

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday July 9, 2009 at the Department Offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #551.

Present: Stephen C. Pestillo, President, Thomas J. Murphy, Vice President, John C. Dobbins, Secretary-Treasurer, Commissioners Angelina Santa Maria and Erik E. Semmel and Thomas West, Superintendent, Frederick Rogers, Assistant Superintendent and Janice Eisenhauer, stenographer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called order at 6:00PM by President Stephen Pestillo.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2009 meeting.

A motion was made by Vice President Murphy to accept the minutes as presented. This was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. The motion passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Santa Maria abstained since she had not been present.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

An anonymous letter has been received by the Board alleging vague accusations of employee abuse of compensatory time. Specifically it refers to salaried employees who are allowed to take personal time in return for hours worked in addition to normal or reasonable work time. There is no official policy of the Board. Superintendent West spoke of his conversation with the labor attorney in this regard. Compensatory time falls within the purview of the governing Board. Commissioner Santa Maria asked what the job descriptions in question outline as normal functions of the position. She tended not to place great credence on an anonymous letter. She felt that if someone cared to personally share specific incidences of abuse she would certainly consider their view. There was a lengthy discussion about responsibilities and reasonable time constraints.

Vice President Murphy summed up the feeling of the Board. The President of the Board has always stood as an oversight officer for the Water Department. If there was a problem he or she would address that issue and act on it appropriately. He does not feel there is a need for a specific policy. State statute defines exempt employees and recommends that such decisions are returnable to the department board. The President of the Water Board stands as the officer in charge and if any employee has an issue he/she is always free to appear before him. If any member of the Board should notice a problem, he is sure

that a discussion among the commissioners would bring about a resolution and course of action. All were in agreement.

Commissioner Santa Maria did report that she spoke with other boards around town and water boards in surrounding towns, and she found that there were a myriad of ways of handling this.

b.) Communications from Administration

Superintendent West reported that when the Water Board took over responsibility for maintenance and service from the connection at the main to the curb, they knew that it was quite an obligation. There have been a few complaints of poor volume, spread throughout town, which have resulted in extensive work. Typically they were old cement or unlined galvanized piping. He feels that criteria should be established to ascertain at what point the liability for the work falls to the customer. There was some question and answer discussion. Vice President Murphy did outline his thoughts, citing aging infrastructure. Updated tools available to easily assess and clear water lines were discussed. Water flow can be assessed at the meter inside the home. AWWA criteria will be researched along with surrounding systems. This will be discussed further.

Vice President Murphy reported that he had the opportunity to visit the water treatment plant recently. He was extremely impressed with the work done there by the Water Department crew to facilitate the changeover from fluorine gas to the new system. It was designed by the employees and constructed by them, with a resultant substantial savings to the ratepayers. He found it to exhibit exemplary workmanship. He encouraged all Board members to take a look.

Superintendent West reported in depth on the project. He is extremely pleased with the quality and cost efficiency of this work done by Water Department staff. He also cited several previous similar projects at the well sites in the last few years.

President Pestillo presented Commissioner Dobbins with an award for his foresight and his superb organization of the Medication Return Program held in April. He quoted the engraved award: *For going beyond the call of duty, for thinking outside the box, for the countless hours of preparation, for keeping dangerous medication out of our water supply and more importantly out of the hands of our children. "To John Dobbins, for your extraordinary effort in developing the Medication Return Program. April 25, 2009. The Southington Water Department."*

The Board applauded and added personal accolades. Commissioner Dobbins was grateful for the support and announced his intention to continue and expand this project to Southington's watershed area.

Superintendent West said that he made a presentation at the Connecticut Section AWWA annual meeting in May and he plans to present this project to AWWA National next year in Chicago.

Mr. Dobbins said that he had a request for interview from one of the Drug Control Agencies. He thanked the Board for their individual support.

4. Financial Matters

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

Commissioner Santa Maria asked about an old outstanding jobbing bill and Superintendent West explained that it is owed by a contractor and will be paid. She also asked about the CL&P bill and Assistant Superintendent Rogers explained it. Actually, he has recently instituted a new delivery system for energy, with a better rate.

Superintendent West commented that the rain has put usage numbers out of sync with other years.

All questions from Commissioners being answered, Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the jobbing report and to pay the invoices as presented. Treasurer Dobbins seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

5. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

There was no meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Vice President Murphy reported that the committee did not meet. He did refer to a realty issue to be discussed at Executive Session.

c.) Wellhead Protection Phase 2

Robert Mellstrom gave an update on the project at Well 1A. Better cooperation was gained following the conference call last month involving West, Pestillo, Mellstrom and Stephen Goldblum of Standard Demolition. A new schedule for completion has been presented with an end date of August 14.

Present were Stephen Goldblum and Gregory Paquin of Stamford Wrecking. They addressed the Board and took questions. Vice President Murphy spoke about the lack of coordination of construction at 65 High Street. He questioned Mr. Paquin about the failure of the contractor to provide interim updated work schedules so that the Board could keep abreast of progress. He expressed his great displeasure with the progress on this project, which was supposed to be completed in mid-April. That well is crucial to this town in the summertime and he is concerned about it coming on line at all this summer, due to the negligence of the contractor. The new work schedule was explained in detail, in relation to the time frame presented. Mr. Paquin felt that the delay was due to work orders being reinstated at the end. President Pestillo said they were largely aesthetic and cosmetic and should have been secondary to the main

purpose of getting the well up and running. Commissioner Santa Maria spoke about the most important part of this project-- getting the well pumping water-- and all of the landscaping can wait. The primary objective is that the rate payers have adequate water supply. Vice President Murphy discussed a pile of dirt that had been "massaged" with heavy equipment several times and never really moved and he was told that it couldn't be done until the sidewalk is in place. He reports that tonight, it has been leveled, but the sidewalk remains unfinished. No explanation was offered. Chief Murphy said that he does not think that the contractor the Board hired did a due-diligent job to complete this project by the agreed-upon date. Mr. Pacquin went over the construction schedule in great detail. Commissioner Santa Maria questioned Mr. Pacquin about the reason for this 4-5 month delay in completion. She can't accept the fact that because some landscaping was added to the project at the end, use of the well is now months behind schedule. He said that the rainy weather contributed. President Pestillo thanked the contractors for appearing. Some financial matters were discussed.

There was a short discussion by the Board following the presentation about the feasibility of completion even by August 14. Mr. Mellstrom suggested a conference call be planned in two weeks to assess the progress.

d.) Technology Committee

President Pestillo reported that the committee did not meet this month.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Superintendent West reports that there will not be anything to report on this probably until August. There is no news on the "new start" provision.

b.) Cost Savings Initiative

There was more money available in grants from the STAG grant. The entire \$285,000 will be available. Superintendent West reports that some of the engineering was allowed. It is a matching grant.

An energy contract has been renegotiated with a projected substantial savings. Assistant Superintendent Rogers has been working on securing the best all-inclusive rate. It includes an attractive generation rate. He explained this to the Board in great detail. The contract has been reviewed and accepted, following a language change, by the energy attorney. President Pestillo complimented Mr. Rogers on his efforts. All agreed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Proposed 2" domestic service for 132 Town Line Rd. AES Environmental Contracting.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the plans for a new service at this address. The plans are in line with present regulations. There is no hydrant issue. Board members are familiar with this construction project. The business will house construction equipment in this building. After minimal discussion, Commissioner Dobbins made a motion to accept this project as proposed. Second came from Commissioner Semmel and it passed on a voice vote.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation

Commissioner Semmel made a motion at 7:53PM to move to Executive Session barring public and press and including Superintendent West and Assistant Superintendent Rogers. Second was made by Secretary/Treasurer Dobbins. All were in favor on a voice vote.

The Board Left Executive Session at 9:21 PM.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Attest:

John C. Dobbins, Secretary & Treasurer