

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #573.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice President Erik Semmel, Commissioners Robert Berkmoes and Angelina Santa Maria, Superintendent Thomas West, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers, Office Supervisor Ann Marie Anop and stenographer Janice Eisenhauer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy at 6:01PM. A quorum is determined.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2011 Meeting.

Vice President Semmel made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria. The motion passed on a voice vote.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

Superintendent West presented a letter to the board, signed by Joe LaPorte, from the Park and Recreation Department thanking the Water Department for the work done at the field and pavilion at the Drive In property.

b.) Communications from Administration

None.

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria congratulated the board on the very successful Medication Return Program held on April 30 and all who volunteered to work that day. She mentioned the unfailing dedication of Councilman John Dobbins, who initiated the program when he served on the board, and continues to volunteer every year to work with the planning committee and at the collection. She suggested that Dobbins be officially recognized by the Water Board. Santa Maria notes that the Medication Return program he instituted for Southington continues to grow and continues to be a benefit to the town, the water department and the ratepayers. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion that Councilman John Dobbins be recognized by the Board for his hard work for the last three years in the form of a plaque to be presented at a Water Board meeting. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded her motion.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Superintendent West will make these arrangements.

4. Financial Matters

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

The board reviewed the proposed invoices for payment. Commissioner Santa Maria asked to review the American Express records. Commissioner Semmel questioned staff about the payment of union dues. Superintendent West explained that they are withdrawn from employees' pay and then remitted. He assured Semmel that this is common practice and there is no additional expense to the water department with this procedure. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve payment of the invoices as proposed. Commissioner Semmel seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

5. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

Superintendent West requested that a meeting be set up to discuss some budget issues.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

No report.

c.) Technology Committee

No report.

6. OLD BUSINESS

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

Superintendent West reported that he expects something to go to Regulations Review within the next month.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan.

Superintendent West refers the board to the report in the packet. The plan is growing. Commissioner Santa Maria asked about the ratio of existing customers or those from other plans to new customers. Ms. Anop referred her to a graph in her packet.

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

Superintendent Rogers reported on this job. Final connections are being made. All hydrants are in service. Final paving is being discussed. Commissioner Berkmoes asked if the work is complete on West Street. All the tie-ins are done. The hydrants are in service. There was a discussion about the town's plans to repave West Street.

d.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project

Superintendent West reports that this project is on schedule to be bid later this month. He hopes to be in a position to award this work during July.

e.) 2011 Medication Return Program

Superintendent West refers the board to a detailed report prepared by Councilman John Dobbins for review. He reviewed the numbers. Seventy percent of the returns were from Southington residents. There were forty-six from Bristol and twenty from other towns. No one was turned away. In light of the newly formed Regional Health District, there has been a request to include Plainville next year. There were 350 cars and one bicycle this year. Superintendent West thanked Commissioner Santa Maria for arranging a wonderful lunch delivered for the volunteers. CERT worked traffic and that was a huge help. UCONN has indicated that they may do more academic research on the program next year, with a view to publishing a paper in the New England Journal of Medicine. They will provide the people for that. West thanked all who volunteered that day.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Proposed 29 lot subdivision located off of East Street, "Blocher Farms Estates."

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the site plan to the board. There are wetlands surrounding the property. The plan meets all of the requirements and specs of the water department. Superintendent West spoke about an elevation and pressure issue. He suggests bringing water from the Village Gate tanks and discusses this plan. A big PRV pit is suggested and the board was comfortable with this. Hydrant locations are adequate. The developer is aware that the PRV installation will be at his expense. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion that this request be approved as presented with a PRV valve installation as detailed on the drawings. The location is 1063 Meriden Ave. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria. It passed on a voice vote.

b.) Expansion of the Southington Country Club, ¾" to 1½" meter.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presents the plans. Recent renovations suggest that a larger meter be installed. There was some discussion. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion that this request be approved as presented. Commissioner Santa Maria seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

c.) Proposed change of irrigation meters at Castle Height Residential Community from 1" meters to 1 1/2"meters.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presents the plans and refreshes the board's memory about this project. The contractor did not size the meters appropriately. This meter will be used for irrigation use only. President Murphy asks if this needs approval from South Central. Superintendent West answered that the approval is in place. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Semmel seconded his motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

d.) 2011-2012 Budget.

Superintendent West reports that the budget is nearly complete. There are a few things that need to be ironed out and he feels that he needs to call an Executive Committee meeting before presenting the budget to the board. He plans to present the budget at the June meeting. West indicated that the rates should remain the same. There was a discussion about availability of the members of the

Executive Committee and it was ultimately decided to make a firm date within a few days, when members can consult their calendar.

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, Assistant Superintendent Rogers and Office Supervisor Ann Marie Anop at 6:42PM. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

A contract negotiation matter was discussed

The Board left Executive Session at 7:24PM

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:24PM

Attest:

Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer