

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #572.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice President Erik Semmel, Commissioners Cheryl Lounsbury, Michael Domian, Robert Berkmoes, and Angelina Santa Maria, Superintendent Thomas West, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers and stenographer Janice Eisenhauer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy at 6:03PM. A quorum is determined.

2. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2011 Meeting.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Berkmoes and Santa Maria abstained.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

Art Cyr, 103 Berlin Ave has a question about the Community Garden planned for Academy St. He was advised that this issue is on the agenda for this meeting.

b.) Communications from the Administration

None.

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria speaks about the Prescription Medication Return Program scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Superintendent West reported that the final preparations are being made. The program is open to residents of Southington, Bristol (the Bristol Water Department is participating), Wolcott and Burlington, both within the Southington or Bristol watershed areas.

4. Financial Matters

Following review of material presented to board members, Commissioner Santa Maria asked an accounting question, in regard to the Water Protection Program. Superintendent West will discuss her suggestion with the accountant. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the proposed invoices for payment. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

5. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

None

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Commissioner Berkmoes reported on the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on April 5, 2011. Three members volunteered to serve on the QBS consultant selection team: Commissioner

Berkmoes, Superintendent West and Assistant Superintendent Rogers, in preparation for the upcoming joint Water Department Capitol Plan and the Sewer Department Facilities Plan. Several water main replacement projects designed to increase the quality and distribution of water, the addition of fire hydrants where needed, and a proposed valve maintenance program, were discussed. Several old mains are scheduled for updating and replacement. President Murphy commented on the town's Annual Report. These projects will eliminate most, if not all, of the old pipe reported there.

c.) Technology Committee

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Superintendent West announced that there is little to report. The DEP has requested another extension from the regulations review committee. There have been some positive changes in the surface water release rules.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

There has been one claim. The client base is growing.

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

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported. Caracus Construction is back at work with the spring thaw. It is anticipated that they will be able to complete this project on time by May 30. He is happy with the work. Superintendent West reported that he has been in conference with the Town Manager and the Town Engineer regarding the repaving of West Street and West Center Street where the town is considering further work. The town is planning a mill and overlay paving later this year when their project is complete. There has been a lot of digging over the last few years and a proper repair of the pavement is planned. The town has proposed that the Water Department contribute a "percentage of trench disturbed" cost to the town, and the town will do a mill and overlay of those roads. Superintendent West recommended that the Water Board work with the town to achieve a much better end product for the lowest cost. The board was comfortable with this.

d.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project.

This project is ready to bid in early summer. Documents are complete, the state has signed off on it, funding is in place.

e.) Proposed Accounts Receivable Policy

A formal policy for the handling of stagnant jobbing Accounts Receivable is presented to the board. Commissioner Santa Maria had some questions and Superintendent West answered her. Vice President Semmel made a motion to accept the Jobbing AR policy as presented. Commissioner Domian seconded his motion and the motion passed on a voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Proposed 14 lot subdivision located at 790 Meriden Avenue, "Fieldstone," by CT Land & Homes LLC

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the plot plan. It meets all specifications and regulations of the Water Department. President Murphy had questions about an easement and location of the two hydrants. All questions were answered. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion that the plan for this subdivision at 790 Meriden Avenue by CT Land & Homes LLC, be approved as presented. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) Proposed Service for 965 Queen Street, 11,659 s.f. Commercial/Office Building by P.P.& D, LLC

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presents the plan for this store front/office space building. The developer is present for questions. The hydrant is present on the property. The plan meets all regulations and specifications of the Water Department. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the plan for 965 Queen Street, as presented to the board. Commissioner Semmel seconded his motion. The motion passed on a voice vote without remarks.

c.) Request by Calco Development for waiver from requirement to abandon water service at the main for 811 Queen Street.

Superintendent West presented a letter of request from Calco Construction relative to the abandonment of a water service for a property on Queen Street. Regulations require abandonment of any water service at the main. This request is for permission to abandon the service 20' from the main and cap it for future reuse on the parcel. The issue of the developer is that this is a state highway and the restoration requirement following digging to the main would be cost prohibitive. There are no concrete plans for this property at present. The water department's concern is a disconnected water service sitting on private property, not being used and open to deterioration. The water department would be responsible for that 20' piece of pipe until, or if, it is reused. It is 1 1/4" service and might not be adequate for new development. There was a discussion about responsibility and precedent. President Murphy spoke about the policy of the water board to work with businesses, but he feels that the long-standing regulation of requiring termination at the main is reasonable and warranted. Alternatives were discussed at some length. Commissioner Berkmoes commented that if there were a plan for this property in place, it would be feasible to allow temporary disconnection. Ultimately it was decided that Superintendent West should approach the developer about posting a substantial bond to guarantee timely redevelopment of the property and reconnection of the water service.

d.) Request by developer to lower water main in Meriden Avenue to install tee and valves for Porielo Drive

Superintendent West presented the plot plan. The water will be tied in and looped to the property on Meriden Avenue. The water main involved is in close proximity to the opposing property line and the proposed complicated installation will require at least a temporary easement from another property owner. The developer has advanced an alternative plan to lower the entire water main to make this connection easier, and without requiring private easement. Several members of the board offered viable alternative solutions and eminent domain options were discussed. The developer agreed to pursue the board's suggestions, beginning with requesting easements.

e.) Proposed Water Service for Community Garden to be located at 32 & 29 Academy St.

Superintendent West spoke on this request. The town owns some property on Academy Street and present plans call for the addition of a Community Garden. This will require a water service and a

request has been made to the Water Department for installation of a seasonal, keyed service to accommodate garden hoses. West projects a fairly straightforward, minimal budget job. He plans to approach the town to waive the permit fee for this community project. A meter will be required and the water charge will need to be addressed. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve, fund and facilitate with labor and materials, the water service at the Community Garden on Academy St. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to enter Executive Session, barring the public and press, but including Superintendent West and Assistant Superintendent Rogers at 7:25PM. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote.

A contract negotiation matter was discussed

The Board left Executive Session at 8:30PM

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to add item 7f “Proposed Water main project on Rt#10 from Plantsville Center to Clark Street, Engineering Services” to the agenda. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to add item 7g “Materials for in house water main jobs on Meriden Waterbury Turnpike, Greeley, East Summer Street and Lynnwood.” to the agenda. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to direct the Superintendent to issue an RFP for engineering services for a water main project on RT #10 from Plantsville Center to Clark Street. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to direct the approve up to \$200,000 be spent to acquire materials to install various water main projects in house (Meriden Waterbury Turnpike, Greeley, East Summer Street and Lynnwood). Commissioner Lounsbury 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 8:33PM