

## Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #555.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Commissioner Cheryl Lounsbury, Commissioner Erik Semmel, Commissioner Michael Domian, Superintendent Thomas West, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Murphy at 6:20 PM.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2009 and October 8, 2009 meeting.**

A quorum was present and voting to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Lounsbury to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Minutes for the meeting of October 8, 2009 continue to be tabled.

### **3. Communications**

a.) Communications from the Public  
None.

b.) Communications from the Administration  
Assistant Superintendent Rogers announced that he has researched some design ideas for a new board table. They will be available for review of the board.

Superintendent West suggested that the Executive Committee could address this before the next meeting.

c.) Communications from Board Members  
None.

### **4. Financial Matters**

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

The commissioners reviewed the invoices presented for payment and the outstanding jobbing bills. Superintendent West explained the scheduled payments prior to retainage on the wellhead project. The majority of the punch list is completed but the drinking water fountain is still not in place.

He noted the invoice for painting of the West Queen Street Tank 2. He has personally examined the work and is pleased with it. Additionally, it was completed substantially under budget and on time. The change order authorized at the last meeting for

repairs on the second tank at West Queen Street, 2 tanks at Mill Street, and the Village Gate tank, based on the findings of the inspections of those facilities in the amount of \$18,000 for all of that work has been ordered and still he notes significantly being under budget.

Commissioner Lounsbury had some questions on the billings for telephone service and this was discussed. She asked that the service be market tested to be certain that bundling would not return a savings. Superintendent West answered the questions of the commissioners. A motion was made to accept invoices for payment as presented by Commissioner Semmel and seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion carried on a voice vote.

## 5. Committee Reports

### a.) Executive Committee

The committee has not met. President Murphy is the automatic chair of the Executive Committee. He explained the roster for the new board members: Commissioner Semmel, Vice Chair and Commissioner Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer. Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers and Superintendent Thomas West are members ex-officio.

For the benefit of the new board members Superintendent West explained that one of the purposes of the Executive Committee has been power to authorize expenses under \$25,000 and more than \$10,000 for expediency. The Executive Committee also is able to approve small subdivisions (under 7 lots). Superintendent West will retrieve the official charge and powers of the Executive Committee for review at the next meeting.

The Phase Two Protection Committee has been disbanded upon completion of the project.

### b.) Infrastructure Committee

No report. The Chairman is absent.

### c.) Technology Committee

Roster includes Commissioner Semmel, Chair, Commissioner Berkmoes and Commissioner Lounsbury. Superintendent Thomas West and Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers are members ex-officio.

### d.) Drug Collection Program

Roster includes Commissioner Santa Maria, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers. Superintendent West has a list of representatives from the Police Department, and Bristol Water Department. Councilman John Dobbins will serve on this committee.

## 6. Old Business

### a.) Update on Federal Grants, State Grants and SRF Loans.

Superintendent West reports that the most important business on this agenda is the contract with Ferguson Group which expires the end of the calendar year. Past performance was discussed. West reported that Southington Water was essentially shut out on federal grants this year. Representative Larson "had other fish to fry," and Dodd and Lieberman were working with other communities, essentially no help to Southington. Commissioner Domian asked about cost of Ferguson service and return on investment. Commissioner Lounsbury feels that a frank discussion with Ferguson Group is timely. The other option is to lobby independently. There was a discussion on the pros and cons of maintaining a business relationship with Ferguson. Commissioner Lounsbury feels that a frank discussion with Ferguson Group regarding prospects for return this year would be a prudent first move. She also suggests that Ferguson be notified of concerns and questions in advance of the interview so that they can do whatever research they need to do to make a fair presentation.

### b.) Update on West Queen Street Tank 2 Painting Contract 2009-W1

Superintendent West reports that he plans to meet with the inspector on site next week.

### c.) Safety Valve

Paul Roberts representative, introduced himself to the new board members. He explained the Safety Valve program his company offers to Southington homeowners and the revenue sharing aspects of it.

### d.) Charter Revision Commission

The Water Board was invited to speak at the Charter Revision meeting to explain why the Southington Department is not under the auspices of the Town Manager. Superintendent West, Commissioner Murphy and Commissioner Berkmoes appeared and felt that it went well. The Charter Revision Commission minutes have been posted. In the end it was voted that they would recommend no changes to the structure of the Water Department.

### e.) East Street Water Main

Superintendent West reported that an update will be provided during Executive Session.

### f.) Pharmaceuticals Collection Day 2010

A date has been set for April 24, 2010 but it is presently in flux and may need to be changed. Superintendent West has written to request the necessary support of the Police Department for this program.

## 7. New Business

### a.) Proposed Water main Extension for S. Carpenter Construction, 300 l.f. 12" Water main extension.

Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers presented plans for this proposed water main extension for a new subdivision to include some drainage work. He pointed out placement of the hydrants and noted that the plans meet the requirements of the water board. President Murphy asked if a representative of the client could answer a few questions. Steven Giudice of Harry Cole explained that the drainage work is planned at this time so that the road can remain undisturbed later. A motion was made by Commissioner Semmel to approve the plan as presented and it was seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury. The motion passed on a voice vote.

### b.) Proposed Water main extension for 214 unit Condominium complex located off the Meriden Waterbury Turnpike, "Hillcrest Orchards," by Hillcrest Orchards, LLC.

Vice Superintendent Rogers presented the plans and explained them to the board. The hydrant locations were noted. He explained that the original proposal for this project did not pass at Planning and Zoning and that it has been to court. John Iannini spoke for the property owners and answered all questions for the board. As proposed, Rogers noted that this plan meets the Water Department specifications. A motion was made by Commissioner Domian to approve this project as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury and passed on a voice vote.

### c.) Laboratory Bids

Superintendent West distributed the bids for mandatory laboratory analysis representing all of the testing required for the next two years - 2010 and 2011. He noted that laboratory costs are actually decreasing a bit as EPA requirements have eased. Premier Laboratory is the low bidder and is significantly lower than the others. He has worked with them in the past and feels that he can recommend their service. Based in Brooklyn, CT., they pick the samples up and that is included in the price. Superintendent West explained the different tests and the procedures for the benefit of the new board members. Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the bid of Premier Laboratories in the amount of \$24,105 for the next two years. His was seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury and passed on a voice vote.

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

Commissioner Semmel made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, barring the public and press, but including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to discuss negotiation and personnel matters. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury. All were in favor by voice vote.

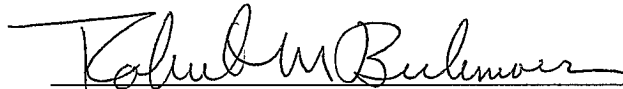
The Board entered executive session at 7:25 PM

The Board Left Executive Session at 8:20 PM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Attest:



Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer