

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tapes #568 and #569.

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy at 6:04 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 6th Meeting.

Commissioner Semmel notes that it should be added on page 4 (c) that the 2011 mandatory contribution to CMERS represents a fifty percent (50%) increase. Also Commissioner Santa Maria points out that page 3, paragraph 3 should read: "The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel", rather than Kemmel. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

3. Communications

a. Communications from the Public

None

b. Communications from Administration

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported on an Energy Summit being held by the Energy Committee on February 23, 2011. Opportunities for energy savings and grant programs will be discussed. Rogers invited the board to attend. There is the possibility that solar panels on the department buildings could be considered.

c. Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria is enrolled in a class at Tunxis on Thursday afternoons. She anticipates that she will arrive slightly late for meetings through May. She asked the Board's indulgence.

4. Financial Matters

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

There was some discussion about collections and jobbing bills. Commissioner Santa Maria asked about the stability of the wells, considering the heavy snow accumulation this winter. Superintendent West explained that the reinforced concrete structure of the wells is sufficient to withstand the snow. The roof at the filter plant is being closely inspected as it has a fairly shallow pitch. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the invoices for payment as presented. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded her motion and it passed on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee

No report.

b. Infrastructure Committee

A meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 4:00PM.

c. Technology Committee

No report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on DEP "Stream Flow" Regulations

Superintendent West reports. A few environmental groups, water companies and the DEP are currently trying to mediate the issues in these proposed regulations. This is likely to be a relatively lengthy process. West announced that his presidential tenure has ended with the Connecticut Water Works Association, but he has been asked to continue on as municipal chair of the Legislative Committee. He asked support of the board to remain involved with this organization going forward. Consensus was positive.

b. Water Service Line Protection Plan

Superintendent West referred to the report on this project in the packet. There are now more than 1000 customers in the line protection program.

Commissioner Santa Maria had some questions about the care of fire hydrants during the winter snowstorms. The Water Company is responsible for clearing the hydrants. Help comes from the Fire

Departments and there are a number of customers who "adopt" the hydrant near their property and make sure that it is clear, and all of this help is very much appreciated. The crew has been on hydrant clearing five days a week (and one Saturday) for the last month. Commissioner Santa Maria suggested that a notice be placed in the paper to ask residents to check the nearest fire hydrant. If no one is able to clear it, they should notify the Water Department. She notes that she has seen some completely under the snow.

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

West reported that the two bonds were approved by the Town Council at the last meeting. Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported that this brutal winter is causing a problem for the temporary cold patch placed on West Center Street.

d. Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project

This will be bid in the early summer.

e. Proposed Water main extension on Meriden Waterbury Turnpike.

Assistant Superintendent West presented the updated plans for this project. The stream crossing of the water main has been changed and connected to the concrete abutments. The Water Department has no issues with this plan. President Murphy had some questions and compared the project to the Mill Street project. He also had several questions about the hydrants. After some discussion, Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the water main extension as presented here, with a profile of the tie-in where it crosses the sewer lateral at Camperland and the connections to the condos, pending approval by the sewer department. Commissioner Domian seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

f. FOI Training Session, February 7, 2011

This session will be in the Council Chambers at 6:30PM. The board is strongly encouraged to attend. Commissioner Santa Maria stated that she will make every effort to attend and she feels that the board serves as a group and should attend as a group.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Timber sale bids for 2011

Superintendent West explained. There are ten sub water shed parcels where periodically some of the older trees are harvested and sold. This timber sale was offered for bid about one month ago. The harvest will begin in the spring and it will take about a year to complete it. The highest bidder was J & J Lumber. West is familiar and comfortable with their work. Commissioner Berkmoes asked how many

acres are involved. West answered, 1400 acres. There is no trespassing allowed in these areas, to protect the water supply. There was a discussion about wire fencing, No Trespassing signs and the possibility of increasing the fines for trespassing. President Murphy asked about watershed work to be completed. West will provide this plan at the next meeting. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to award the timber sale bid to J & J Lumber in the amount of \$30,850. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b. Water Service Leak on South Main Street

A water service leak was being repaired on South Main Street. As the hole was being dug, there was so much water in the ground the sides of the excavation began to slide into the hole and the crew feared loss of part of the road and it became dangerous to enter the excavation to do any work. They elected to immediately shut the main off, as an emergency measure, to control the water. This action was within the regulations of the department. At Reno's Barber Shop a hairdresser was doing a hair color and found there was no water to do a rinse. The customer had to go home to rinse her hair. The hairdresser was upset that no one knocked on the door to let her know that the water was being shut off. She has asked for some restitution for the loss of the customer that day. There was considerable sympathetic discussion about this unfortunate incident. Ultimately, all agreed that fear of precedent precluded financial remuneration, but that an apology was certainly in order. In addition, Superintendent West reported that a new policy regarding notification of water customers in work areas be instituted. All supervisors have been so notified. Superintendent West is directed to send a letter of sincere apology to the business. Every effort will be made to avoid such a happenstance in the future.

c. Well #2 pump/motor improvements

Superintendent West reported in some detail. This well has been producing diminished volumes of water. The well pump and motor is nearly 30 years old. This has been investigated and the conclusion reached that both pumps are beyond their serviceable life. He discussed financing for the replacement of this equipment and a new configuration of the well. Assistant Superintendent Rogers discussed the energy savings available with a new pump. He is exploring a grant on new equipment from CL&P. After some discussion, Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to move \$9000 to the budget account from the reserve account for the updating of the equipment, including a variable frequency drive, and pumping deeper at Well #2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. The motion passed on a voice vote.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for 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 7:50PM. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote.

A lease negotiation matter was discussed.

An agreement with a neighboring Water Utility was discussed.

The Board left Executive Session at 9:05PM

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:06PM

Attest:

Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer