days, convert that to Spanish on the back side and we are all set and we will just ignore the City’s request.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “What would be the expenses...I am sorry what would be the fee to do...when does the South Norwalk cleaning take place? I am trying to figure out if we have enough time to send a second flyer with a second bill.”

John Hiscock: “April 26th and no.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “No?”

John Hiscock: “We are paying somewhere in the mid-30’s and 6000, it would cost us over \$2,000 for the mailing.”

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas: "The South Norwalk clean-up flyer is already back-to-back English/Spanish. They are also being handed out and distributed also in South Norwalk too. So those who we see on the street will get a flyer also along with the mailing."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes?"

Commissioner Geake: "I was just wondering if maybe we could get paper with a little lighter weight. Maybe that would make a difference or does it?"

John Hiscock: "No, it's not the weight. The problem is the stuffing machine requires a little bit better grade of paper than the copy paper. Copy paper is a little shiny and it's hard to pick up and this is a fairly high speed stuffing machine. It has to grab it, fold it, inside of the bill and then roll it into the envelope. So, we need a certain quality of paper to actually do this. We have had trouble in the past with a lighter weight, shinier paper. It just doesn't work."

Commissioner Ramirez: "The South Norwalk clean-up, when is the date?"

John Hiscock: "April 26th."

Commissioner Ramirez: "And the City?"

John Hiscock: "April 12th."

Commissioner Ramirez: "The City, it will be City wide or just South Norwalk?"

John Hiscock: "No, City wide. This is a City wide clean up. This is the South Norwalk clean-up."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I think it is a very important document that...how many clients will this flyer go to?"

John Hiscock: "6,600 most of which live in South Norwalk, it just the businesses. Maybe 500 to 1000 won't go to people in South Norwalk, but the bulk of them go right here to residents of South Norwalk. That is one of the reasons that we send it out in the electric bill because if we sent it out in the water bill that wouldn't be distributed City wide and they are only quarterly so that is even worse."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Is there any possibility to attempt to see if you can fit those two pages?"

John Hiscock: "We will. Tomorrow I will talk to Kevin Barber and find out if we can insert two. The machine has the capability, but it might not be set up at this point. We never inserted two, I can tell you that. We never insert two pages previously."

Commissioner Ramirez: "I am pretty sure with technology nowadays and with people good knowledgeable, it can be adjusted."

John Hiscock: "Yes, with the way things are going, you open your utility bill today; you get four and five pages."

Commissioner Burgess: "Why would we worry about the City's as opposed to South Norwalk's? It would seem that all of our customers...if the City's is first, if they clean-up all of South Norwalk, God bless them, but they won't. But why would we not be pushing our area, doing our work for the City...I am sorry but?"

John Hiscock: "You know I saw this for the first time this morning. I did not think of the Spanish issue and at first glance..."

Commissioner Burgess: "Then it could be in both languages on the front and back."

John Hiscock: "Correct. If we ignore the City then yes we can do it in English and Spanish one each side."

Commissioner Mann: "Well, I think it has advantages that people have the opportunity, if necessary in all actuality to do both and the City requested us to do this and I think...no?"

John Hiscock: "No, the flyer showed up in my email with the City and there was no request by the City."

Commissioner Mann: "Ok, it wasn't a specific request?"

John Hiscock: "A group in South Norwalk made an initial request, what can we do to get this information out. I responded how we could do it. I didn't see the City's until today."

Commissioner Mann: "Ok."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes, go ahead."

Commissioner Wooten-Dumas: "Just another thought, with the City and since it is City wide, I would think that they would place their flyer in the Hour so that it would get out there also."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Perhaps maybe hoping but I have seen the flyer and it is only in English and nothing in Spanish or any other language so therefore, that is exactly how it is going to show up."

John Hiscock: "I have no idea to whether or not any of the other utility companies are doing this. I don't know; I have no idea."

Commissioner Mann: "But you are going to check to see if the machine will accommodate two sheets and if it will accommodate two sheets, we don't have any problems."

John Hiscock: "Correct."

Commissioner Mann: "If it does not accommodate two sheets, then I think we can bring it back for discussion. How is that?"

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "We won't have time to bring it back."

Commissioner Mann: "We won't have time? Then just do South Norwalk."

John Hiscock: "If the consensus here is that if I can't insert two pages I will do the South Norwalk one on one side in English and one side in Spanish and we will distribute that."

Commissioner Mann: "Thank you."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Before we consider...through the Chair, I think we have a member of the public who would like say something."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes."

Ernie Dumas: "I would like to say this evening..."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Can you move a little closer, I have a hearing problem. No, no, just kidding."

[Laughter]

Commissioner Geake: "He still has to state his name and location."

Commissioner Ramirez: "Just for the record sir, would you mind stating your name, please."

Ernie Dumas: "My name is Ernie Dumas of South Norwalk, South Main Street. I do have...I don't know if I have them outside right now I will check, I have the South Norwalk flyer with Spanish and English on both sides. And I think I have approximately 200 at this time right now to be passed out and we have passed out some already."

Commissioner Ramirez: "With all due respect sir, if you do have the Spanish version, just for the record make sure that the translation, I am pretty sure you did, but just in case since it is coming from us. We have to make sure it is properly translated."

John Hiscock: "We will have that looked at."

Ernie Dumas: "I will bring a copy into you or someone I can bring a copy to."

John Hiscock: "I am assuming that if you have it that way, you have it electronic somehow. Meaning somebody has an electronic copy; that is all I need. I don't need a flyer. I just need an electronic pdf of the document and I am set."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Is it the same document that you have?"

Ernie Dumas: "Yes."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Oh ok, in English and Spanish?"

John Hiscock: "I don't have the Spanish version."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Oh ok."

Commissioner Ramirez: "That is why he is saying that he is going to..."

John Hiscock: "And you understand I have to look at this document and make sure it passes mustard with respect to political issues."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Yes."

John Hiscock: "I am going to have to go through the document and just make sure that I don't have anything that would criticize us for any kind of a political statement."

Commissioner Ramirez: "You want to be neutral though."

John Hiscock: "That is just standard policy. We don't send out anything like that. So, we will go through and make sure."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "But, going back to what we were discussing before, so then we need the consensus of the Commissioners whether you are just going to insert one sheet South Norwalk Spanish/English, front and back and that is it if that is all the machine can handle."

Commissioner Burgess: "Yes."

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: "Ok, to close this issue, is that the consensus?"

Commissioner Ramirez: "It sounds good but at the same time you are definitely going to see if you can fit...if the machine can be adjusted to fit two, is that correct?"

John Hiscock: "We are going to attempt to stuff two. We can run an experiment. It doesn't take much. We are going to take Sheet A and Sheet B and if they can get Sheet A and Sheet B along with a bill inside the envelope without the machine clogging or jamming it will happen. Otherwise, it's exactly what we said, South Norwalk English and Spanish."

Commissioner Burgess: “Mr. Dumas I apologize. We had passed the point in our meeting where I would have called on you and I apologize.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “That is why I had to go through the protocol to see if they would have allowed it because public participation had already passed.”

Commissioner Borges-Lopez: “Motion to adjourn.”

Commissioner Ramirez: “I will second it.”

Commissioner Burgess: “All in favor?”

Commissioner Unanimously: “Aye.”

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Attest:

Lisa Roland
District Clerk