

SECOND TAXING DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Appeals Committee Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2017

Present:	Maria Borges-Lopez Mary Geake Mary Mann	Vice Chairperson
Absent:	None	
Also Present:	Paul Yatcko Lisa Roland	General Manager District Clerk
Public Present:	Rev. Dr. Lindsay E. Curtis, Pastor Douglas Sutton, Chair, Trustee Ministry Charles Burns, Trustee	Appellant Appellant Appellant

The meeting was recorded in its entirety.

Call To Order:

Commissioner Borges-Lopez called the Appeals Committee Meeting of The Second Taxing District to order at 6:10 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. The meeting was held at South Norwalk Electric and Water, One State Street, Norwalk, Connecticut.

The District Clerk read the legal notice.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes

1.1 Approve Appeals Committee Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2017.

Commissioner Mann moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Geake seconded.

The Minutes were approved unanimously. (2017-06-27-1.1)

2. Customer Appeal / Large Water Bill

2.1 17 West Avenue

Paul Yatcko presented the facts. Unusually high consumption for Grace Baptist Church at 17 West Avenue was discovered during a quarterly pre-exception report on March 3, 2017. SNEW's metering supervisor met with Mr. Burns at the property that same day to investigate the possible leak. The meter reading was verified, and thus it was suspected the high water consumption was due to a leak between the water pit and the property. The property owner was advised to call upon a contractor to investigate, and repair, the probable break in the service line. A reduction to pre-leak

levels of consumption was seen within a few days of the repair.

Paul Yatcko reiterated that in accordance with the Second Taxing District's Water Department's Rules & Regulations, customers are charged for all water passing through their meter regardless of the reason – whether usage or leakage.

The Reverend Lindsay Curtis presented his appeal on behalf of Grace Baptist Church. He stated that the Church made repairs quickly after being notified of the probable service line break. The cost of the repair was a heavy hit at over \$20,000.00, especially considering that the amount had not been budgeted for. Their (February 2017) bill due to consumption and leakage amounted to over \$8000, while a typical bill runs \$700 to \$800. In light of the extreme financial burden placed on their not-for-profit entity, the Church is asking for partial forgiveness – possibly 50% - if not the total. Neither amount will be easy for them to pay, as the payment will have to come from 'ties and offerings' (donor contributions), but half would be more manageable and greatly appreciated.

The appellants were dismissed, and the Commissioners, Paul Yatcko and Lisa Roland remained for discussion of the matter.

The Commission's precedent is not to absolve payment, but to allow for the debt to be paid back over a year's time.

After some discussion amongst the Commissioners and Paul Yatcko, and in consideration of the size of the debt, Commissioner Mann moved to extend the payback period to six quarterly payments over 18 months, waive all currently accrued interest on the account, and to waive any future interest accrued due to the outstanding balance. Commissioner Geake seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

(2017-06-27-2.1)

Adjournment

Commissioner Mann moved to adjourn. Commissioner Geake seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Attest:

Lisa G. Roland
District Clerk