



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, R.I. 02888
(401) 941-4500

FAX (401) 941-9248
TDD (401) 941-4500

To: Luly Massaro
Commission Clerk

From: Patricia Smith *P.S.*
Utilities Analyst, DPUC

Date: September 12, 2016

Subject: City of Newport, Utilities Department, Water Division's
Miscellaneous Petition for Relief Docket # 4243

On June 10, 2016, Newport Water filed with the Commission a Miscellaneous Petition for Relief seeking permission to withdraw \$74,400.49 from the Salary Increase restricted account to cover salary increases for FY 2016. The petition included the supporting testimony of Julia Forgue, Director of Utilities. Ms. Forgue provided an overview of the two prior Petitions to withdraw funds from the restricted Salary Increase restricted account. The testimony stated in part:

Newport filed two previous Miscellaneous Petitions seeking permission to withdraw funds from the restricted Salary Increase account. The first miscellaneous petition was filed on August 14, 2013 after it finalized contracts with its two labor unions. Newport sought permission to withdraw \$176,710.76 from the restricted Salary Increase account to cover retroactive increases resulting from the new labor contracts. In Order No. 21247, the Commission allowed Newport to withdraw \$176,710.76. The second miscellaneous petition was filed on October 30, 2014 to withdraw \$9,546 from the Salary Increase restricted account. Salaries and Wages for FY 2015 increased to \$2,234,093 due to a 2% COLA and the total salary allowance granted by the Commission in Docket 4243 was \$2,224,547. Newport actually had a deficit of \$9,546 when it paid its full salaries and wages in FY 2015. In Order No. 21876, the Commission allowed Newport to withdraw \$9,546 from the restricted Salary Increase account to cover the FY 2015 shortfall.

In this Miscellaneous Petition for relief, as in the two previous miscellaneous filings, Newport's salaries and wages have increased above the \$2,224,547 allowance granted by the Commission in Docket 4243 to \$2,298,947.79 for FY 2016. Newport is requesting to withdraw the \$74,400.49 difference from the restricted Salary Increase account. Included in the filing is an exhibit that shows the increase in salaries and wages for FY 2016. The current balance in the restricted Salary Increase account is approximately \$206,000. If this petition is approved the remaining balance will be approximately \$132,000.

The Division has reviewed the Miscellaneous Petition for Relief and found that Newport Waters' request complies with prior Commission Orders on matters of this restricted account. The Division finds the request to be reasonable and recommends the Commission approve the petition as filed.