

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, November 4, 2010 in the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #566.

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Murphy at 6:05PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2010 meeting.**

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2010 meeting as presented. Commissioner Domian seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

**3. Communications**

a.) Communications from the Public

Arthur Cyr addressed the Board. He commented on the Open House held recently and noted the reported replacement of a 100 year old water main on West Center Street. He asked if there is still a very old 6" water main on Queen Street, south from Loper Street to approximately Lazy Lane. He wondered if there are plans to replace it. Superintendent West replied that the water main he asks about is still in operation and there are no plans to replace it in the short term. President Murphy spoke of other old mains in the area. Mr. Cyr noted that there are four groups of people who report inadequate water pressure where this 6" main exists.

b.) Communications from the Administration

Superintendent West reported that there was a complaint sent to the Freedom of Information Commission about the Board's minutes not being posted in a timely manner last month and the agenda not being up at least 24 hours in advance of last month's meeting. The agenda for this meeting was posted last week and going forward it will be done in answer to the requirements.

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria thanked the Board, the Department and the management for the excellent Advantage Night program. It afforded the public and business community an opportunity to be aware of the great service that the Water Department provides. She has had positive feedback from several who attended. She commented on the good attendance and the tours provided.

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

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

The commissioners reviewed the proposed payment and financial information. After her questions were answered, Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the invoices listed for payment as presented. Vice President Semmel seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

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

##### a.) Executive Committee

No meeting.

##### b.) Infrastructure Committee

No meeting.

##### c.) Technology Committee

No meeting.

#### 6. **Old Business**

##### a.) Update on DEP "Stream Flow" Regulations

Superintendent West reported that the contentious proposed regulations were voted down by the Regulations Review Committee at the October meeting. He thanked the Board members for their active support on behalf of the interests of the people of Southington. This is not the end of this issue. The DEP has 35 days to get back to the regulatory committee and this will be reviewed. Best scenario would be a fairly quick review.

##### b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

Report on this is provided in the financial packet before Board members. At year's end, Superintendent West projects that the program will be solvent.

##### c.) West Street, West Center and Welch Road Water Mains Projects.

Superintendent West and Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported that progress continues on these jobs. Rogers felt that the work went "exceptionally smooth" and he is well pleased with the work. He did note that an extra professional construction inspector was hired for a few hours to provide complete oversight. President Murphy asked about placement of the curb boxes. Rogers explained that this will be done at the completion of the project.

##### d.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project

Superintendent West reports that the design is 100% complete. Next step is financing arrangements. The engineer and prospective contractors feel that there still might be enough time to do this project this year. It is now shovel-ready.

e.) Proposed Water Main extension on Meriden Waterbury Turnpike for Bell Camperland

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presents updated and modified design documents for this project. It proposes ending the water main at the bridge crossing. Brian McCann, of Kleinfelder Environmental Consultants, spoke to the Board. The new proposed design recommends stopping the water main just before Judd brook. This would mean that the complete property would not be fronted, specifically the frontage on the opposite side of Judd brook. There was a long discussion about interpretation of current regulations requiring the mandatory installation of water mains "to extend the water main to the furthest property line of the last customer." McCann suggested that it does not explicitly indicate that all properties need to be fronted. President Murphy felt that the total property should be fronted because any subdivision of the rear lot could require including the easterly side of this property and at that time it would cost the water department, because it had not been properly fronted. Commissioner Santa Maria asked to review the printed regulation in question. She felt that it was intended to protect the last person on the end of the property, not to diminish the first property. Her interpretation would be that it means from "the first to the last." Mr. McCann asked the Board to consider that there is no plan to extend water to the residents in this area and that it could become a health issue. It was ultimately decided that the Board could not accept, in the best interests of the ratepayers, a plan which does not completely front the property. Board members expressed their understanding of the position of the property owner and Vice President Semmel hoped that a pragmatic solution could be found. Vice President Semmel made a motion to reject the proposed water main extension of the Meriden Waterbury Turnpike for Bell Camperland as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria. There were no remarks on the motion. It passed on a voice vote. Mr. McCann asked for a written decision and the rationale for why the proposal did not meet the department's regulations. Superintendent West said he would take care of it.

f.) Board of Finance Meeting.

Superintendent West reports that this meeting is scheduled for November 10 at 7P.M. He will be present and asked other Board members to appear if they are able. There was also a discussion about alternate financing arrangements should that become necessary.

g.) Department of Public Health Inspection.

Superintendent West reported. All inspection sites: all wells, all tanks and pump stations and treatment distribution system were inspected. This went well and the report will be forthcoming. There was an implied question on some of the chlorine analyzers. Some of the older equipment may not meet the letter of the new law and may need to be replaced.

Commissioner Santa Maria asked who is responsible for water quality at Crescent Lake. Superintendent West answered her. The Park and Recreation Department handles the lake. The Water Department controls the dam and release structure.

## **7. New Business**

### a.) Proposed Meeting Agenda for 2011.

The schedule for 2011 is included in the Board's packet for review. President Murphy noted that the meeting is on the first week of the month with the exception of November. Superintendent West explained that he made this change to accommodate any new members of the Board following the election. The July meeting was changed to July 14 in the interest of summer scheduling. Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the 2011 meeting schedule as amended. The motion was seconded by Vice President Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

### b.) Proposed 2" Water Service for SRSNE Remedial Action.

Bruce Thompson, project coordinator for de Maximus, a Consultant working at the Solvents Recovery Service Super Fund Site spoke to the Board. He presents plans for site preparation at a Lazy Lane project. Next year they will begin to "cook" the soil where solvents are embedded. The idea is to heat up 55,000 cubic yards to the boiling point of water and it will boil the solvents from the ground, capture them and treat them on site. The vapors will be released to a thermal treatment system. DEP has approved the system and all of the equipment. A half million to two millions pounds of solvent will be extracted from the ground at this site. There will be a large scrubbing tower used for neutralizing hydrochloric acid and solids. That process will require fresh water. It is estimated that it will need 8 million gallons of water over the 6-9 month treatment period. He explained the water mains in place in the building. For this upcoming project he wants to use the pipe in place now inside the building for the scrubbing tower but it does not afford the Water Department an outside shut off. He explained the complexity of alternatives and therefore requests a variance. Since the reason for an outside shut off is to provide the Water Department with the ability to shut off the service in the case of failure to pay the bill, Thompson proposes to pay the estimated bill in advance, an estimated \$24,000. The water used will be metered and monitored quarterly and any rate difference rectified. A legal, signed agreement will be prepared. There was a long discussion and review of the plans, which otherwise meet department regulations. Vice President Semmel made a motion to approve a 2" service to be branched off inside the treatment facility of SRSNE, with payment up front for 8 million gallons of water. Commissioner Domian seconded the motion. The motion 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, at 7:12P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria and passed on a voice vote.

The Board entered executive session at 7:12 P.M.

A negotiation matter was discussed.

The Board left executive session at 7:32 P.M.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the "Agreement between Southington Water Department and Homeowner Safety Valve Company". Commissioner Semmel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Berkmoes joined the meeting via conference call at 7:33 P.M. Commissioner Santa Maria was excused from the meeting at 7:33 P.M.

Commissioner Semmel made a motion to adjourn to executive session, barring the public and press, but including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, at 7:33 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote.

The Board entered executive session at 7:33 P.M.

The Board discussed 2 Negotiation matters, and 1 personnel matter.

The Board left Executive Session at 8:25 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Attest:

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Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer