

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the department offices, 605 West Main Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #554.

PRESENT: Commissioners Thomas J. Murphy, Cheryl Lounsbury, Robert M. Berkmoes, Erik E. Semmel, Angelina Santa Maria, Assistant Superintendent Frederick W. Rogers, Superintendent Thomas West and stenographer, Janice Eisenhauer. A quorum is determined.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6PM by Commissioner Thomas J. Murphy, who then asked Superintendent Thomas West to act as moderator. A motion was entertained from the floor to caucus. At 6:01PM Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to caucus. This was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and it was passed on a voice vote. The caucus period ended and the meeting resumed at 6:03PM.

1a. Appointment of Officers

Moderator West welcomed the new commissioners, acknowledged Past President Stephen Pestillo in the audience, and opened the floor to nominations. Commissioner Berkmoes nominated Commissioner Murphy for President of the Southington Water Board. He spoke of his history of dedication and commitment to the Board. Commissioner Semmel seconded his motion and Commissioner Murphy was elected President unanimously on a voice vote.

President Thomas J. Murphy assuming the chair.

Commissioner Lounsbury nominated Commissioner Semmel for Vice President of the Southington Water Board. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. Commissioner Semmel was elected Vice President unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner Semmel nominated Commissioner Berkmoes Secretary/Treasurer of the Southington Water Board. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded the nomination. Commissioner Berkmoes was elected unanimously on a voice vote.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 8, 2009 meeting.

President Murphy noted that Commissioner Santa Maria was present, however, due to an accident earlier in the week she had been unable to be sworn in and would be unable to vote. This circumstance leaves insufficient Commissioners who were present at the last meeting to approve the minutes. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to table the minutes of the October meeting. This was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. It passed on a voice vote.

3. Communications

- a.) Communications from the Public
None.
- 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 and Superintendent West answered their questions. He reported on water use trends. Commissioner Lounsbury wondered if there were arrears collections issues. Superintendent West explained that the major factor is diminished water usage due to excessive rainfall. All questions being answered, Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to pay all invoices as presented. This was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

5. Committee Reports

- a.) Executive Committee
No report.
- b.) Infrastructure Committee
No report.
- c.) Wellhead Protection Phase 2
Superintendent West reported that the ribbon cutting at the site went well. There are still a few details to be completed by Standard Demolition and some equipment to be tied in by the Water Company. He is confident that this project will come to completion smoothly. Commissioner Berkmoes ventured that at this point the committee could be dissolved. Commissioner Lounsbury made a motion to dissolve the committee charged with oversight of the Wellhead Protection Phase 2 project. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote. President Murphy thanked the committee for its work leading to the successful completion of this project.
- d.) Technology Committee
No report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a.) Update on Federal Grants, State Grants and SRF Loans.
Superintendent West gave a short report. There is no update at this point. He noted that the Ferguson Group contract is renewable at the end of the year. Commissioner Lounsbury asked about the fees involved and revenues realized in return.

There was a round table discussion of the different grant programs for her benefit.

b.) Biodiesel 1 Location of Fire Service

Superintendent West reviewed the Biodiesel situation for the benefit of Commissioner Lounsbury and reported on developments since the last meeting. David Kelly, attorney for the Water Board, in collaboration with Mark Sciota Town Attorney, have arrived at an agreement with Biodiesel and the property owners, to allow the tank to remain where it is placed over the water line, holding the Water Company and the Town of Southington harmless should a problem develop there. It requires an additional insurance policy to be in place to cover any resultant problem, and the agreement will be included on the land records. There were some questions from the Board. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the agreement holding the water department harmless in regard to the water/fire line that had been installed before the tank was placed over it. This was seconded by Commissioner Semmel.

Discussion: Angelina Santa Maria asked if there was a provision requiring remedy of the problem within a definite time frame. There is not. She then asked where the closest fire hydrant is located in the case of failure of the fire service line. Commissioner Lounsbury asked about risk to the town due to the pressure of the tank on the water line. Superintendent West explained that the greatest concern would be a leak in the line or rupture that would be difficult or impossible to reach due to the tank installation. The expense to correct such an eventuality would fall to the company under this agreement. The hold-harmless clause leaves the town and the water company completely out of it. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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

Superintendent West reported on this project and explained in some detail the progress of the paint contractors. The work will be complete and inspected soon.

d.) 2010 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for 2010 is presented for approval. Following minimal discussion Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury. The motion passed on a voice vote. It will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for posting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Resignation of Commissioner Dobbins

The resignation of John Dobbins is presented on the occasion of his election to the Southington Town Council. Commissioner Berkmoes commented on the loss of his talents and

service to this Board. President Murphy recommends that Dobbins' resignation be accepted, with regret. This leaves a vacancy, to be filled by the Republicans. Superintendent West noted that Dobbins indicated that he wished to continue a presence on the committee for the Medication Return Program at the Water Department. He was instrumental in pioneering this effort to keep harmful drugs out of the water supply. A date has been set for April of 2010. President Murphy extended the Board's congratulations to Councilman Dobbins and to Stephen Pestillo, immediate past president of this Board. President Murphy expressed his regret that they will not be present on this Board. Commissioner Berkmoes spoke of Commissioner Pestillo's focus on the problems of the water department with understanding and worked to improve water service to the community.

* Item Addition to Agenda

Superintendent West asked the Board to add the December Toy Drive to this meeting's agenda. Commissioner Semmel made a motion to add this to the agenda at New Business d). Second was made by Commissioner Berkmoes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

b.) Proposed 1 ½" Service for 7,000 s.f. Industrial Building To be located at 134 Industrial Drive, "Aparo Electric Motor", by PDS Engineering

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the plans for this project and explained the request. He recommends approval. The proposal meets all Water Department requirements. There was some discussion and all questions were answered. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve this request as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. The motion passed on a voice vote.

c.) East Street Water Main

All present and voting agreed to remand this item to the Executive Session.

d.) December Toy Drive

Angelina Santa Maria explained the townwide toy drive she chairs in detail. Collection boxes are placed in prominent places to collect toys and then they are distributed in Southington. She requests that a box be placed in the Water Department lobby for this purpose. A motion was made by Commissioner Lounsbury to participate in the Toy Drive. This was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed on a voice vote.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation

Commissioner Berkmoes 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 Semmel. All were in favor by voice vote.

The Board entered executive session at 6:50 PM

The Board Left Executive Session at 8:06 PM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Attest:

Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer