



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

September 8, 2010

### REPORT OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sean T. O'Donovan	Chair	Present	
Walter F. Pero	Vice Chair	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Absent	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Joseph Curtatone	Mayor	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Stan Koty	Commissioner of Public Works	Present	
Rick Willette	Director of Operations, DPW	Present	
Steve MacEachern	Supt. of Lines and Lights	Present	
Patricia Jehlen	State Senator	Present	
Denise Provost	State Representative	Present	
William Zamparelli	NSTAR Representative	Present	
Bob Masci	NSTAR Representative	Present	
Steve Sullivan	NSTAR Representative	Present	
Amin Jessa	NSTAR Representative	Present	
Ken Price	NSTAR Representative	Present	
Fred Martins	NSTAR Representative	Present	
Stan Usovicz	Verizon Representative	Present	

#### **189019 - That the Commissioner of Public Works Attend the Next Public Utilities and Public Works Subcommittee to Discuss Any and All Business, Especially the Issue of Double Poles.:**

Presently, there are 124 double poles in the city and Verizon's failure to remove their wires is causing a backlog in the removal of double poles, therefore, Mr. Koty asked Verizon for a schedule in order to reduce the number of double poles. Mr. Koty discussed concerns over Verizon's failure to pull permits and will report on how much money the city has lost due to this failure and he also spoke about other implications of failing to pull permits. Mr. Koty noted that Mr. Peter Bowman, Verizon's Regional Vice President was not present at this meeting and added that Mr. Bowman made promises last January that have not been met.

Chairman O'Donovan requested that Mr. Usovicz, from Verizon, be present at the next committee meeting and have a plan available to address the double pole issue.

**RESULT:            KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**Next: 12/31/2010 12:00 AM**

- East and West Somerville power outages

Chairman O'Donovan discussed the severity of NSTAR's power outages throughout the city and invited members of the public to relate the problems the outages have caused. Chairman O'Donovan, speaking as a business owner, stated that from April through August of this year, there were 15 power outages. Somerville residents and business owners placed 200 power outage related calls to the city's 311 line in June, July and August and the Board of Aldermen has submitted 130 orders relative to power outages in recent years. Members raised concerns regarding reimbursement claims for losses experienced by residents and advocated for those who are dependent on electrical service to power medical equipment. Mayor Curtatone added that this is a critical issue, noting that besides the disruption to residents and business owners, Somerville requires reliable power for the growth it needs. The committee will be scheduling a well publicized public hearing on this issue in the very near future to afford residents and business owners the opportunity to speak on this matter.

The committee requested the following information:

- how many circuits were down this summer in Boston, Chelsea, Charlestown, etc.,
- what is the plan is to increase capacity in the sub-station,
- what is the dollar amount spent by NSTAR in other communities to upgrade equipment,
- how was Somerville included on NSTAR's systematic plan, (as referenced by Mark Reid),
- clarification of how nuisance outages would be repaired,
- an engineering plan from NSTAR (by October 2010),
- a plan for upgrading the Willow Avenue sub-station (in time for the next meeting),
- how many switches and circuits are in the city,
- how many new switches have been installed in Somerville compared to other communities,
- what circuit upgrades have been performed in abutting cities/towns

Chairman O'Donovan informed those present that an invitation to participate in this meeting was sent to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and noted that no representative from that agency was present.

Chairman O'Donovan's motion to submit the minutes of this meeting to the city's State Delegation, was approved.

Mr. Reid apologized for the outages that occurred and said that NSTAR is committed to doing a better job and would keep the city informed of the progress. Other NSTAR representatives spoke about how the outages occurred, upgrades in Union Square, NSTAR's maintenance plan and capacity constraints.

**188632 - That a Representative of NStar Appear Before This Board's Committee on Public Utilities & Works to Discuss Power Capacity in West Somerville, Anticipating the 199 Housing Units at MaxPac.:**

Discussed in conjunction with above item, (power outages).

**RESULT:            KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**Next: 12/31/2010 12:00 AM**