

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 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, Vice President Erik Semmel, Commissioners Angelina Santa Maria and Michael Domian, Superintendent Thomas West and Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers. Janice Eisenhauer stenographer was present, as well. A quorum is determined.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Murphy at 6:04PM.

2. Approval of Minutes of December 10th meeting and October 8th meeting.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2009. Her motion was seconded by Vice President Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

Vice President Semmel made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2009 as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It was passed on a voice vote, making note of the abstention of Commissioner Santa Maria.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

Superintendent West noted a written communication from Councilman John Dobbins. Dobbins, who was present, addressed the board briefly concerning a request from Joe LaPorte at the main sewer treatment plant/public park, regarding a projected installation of an 8" main at the plant. There was a cursory discussion, but in the absence of a final proposal and no firm scope of the work involved, the board decided to revisit this request and make a decision to what extent the Water Department can provide the work gratis.

b.) Communications from Administration

None.

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria thanked the board for the cards she received while she has been recovering from a fall and for the Water Department's support of the town wide toy drive at Christmas.

4. Financial Matters

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

Commissioner Santa Maria had several questions on the invoices presented for payment, which were answered by Superintendent West. Superintendent West discussed an added jobbing bill and reported that water billings are leveling out and he anticipates that they will ultimately be similar to last year's numbers. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to

accept the invoices as presented for payment. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion passed on a voice vote.

5. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

There has been no meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

This committee will meet soon.

c.) Technology Committee

There has been no meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Matt Ward from the Ferguson Group made a presentation to the board. He explained that the Ferguson Group's business is to aid in securing financial resources available from the state and federal government in the form of grants or loans. He presented a vigorous and creative approach for the upcoming year to realize a return on investment for the Water Company, its ratepayers and the Town of Southington. He spoke of newly available grant opportunities for improvement and the protection of drinking water. William Hanka then presented some specific projects that the Water Board might consider for the upcoming year. Commissioner Santa Maria questioned him. A timeline for new projects was discussed.

b.) Update on DEP "Stream Flow" Regulations

Superintendent West spoke at some length about the proposed "Stream Flow" regulations presently being considered by the DEP and the negative impact implementation would have on the availability of water in Southington because they are going after ground water diversions. As President of the CWWA this year he is acutely aware of the consequences of ignoring these negotiations. He informed the board that he has become recently proactive in this regard, testifying and attending hearings. He anticipates that more of his time and energy will undoubtedly need to be expended on this issue in an attempt to yield a workable outcome for the Southington Water Department. Superintendent West stressed the grave importance of this mission to this town. President Murphy applauded his efforts.

c.) East Street Water Main.

Superintendent West refers this to be discussed in executive session.

d.) Pharmaceuticals Collection Day 2010.

The date has been set for Saturday May 1. Councilman John Dobbins, a member of the subcommittee for this project, spoke of plans for the day. He announced a meeting of the pharmaceuticals collection subcommittee for January 29 at the Southington Water Department offices. Preliminary letters will be going out to the DEP, Clean Harbors, and Southington Police Department. Bristol Water Department plans to participate. Dobbins stressed the importance of advertising.

e.) Safety Valve Program

To be discussed in executive session.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Proposed 42 lot Subdivision located off of West Center St., "Recko Farms Estates," by Lovley Development.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the plans with developer Mark Lovley. The building will be done in two phases. The first phase is due to begin this spring. Fire hydrants were pointed out to the board and Rogers noted that they meet water department regulations. President Murphy's questions were answered. Vice President Semmel made a motion to approve the proposed lot subdivision as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote.

b.) Recognition for former Commissioners Pestillo and Dobbins.

President Murphy read a resolution award and presented a plaque to Councilman John Dobbins on behalf of the Water Board in recognition of his outstanding service during his tenure. In addition to organizing the award-winning Pharmaceutical Return program, Dobbins also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Water Commissioners. Councilman Dobbins thanked the board for this honor.

Stephen Pestillo was unable to be present due to a meeting conflict.

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 and representatives of the Ferguson Group (for one item). His motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria. All were in favor by voice vote.

The Board entered executive session at 7:18 PM

The Board Left Executive Session at 9:53 PM.

Commissioner Semmel made a motion to add Item 7c) Ferguson Group Contract and Item 7d) 2010 Meeting Schedule Change to the agenda. Commissioner Domian Seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to renew the Contract with the Ferguson Group at the current contract rate and with a 30 day cancellation clause. Commissioner Domian Seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to move the regular meeting schedule to the first Thursday of the month starting with the March meeting. Commissioner Semmel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Attest:

Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer