

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday October 7, 2010 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found file tape #565 and #566.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice President Erik Semmel, Secretary & Treasurer Robert Berkmoes, Commissioners Angelina Santa Maria, Cheryl Lounsbury, Michael Domian and stenographer Janice Eisenhauer. A quorum is determined.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Murphy at 6:00 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes of September 2, 2010 Meeting.**

Commissioner Santa Maria requested that a comma be placed after her name on the present roster. Commissioner Semmel made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Santa Maria seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote.

President Murphy called to the attention of the Board that one item has been omitted from the agenda for this meeting. Under item #7 under letter d should read Meriden Waterbury Turnpike water main extension. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to add this item at 7d on the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Domian seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

**3. Communications**

a.) Communications from the Public

Sandra Feld addressed the Board. She has a question about the water bill received for Spring Lake Village, condo 8. The bill reflects an increase in the service charge for the quarter which began in April 2010. As she looks at the minutes of the Board, the meeting at which that ten (almost eleven) percent occurred, was June. It appears to her that it was billed to condo 8 retroactively.

Superintendent West explained that the bill was not based on the consumption date but on the date of the billing. The rate change was effective on the billing date and not on the consumption date. He offered to review it with her if she wished.

Superintendent reported receiving a letter about high consumption. He had a fairly significant cubic use usage in the quarter between April 1 and July 22. The bill was substantial and he has paid it under protest. The meter has been changed and tested. The meter tested fine. He apparently had a leak somewhere in his system. Commissioner Berkmoes reported that he had call on this and they felt that when the meter was

removed it appeared to be "spinning." Superintendent West explained that if meters wear, they stop registering. Water must flow through the piston in order for the consumption to be read. He did comment on a normal function of the meter that the customer probably noted. It spins when there is low or no flow.

b.) Communications from Administration

Superintendent West reported that Pocket Wireless, a tenant of the Water Department at the Mill Street tank, is being reorganized. He explained to the Board that this has no impact on the lease/rent.

c.) Communications from Board Members

None.

**4. Financial Matters**

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

After the Commissioners reviewed the proposed payments and following questions from the Board, Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the payment of the invoices as presented. Commissioner Domian 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. The regulations are moving through the hearing process. Commissioner Lounsbury suggested that it would be prudent to contact Southington's representatives and explain how important it is to this town's water customers to mitigate these regulations. He is having a meeting with Senator Caligiuri tomorrow. He sits on this committee and the goal is to reject these regulations, without prejudice. They will then be reviewed and changes can be made. Recent changes have made things worse. Commissioner Lounsbury spoke about the magnitude of this issue for Southington. The representatives must be made aware of how these regulations will negatively affect Southington's water supply. Plans were made for the individual commissioners to contact representatives to enlist their aid.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

Superintendent West reports. There are now 726 enrolled in the Water Department plan. Safety Valve customers who are sun setting that coverage will be contacted by staff.

c.) Chamber Advantage Night in October

Superintendent West reports that this will be held in the Department Offices on October 27. The public is invited to attend.

d.) West Street, West Center and Welch Road Waer Mains Projects.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reports. The portion between Mill Street and W Center is complete. Center St is in progress. There have been a few challenges. He is happy with the work. President Murphy asked about the lack of hydrants. Rogers explained that they are stubbed in, but there will be ample hydrants. Welch Road will begin next week.

e.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project.

Superintendent West reports that approval for this project has been received from DPH. The next step is bidding. It is getting late to start this winter. There is a risk that the tank will be more expensive next year.

**7. New Business**

a.) Department of Public Health Inspection.

Superintendent West reports that the Department of Public Health is presently conducting their inspection of the Water Department. They go to all sources of supply, pump stations and tank sites. This happens every three years. All is going well.

b.) Board of Finance Bond Hearing October 13.

Commissioner Lounsbury requests that the Board table the pending request until the next meeting. There was a discussion, and it was agreed to wait until November.

c.) Proposed 8" water main extension and 1-1/2" water service for 160 Townline Road for Jensen's Inc. 4650 s.f. maintenance building.

Superintendent Rogers presents the plans for this project. It meets regulations of the Water Company. He notes that the Fire Department has not approved it yet. The hydrants were identified. A motion was made by Commissioner Berkmoes to approve the 8" water main extension for 160 Townline Road for Jensen's Inc. pending approval of the Fire Department. Commissioner Santa Maria seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

d.) Meriden Waterbury Turnpike water main extension

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the map and design for this project. He pointed out the hydrant locations. The plans, as presented, meet the specifications of the Southington Water Department. Al Wells of Kleinfelder, environmental consultants, introduced Brian McCann who spoke to the Board. He gave a history of the property involved, which has been in a voluntary remediation program, and explained the plan. The property owner had been seeking extension of the water main to his property at his expense. The water main would be capped at that point but could be extended in the future by the Water Department. This would require crossing Judd brook and the tentative plan called for the main to be strapped to the bridge. However, the Connecticut DOT refuses to give permission for the main to be attached to the bridge. He presented several options for crossing the brook, none are financially feasible and/or acceptable. There was a long interactive discussion about alternate plans. Heat tracing is an issue. Commissioner Berkmoes orally reviewed the situation and indicated that there was no alternative but to table a decision on this. He apologized for the decision, in light of time constraints on the project. Superintendent West noted that it was becoming clear that it would be necessary to speak with the Water Department's attorney about safeguards on this project. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to table the request for water main extension at Meriden Waterbury Turnpike.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to adjourn to executive session barring the public and press but including the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent at 7:40 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

The Board entered executive session at 7:40 P.M.

A negotiation matter was discussed.

A real estate matter was discussed.

The Board left executive session at 8:35 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

Attest:

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Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer