

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, October 6, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday October 6, 2011 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #578.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice President Erik Semmel, Secretary & Treasurer Robert Berkmoes, Commissioners Angelina Santa Maria and Michael Domian, 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 Thomas Murphy at 6:00 P.M. A quorum was determined.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 1, 2011 meeting.** A motion was made by Commissioner Santa Maria to accept the minutes of the September 1, 2011 meeting as presented. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion passed on a voice vote with the abstention of Commissioner Santa Maria.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

John Spoonauer of 22 Burr Court spoke to the Board. During February he discovered that he had a leaky water meter and a water department technician came to replace it. He presented photographs of the meter, its placement and the aftermath. It was soon recognized that there was a defective turn off valve on the meter when water came gushing into the finished basement. He reported that the technician made heroic efforts to get the situation under control and in the cold of February the technician had to ultimately resort to shoveling through the snow to turn off the water at the street. The homeowner has had an ongoing dialogue with Mr. Rogers about recovering the loss of the carpet, his claim recently denied by the department's insurance company. He requests that the Board reimburse him in the amount of \$494.38 for the loss of the carpet. There was considerable discussion and review of the pictures presented. It was agreed that the valve in question was defective and this eventuality was highly unusual and completely unforeseen. After much discussion the commissioners felt that in all fairness to the homeowner, the water department had some culpability and should award the homeowner per his request. Commissioner Berkmoes felt that the technician was doing the work and was responsible to be sure the water was disconnected. He expressed dismay that the insurance company did not pay this claim. President Murphy felt, following review of the photographs, that the water department had some culpability, although this was a highly unusual happenstance and there is clearly no negligence on the part of the technician. Commissioner Semmel thought that it would be prudent to offer the benefit of the doubt in this very rare instance, in the interest of customer service.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to honor the request of the homeowner in the interest of goodwill, awarding him the \$494.38, to reasonably settle this bizarre and unfortunate incident. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. It passed on a voice vote. The homeowner will make the arrangements to have the water turned off so that this valve can be properly replaced.

b.) Communications from Administration

Superintendent Rogers reported that the Connecticut Energy Fund will be present at Apple Harvest Festival this weekend.

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria had some questions about the lighting on Mill St and along the hiking trail in that area. The Water Department property lighting has been turned off and the lighting on the trail is under the auspices of another department. Assistant Superintendent Rogers suggested that he could investigate changing the electrical arrangements at the well head site so that some lights could be used independently. He will undertake this research.

4. Financial Matters

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

After review of invoices presented for payment, comments by Ann Marie Anop and questions answered, Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept invoices as presented for payment and jobbing bills. Commissioner Domian seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

Superintendent Rogers reported on the positive progress of this project. There was a discussion about including condominiums.

5. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

There was a brief meeting. No report.

c.) Technology Committee

No report.

6. Old Business

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

Superintendent West reports. The completed regulations are available in the Board's packet for review. West is comfortable with this result and feels that water departments can support it.

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

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reports. West and West Center are about to be paved. Curtis is paved, Todd and Norton is paved and half of Welch is paved. President Murphy had some questions

about Curtiss St and there was a discussion about that. The Spring Lake project is nearly complete. Rogers is very happy with the work there.

c.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project.

This project continues on schedule. Superintendent West discussed it in some detail. Planning and Zoning has given necessary approvals. West has been supervising the work personally, but the engineering firm needs to sign off on the inspection of the concrete work.

Tighe & Bond has requested a change in their inspection contract in the area of construction observation of the concrete work. Their request is for an additional \$18,000. There was an animated discussion about the need for this in light of the \$45,000 provided in the contract. Superintendent West answered questions from board members about the special inspections, required by the town Building Department and adherence to the state code for the concrete construction. President Murphy was concerned about the additional funding. He feels that the engineering figure was agreed to and it appears that they overlooked something. Commissioner Berkmoes agreed with Murphy. West explained that the work entails an additional 20 days of close observation of the concrete work, based on the construction schedule of the contractor. Commissioner Berkmoes said that the procedure was, then, changed from the original plans and specifications? He expresses his difficulty with agreeing to this change order. Commissioner Semmel expresses his "nervousness," that Tighe & Bond perhaps missed something else. West suggested that this decision be tabled for further discussion; there is time. President Murphy comments that the Board agreed to the price, agreed to their terms and it was up to them to set the fee. Now, six months later, there is a 30% up charge? It was decided to have Tighe & Bond appear and explain.

d.) Water Capital Improvement Plan.

Superintendent West reported. This will be discussed with the Infrastructure Committee and a further report will be offered.

7. New Business

a.) Surplus Vehicles

Superintendent West explained that a few vehicles (three) have been replaced recently and one due to be replaced in November. There was a discussion about what to do about disposing of them. After a long discussion, the Board suggested that they be offered to the Southington Board of Education.

Commissioner Domian made a motion to offer the replaced (4) vehicles to the Southington Board of Education as a donation, otherwise to be disposed of by sealed-bid auction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. It passed, without remark, on a voice vote.

b.) Union Contract Negotiations

Addressed during Executive Session. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the contract with the union as presented and discussed, from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria and passed on a voice vote.

c.) Alternate Well Sites

Addressed during Executive Session.

d.) Proposed Service for 17 unit Condominium Development located at 514 Mill Street,

"Millcrest Condominium Development," by Lepage Homes, Inc.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presents the site plan. The hydrant placement is identified. The Water Department specifications are accomplished. Fire Department approval is pending. The Board's questions were answered. There was some discussion about the John St extension. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the proposed service for the 17 unit condominium development at 514 Mill Street as presented, pending the approval of the Fire Department. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria and passed, without remark, on a voice vote.

**Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion at 7:08 p.m. to adjourn to Executive Session, barring the public and press, to include the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Office Supervisor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes.

William Ryan of Ryan & Ryan was invited in to Executive Session to discuss a negotiation matter.

Donald Ianacelli of Geoinsight was invited in to Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

Executive Session ended and the meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

e.) West Queen Street Pump Station Generator

Superintendent West explained that there was a problem in the generator room at the West Queen Pump Station Generator. He discussed the situation, and the costs of repair vs replacement, with the Board. Superintendent West will explore this, and seek three independent bids.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Attest: _____
Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer