

**Jewett City Department of Public Utilities  
Board of Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was held in the office of the DPU on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 4:35 pm.

Due to COVID-19 requirements this meeting was held via telephone conference. Comm. Demicco called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken with Comm. Throwe and Comfort present. Also, in attendance by phone was Timothy Sharkey, Borough Warden; with Kenneth S. Sullivan, Director of Utilities and the secretary to the board in the office.

**AGENDA #2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2020:**

Comm. Comfort made the motion to approve and accept the minutes of the regular board meeting held on December 9, 2020, as written and distributed prior to the meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

**AGENDA #3 READING OF COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were none for this meeting.

**AGENDA #4 CONGRATULATE CHAIRMAN DEMICCO AND HIS RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD:**

Everyone congratulated Commissioner Demicco for his reappointment to the board of another three-year term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

**AGENDA #5 APPOINT A CHAIRPERSON FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021:**

Comm. Comfort made the motion to nominate Comm. Louis Demicco to be Chairman of the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners for calendar year 2021. Comm. Throwe seconded the motion, with all in favor, the motion passed.

**AGENDA #6 REPORTS OF OTHER COMMISSIONERS:**

Chairman Demicco stated that he attended CMEEC meetings via ZOOM which included Compensation Committee and Board and Finance.

**AGENDA #7 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON PUMIC INSURANCE COVERAGE NOTICE:**

Director Sullivan stated that he has received from PURMA a form asking if the JCDPU would like to purchase Terrorism Insurance Coverage under our insurance plan. He also stated that we have not purchased this coverage in the past. After some discussion, Comm. Comfort made the motion not to take the Terrorism insurance being offered. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

**AGENDA #8 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON METER DEPOSIT INTEREST RATE:**

Director Sullivan explained that the meter deposit interest is not mandatory for Jewett City Department of Public Utilities, but we do pay some interest on them. Director Sullivan stated that the banks are not paying much interest for most accounts held at any bank and with this he would like to recommend changing the interest rate paid on meter deposits to .025% for calendar year 2021. After some discussion, Chairman Demicco made the motion to change the meter deposit interest rate to .025% for calendar year 2021. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

**AGENDA #9 DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON DESIGNATION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES TO THE CMEEC BOARD:**

Director Sullivan explained the new structure of the CMEEC Board by nominating two representatives and one alternate in 2021. After some discussion, Chairman Demicco suggested to appoint Comm. Louis Demicco III and Kenneth Sullivan as Representatives of the Borough of Jewett City Department of Public Utilities on the Board of Directors with Louis Demicco III designated officially to represent the Commission and to vote on its behalf at the Annual Meetings of the CMEEC Board of Directors. In the event of Louis Demicco III's absence, Kenneth Sullivan is authorized to vote in his place. Chairman Demicco suggested to appoint Richard Throwe to serve as Alternate Representatives of the Borough of Jewett City Department of Public Utilities Commissioners to the CMEEC Board of Directors. After some discussion, Chairman Demicco made the motion to approve the enclosed Resolution as written. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

**AGENDA #10 SEWER UPDATE:**

Director Sullivan informed the Board that the owner of 65 Preston Road has requested a tie-in to the wastewater system, that the GWPCA has approved their request and wanted it recorded for this meeting.

Director Sullivan mentioned that for home owners using well water but are tied into our wastewater system, we have a problem measuring their usage and accordingly, it has to be estimated. Director Sullivan informed the Board that he did a survey of customers and found the average usage rate is 16 plus units per quarter. He stated that we are billing these customers 24 units of usage each quarter and suggested bringing the billed amount down to 16 units each quarter. After some discussion, Chairman Demicco made the motion to reduce the usage for non-metered customers to twenty (20) units of usage each quarter. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Director Sullivan stated that 65 Preston Road has paid their permit fee.

Director Sullivan updated the Board that he has heard nothing more regarding the flood prevention wall except that Miquel Riveria informed him that all state grant offers will be honored. Director Sullivan asked Warden Tim Sharkey, grant coordinator, to reach out to Peter Testa, grant coordinator, for any new information.

**AGENDA #11 OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairman Demicco asked about the replacement of decorative lamp posts that have been hit by vehicles. Director Sullivan stated he hasn't been contacted about replacements as of yet. He stated that there are a few lights that have gone out which usually need fuses replaced. He stated that Matt and Ken have been working on fuse replacements.

**AGENDA #12 ADDRESS PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Warden Sharkey asked Director Sullivan if the men could help in the future with getting the rope back on the pulley on the top of the flag pole at Fanning Park. Director Sullivan stated that could be put on the men's schedule.

Warden Sharkey stated that the Borough attorney has been moving forward with the Jewett City Water Company to reduce the original 40.5% rate increase down to 27.55% rate increase.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Demicco made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 pm. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Bingell  
Secretary to the Board