

Item 12
RTM 6-9-2021

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

JAMES B. COSGROVE
First Selectman

RAYMOND E. DUNBAR, JR.
ANGELA M. HIGGINS



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DATE: June 1, 2021
TO: Dennis Flanigan, RTM Moderator
FROM: James B. Cosgrove, First Selectman *J.C.*
RE: RTM Agenda

At the Board of Selectmen's Meeting held on May 19, 2021 the Board unanimously approved the reappointment of Mario Ricoszi to the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District's Representative Policy Board for another three year term, term to expire June 30, 2024.

Please place this reappointment on the next agenda of the RTM for legislative approval. Thank you for your consideration.

Representative Policy Board

South Central Connecticut Regional Water District

90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut 06511-5966 / 203-401-2515
<http://www.rwater.com>

May 12, 2021

First Selectman James B. Cosgrove
Town of Branford
1019 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

Dear First Selectman Cosgrove:

On June 30, 2021, Mario Ricozzi's term as Branford's Representative on the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District's Representative Policy Board ("RPB") expires. At this time, I would ask you to reappoint Mr. Ricozzi or appoint someone new to represent your community on the RPB beginning July 1, 2021 for a three-year term ending June 30, 2024.

There is no limit to the number of terms a member may serve. The only requirement is that the individual be an elector in your community. Each of the District's communities is represented on the RPB. In addition, the Governor appoints a member. Members of the RPB typically have experience or expertise in finance, large-scale capital projects, municipal or state government, environmental science, land use, or managing complex organizations.

The RPB establishes water rates, authorizes the issuance of bonds, approves major capital projects, establishes land use standards, authorizes the sale of any of the Authority's 27,000 acres, and has the responsibility of appointing the five-members of the Regional Water Authority board, which oversees day-to-day operations. The Regional Water Authority is a political subdivision of the state established by the Connecticut General Assembly. It serves more than 400,000 people throughout South Central Connecticut. The Water District comprises of 20 cities and towns.

Mr. Ricozzi has been a member of the RPB since 2010 and currently serves as Chairman of the RPB. Mr. Ricozzi's historical knowledge and experience make him an extremely valuable RPB member.

Under the governing statute, Connecticut Special Act 77-98, as amended, the appointment process requires that you make your appointment, you receive your legislative body's confirmation of the appointment, and the appropriate documentation be received by the RPB's administrative offices. The documentation should include copies of: (1) your letter of appointment, (2) notice of the meeting at which the appointment is confirmed by the municipality's legislative body, and (3) the minutes of said meeting.

If the appointment process is not complete by June 30, 2021, law provides that Mr. Ricozzi will continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

I hope this letter and the enclosure provide some useful background. Please do not hesitate to talk with Mr. Ricozzi or call me at (203) 988-2379.

Sincerely,

Charles Havrda/js

Charles Havrda
RPB Vice Chairman
cc: Mario Ricozzi
Enclosure: Job Description, Member, RPB

Job Description: Member, Representative Policy Board South Central Connecticut Regional Water District

Members of the Representative Policy Board (RPB) are unique among all public officials in Connecticut in the multiple roles they fulfill. They sit as administrative judges, much like members of the State of Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, when they evaluate rate cases, land policies and transactions. They act as "stakeholders" when they select auditors, consider major capital expenditures, and appoint the five members of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), the governance unit responsible for day-to-day oversight of RWA operations. In addition, from time-to-time, members of the RPB, individually, through the statutory committees, and occasionally as a board, offer advice and guidance to the RWA and its management. Finally, they serve as a link to the cities and towns that comprise the Regional Water District, facilitating two-way communications between the RWA and elected officials as well as the general public.

Appointment and Term

Members are appointed to staggered three-year terms commencing July 1. Approximately a third of the terms expire each year. Members continue to serve until their successors are duly appointed and confirmed. Each municipality in the Regional Water District is represented by one member on the RPB, as is the Governor. A formula set forth in the enabling legislation determines the number of "weighted votes" accruing to each municipality; these are recalculated annually. Appointments are made in each municipal jurisdiction in the District by the Chief Elected Official, subject to confirmation by the municipality's legislative body.

Authority Accruing to Members of the RPB

Acting as a Board, Members of the RPB:

1. Approve adjustments in rates to be paid by all water customers requested by the RWA
2. Act upon requests by the RWA to issue bonds
3. Authorize the RWA to proceed with capital projects of \$2 million or more
4. Select the RWA's auditor
5. Adopt policies and standards pertaining to land use relating to the RWA's more than 27,000 acres
6. Act on RWA requests to sell real property or interests in real property it owns, and the terms thereof
7. Appoint the five members of the Regional Water Authority
8. Fix compensation of RWA members
9. Ratify the RWA's candidate for appointment to CEO
10. Name the Consumer Affairs Officer
11. Adopt the budget for the Office of Consumer Affairs
12. Decide whether the RWA can acquire any existing water system
13. Adopt RPB bylaws and Rules of Practice
14. Elect RPB officers

Duties and Responsibilities of Members of the RPB

- Serve as the liaison between the community represented and the RWA
- Prepare for, attend, and participate in meetings of the RPB, typically one each month on the third Thursday evening
- Prepare for, attend, and participate in meetings of RPB committee(s) to which assigned, typically one meeting per month
- Respect rules governing the consideration of applications coming before the RPB
- Respect the confidentiality of information regarding the RWA when so apprised and when permitted by FOIA
- Serve when invited to participate on other committees of the RPB, if at all possible
- Participate when invited in briefings and ceremonial events involving the RWA

Qualifications

- Nominee must be an elector of the jurisdiction from which appointed
- While not required, nominees with any of the following attributes bring especially valuable skills to the RPB: expertise in finance, large scale capital projects, civil engineering, management of complex organizations, environmental science, or land use

Compensation

Compensation of Members of the RPB is provided for in the legislation that created the Regional Water District. It is fixed by statute at \$111.76 per duty day.