

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #557.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice President Erik Semmel, Commissioners Angelina Santa Maria, Robert Berkmoes, Michael Domian, Superintendent Thomas West, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers and Janice Eisenhauer, stenographer. A quorum is determined.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Murphy at 6:03PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2010 meeting.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Santa Maria to accept the minutes as presented. A second was made by Vice President Erik Semmel. There were no comments on the motion. A voice vote was in the affirmative.

**3. Communications**

a.) Communications from the Public

Superintendent West introduced Joe LaPorte from the Southington Park and Recreation Department. LaPorte presented projected plans for a pavilion and ball field area on the land previously used as a drive-in theater. He addressed the board, explaining the project. A grant has been secured for \$200,000 to build a substantial indoor pavilion, with rest rooms, for public use. Scope of the project has grown to include an all purpose field. Noting the present economy, LaPorte petitioned the water board for help with improvements to this land. He feels that if the town depends on public funds it will be years before it can be completed. His vision is to have town departments and private volunteers "chip in" and get this done for the town at a minimal cost. He expects it to truly be an asset to be proud of. Several contractors have come forward to help grade the field, town departments and service clubs have also volunteered. Donations of money and materials have been offered, as well. He is requesting that the water board authorize the department to help with the water service. It involves bringing the water line up from the road, to the field and then up to the pavilion. There is a meter pit necessary. LaPorte plans to start this project this spring.

The board members went over the plans with Superintendent West as he explained, in detail, what would be needed. West has been out to look at the site.

The board discussed this briefly and the project met with positive reaction. It was decided to continue the discussion and

explore all options. Commissioner Berkmoes congratulated LaPorte on a great vision and a fine job. President Murphy expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this civic project for the benefit of the citizens of Southington.

b.) Communications from Administration  
None.

c.) Communications from Board Members  
None.

#### **4. Financial Matters**

a.) Review of Water Billings & Outstanding Jobbing Bills & Approval of Invoices.

Commissioners reviewed the invoices presented for payment. There were some questions, which were answered by Superintendent West. Collections are improving. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve all invoices for payment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria and passed on a voice vote.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

a.) Executive Committee  
There was no meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee  
There was no meeting.

c.) Technology Committee  
There was no meeting.

#### **6. OLD BUSINESS**

a.) Update on Federal Grants, State Grants and SRF Loans.  
Superintendent West reports. He has distributed the agenda for the upcoming year and the meetings scheduled with officials by the Ferguson Group. Notably, meetings are scheduled with Representative Larson and with Senator Dodd personally.

b.) Update on the DEP "Stream Flow" Regulations  
Superintendent West reported that there have been many meetings on this in the past month. He is working with an initiative to attempt to change the final language of the regulations to make this more palatable for the water companies. There have been more than 400 letters to the DEP concerning this issue.

c.) East Street Water Main  
To be addressed during Executive Session.

d.) Pharmaceuticals Collection Day 2010

The date is set for Saturday, May 1. Superintendent West felt it would be gracious to include the Town of Wolcott, especially since Southington Waterworks owns a sizable watershed area in Wolcott. The Board members were comfortable with this. Flyers are being printed and distributed. Cloth bags will be printed to be handed out. The Drug Enforcement Agency has approved the event.

e.) Safety Valve Program

Paul Roberts spoke to the Board and reported on the present status of the program. The contract expires in April. Commissioner Berkmoes addressed Mr. Roberts advising that the Board is not prepared at this time to extend the contract with Safety Valve. Mr. Roberts explained to the Board that Safety Valve will continue to honor all existing contracts until they expire.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

a.) New Britain Well Lease, 2010-2011

Superintendent West presents the lease proposal, due to expire at the end of the fiscal year, from New Britain. There was some discussion. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to continue the lease as written for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Commissioner Domian seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) USEPA Water Sense Program

Superintendent West presented this water conservation program to the board. Participating entities, including water utilities, are asked to promote through their website, bill stuffers, advertising campaigns, etc., information about conserving water. The EPA will require a report outlining the promotional activities undertaken by each participant. There was some discussion. Commissioner Santa Maria expressed her support for this program. She discussed opportunities to promote water conservation in Southington and an interest in informing the public about the importance of conservation as well as the business of the water company to deliver this commodity to their home. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion that the Southington Waterworks participate in this program and advocate it to the Town of Southington. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote.

c.) Recognition for former Commissioner Pestillo

President Murphy read a resolution of commendation for the exemplary service of Stephen C. Pestillo, Past President of the Water Board and as well to the Town of Southington. He also presented Mr. Pestillo with an appropriate plaque.

d.) Welch Road water main under Eight Mile River

Superintendent West discussed the Welch Road Water main that runs under Eight Mile River between Briarwood and the Golf Course. There is a galvanized pipe underneath the road. West explained what happened when the Welch Road water main was replaced. He explained in some detail the options available to correct the present situation due to a rotting pipe. The Wetlands Commission has been approached for approval to place a water main into the wetlands area. This has been unresolved, to date. The Town Engineer and the Wetlands Commission do not agree on what would be the best approach to correct this. Another option has surfaced and West explained it at some length with the Board.

**8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation**

Erik Semmel made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, barring the public and the press, to include Superintendent West and Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers.

The Board entered executive session at 7:03 PM

The Board Left Executive Session at 9:40 PM.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Semmel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Attest:

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Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer