

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
  
LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF  
  
CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
AND  
CONNECTICUT TRANSMISSION MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC ENERGY COOPERATIVE

January 14, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Boards of Directors of Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CMEEEC”) and Connecticut Transmission Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (“CMEEEC” and “Transco”) was held via Zoom and telephonically on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was legally noticed in compliance with Connecticut General Statutes and all proceedings and all actions hereafter recorded occurred during the publicly open portions of the meeting.

**The following Committee Members participated telephonically or via Zoom:**

Groton Utilities: Keith Hedrick  
Groton Municipal Representative: Mark Oefinger  
Jewett City Department of Public Utilities: Louis Demicco  
Norwich Municipal Representative: David Eggleston  
South Norwalk Electric & Water: David Westmoreland  
East Norwalk, Third Taxing District: Michele Sweeney

**The following non-Voting Members participated telephonically or via Zoom:**

Jewett City Department of Public Utilities: Richard Throwe

**The following CMEEEC staff participated telephonically or via Zoom:**

Dave Meisinger, CMEEEC CEO  
Robin Kipnis, Esquire, CMEEEC General Counsel  
Gabe Stern, CMEEEC Director of Technical Services  
Scott Whittier, CMEEEC Director of Enabling Services  
Margaret Job, CMEEEC Executive Assistant / Paralegal

**Others participating telephonically or via Zoom:**

Timothy Shea, CMEEEC Registered Lobbyist, Brown Rudnick

David Silverstone, Esquire, Municipal Electric Consumer Advocate

Ms. Job recorded.

Interim Chair Louis Demicco called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He explained that today's meeting is being held via Zoom and telephonically. He explained that all participants' devices should remain on mute unless speaking to eliminate confusion and background noise. He requested that those speaking state their name before speaking for clarity of the record.

### **Specific Action Item**

#### **A Public Comment Period**

No public comment was made.

#### **B Roll Call**

Ms. Job conducted roll call with each participant responding individually as their names were called. Interim Committee Chair Demicco confirmed a quorum was present.

#### **C Selection of Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair**

**A motion was made by Committee Member Keith Hedrick, seconded by Committee Member David Westmoreland to appoint Interim Committee Chair Louis Demicco as Committee Chair. There were no additional nominations.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **D Approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2020 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee**

**A motion was made by Committee Member Hedrick, seconded by Committee Member Westmoreland to Approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2020 Special Meeting of the Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee. Committee Member Michele Sweeney abstained**

**Motion passed.**

Ms. Kipnis asked the Chair to request the Committee move to place Agenda Item K before Agenda Item E to allow Mr. Shea to present his legislative update to the Committee.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Mark Oefinger, seconded by Committee Member Hedrick to move Agenda Item K before Agenda Item E.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **K Connecticut Assembly Update**

Mr. Shea informed the Committee that the 2021 Legislative Session began on January 6, 2021 with the Energy and Technology Committee having already held two public hearings with a possible third in the future. He walked the Committee through the CMEEC Connecticut Government Relations Update for the 2021 Legislative Session presentation, highlighting the major issues for the 2021 session along with a brief explanation of each. He stated that the sessions will more likely be held virtually amid safety concerns. Mr. Shea provided a brief overview of the Energy and Technology issues for 2021 resulting from the Governor's Executive Order No. 3. He briefly discussed the DEEP's legislative package, tariff and REC issues, and codifying certain provisions of the DEEP draft Integrated Resource Plan, which will be discussed later at today's meeting. He identified other issues the Energy and Technology Committee will address as being Renewable Energy, Grid Modernization, Electric Rates, Broadband and Net Neutrality. Lengthy discussion followed.

Ms. Kipnis stated that CMEEC is looking for a vehicle to propose a change to legislation related to CMEEC's advance posting requirements as they conflict with the Freedom of Information Act requirements, but that this would only likely be raised as part of an existing bill versus a stand-alone bill. Mr. Shea responded that a bill has been introduced addressing posting notices online versus in paper format which could serve as that vehicle.

## **E Review of Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee Charter**

Ms. Kipnis walked the Committee through the Charter explaining the change to Section II by the addition of new paragraph 5 addressing new Committee member onboarding. She explained that this addition has been made to all of the Committee Charters with an additional edit as follows:

- Section II, paragraph 5:
  - First bullet under new Paragraph 5 restated as follows:

“New Committee members will receive an onboarding packet of materials through SharePoint **or other electronic format.**”
  - Second bullet under new Paragraph 5 is restated as follows:

“In addition, new Committee members will participate in an onboarding session either via telephone, Zoom **or other video conference platform**, or in-person, with the CEO, Committee Chairperson, and the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee CMEEC Staff Lead to answer questions and provide a brief summary of the Committee's purpose and any potential upcoming Committee work.”

Mr. Silverstone suggested that the words “low cost” that appear in the first bullet under paragraph 1 in Section I, be replaced. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the words “low cost” would be replaced with “environmentally conscious.”

Chair Demicco entertained a motion to recommend the Charter to the Board of the Directors for approval, as edited in today’s meeting.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Westmoreland, seconded by Committee Member Hedrick to recommend the Charter for approval by the Board of Directors, as edited.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**F DEEP 2020 Integrated Resource Plan: Proposed Comments**

Ms. Kipnis walked the Committee through the memo that provided a summary of the draft Integrated Resources Plan (draft IRP) developed by DEEP which is partly responding to the Governor’s Executive Order No. 3 (EO3) by stating that the draft IRP provides for a cost-benefit analysis of different carbon resources comparing the resource price and the emissions impacts on the regional electric supply necessary to meet the Governor’s statewide target goal of 100% zero carbon by 2040. She explained that the draft IRP contains six objectives to accomplish statewide goals along with impediments on reaching those goals. Ms. Kipnis then highlighted the six objectives.

She added that in 2019, CMEEC previously provided comments to EO3 which were referenced in the draft IRP. She further added that comments to the draft IRP are due by February 15, 2021.

Ms. Kipnis then highlighted the proposed areas for CMEEC comments to the draft and a high-level proposed response.

Upon inquiry by Chair Demicco, Ms. Kipnis explained next steps are to determine if this Committee agrees with the proposed areas for CMEEC’s comments and whether they agree with the approach discussed. She stated that she would like to gain Mr. Shea’s input as well. Mr. Meisinger added that CMEEC’s response would also be provided to Mr. Brian Forshaw, former CMEEC employee and current consultant, for his input. He added that a draft response would also be circulated to this Committee.

After lengthy discussion, the Committee considered possibly convening a special meeting of this Committee to discuss and review CMEEC’s response in lieu of the regular meeting scheduled for February 18, 2021 since comments are due prior to that date.

Upon inquiry by Chair Demicco, Ms. Kipnis stated that this report will be presented to the Board for discussion at its next meeting.

**G Discussion: Joint Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee Self-Evaluation and Establishment of Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee Goals for 2021**

Mr. Whittier walked the Committee through the self-evaluation completed by the Committee toward the end of 2020.

The Committee then discussed goals for 2021. Lengthy discussion followed related to Committee and Board member communication with representatives and state and federal congressional delegates. Committee Member Westmoreland discussed the importance of knowing your delegates and creating a familiarity with them. Ms. Kipnis added that CMEEC can assist by providing contact information for state delegates to the Committee and other assistance to facilitate the discussion.

Mr. Whittier stated that the conflict of posting requirements for CMEEC versus the Freedom of Information Act should be a goal for this Committee.

**H Discussion: Board Member Attendance at Public Power / Stakeholder Events (Strategic Planning Initiative assigned to this Committee)**

Ms. Kipnis explained this item came from the Strategic Planning initiative and could become a goal for this Committee. She explained that a goal under the Strategic Plan is to increase CMEEC Board visibility at public power meetings and stakeholder events in an effort to draw attention to the positive impact CMEEC has in communities served by its Members. She added that CMEEC will look to the Board and this Committee for increased involvement. Both the Board and this Committee will be provided information related to upcoming events as they are scheduled.

**I Discussion: 2021 Virtual APPA Legislative Rally, March 1 and 2, 2021**

Mr. Whittier stated that the annual APPA Legislative Rally will be held virtually on March 1 and 2, 2021. He explained that CMEEC participates each year with a main purpose of meeting with congressional delegates to build awareness of CMEEC and how federal legislation impacts it and the communities served by our Members. He added that Mr. Forshaw will assist in creating talking points, as he does each year, and he will also join the CMEEC delegation at meetings with the congressional delegates. He further explained the only cost imposed for attendance at this year's rally is an individual's time. He stated that meetings with congressional delegates during the rally will begin to be scheduled in February and that he will need a show of interest by the Committee members around that time.

It was also discussed that Board and Committee Members could select certain portions of the Rally to participate in (such as the direct meetings with elected officials and/or their staffs) versus committing to participation in the entire Rally.

**J NEPPA Board Position Discussion**

Ms. Kipnis explained that former employee, Justin Connell, was a member of the NEPPA Board and with his departure there is a Connecticut Board position on the Board that will eventually become open and available. She stated she would like to encourage a CMEEC Board member to consider sitting on the NEPPA Board. She explained that NEPPA is a public power entity consisting of the New England states. Connecticut is provided two seats on the NEPPA Board, with one seat currently filled by Rick Hendershot from Wallingford. Discussion followed. Ms. Kipnis will provide more information as it becomes available.

**L Other Business**

There being no further business to come before this Committee, Chair Demicco entertained a motion to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Committee Member Westmoreland, seconded by Committee Member Oefinger to adjourn.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.