

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**Thursday, September 1, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, September 1, 2011 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape # 577.

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice President Erik Semmel, Secretary & Treasurer Robert Berkmoes, Commissioners Michael Domian and Cheryl Lounsbury, 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 6:00 p.m. A quorum is determined.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the August 4, 2011 Meeting and August 15, 2011 Special Meeting.**

Commissioner Semmel made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed without remark on a voice vote.

Commissioner Lounsbury made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2011 special meeting as presented. 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

None

c.) Communications from Board Members

None

**4. Financial Matters**

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

Superintendent West commented on the positive trend in account collection. Jobbing remains static. West will move the Water Protection Service report to this line for the next meeting. Commissioner Domian asked about a time policy for carrying outstanding jobbing bills. Superintendent West and Ann Marie Asop have recently discussed this. Ms. Anop will pull together some options for the Board to consider at the next meeting. There are some jobbing accounts far in arrears. President

Murphy asked about debt service figures. Commissioner Lounsbury made a motion to approve the invoices for payment and to accept the outstanding jobbing accounts as presented. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It passed on a voice vote.

## **5. Committee Reports**

a.) Executive Committee  
None

b.) Infrastructure Committee  
Commissioner Berkmoes reports that a meeting of this committee will be set up soon.

b.) Technology Committee  
None

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

a.) Update on DEEP "Stream Flow" Regulations.  
Superintendent West reported that there is nothing new on the Stream Flow Regulations pending in the general assembly.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan.  
Superintendent West reports positive growth of this program. No new claims have been lodged. There was a discussion about inserting a check-off box on the water bill for the Water Protection Program. Ms. Anop will pursue this. Commissioner Lounsbury recalled a previous suggestion made by Commissioner Semmel to set aside a dollar for every participant, to be donated to the local welfare department for the benefit of those who are burdened with their water bill. Superintendent West said that he had discussed this with the water department attorney, who strongly advised against such a plan. Commissioner Lounsbury spoke in favor of the plan and asked about a legal reason cited for the attorney's negative view. President Murphy asked that a recommendation be presented in writing. The consensus of the Board was in favor of pursuing this. Staff will discuss it with Shipman & Goodwin.

c.) West Street, West Center and Welch Road Water Mains Projects.  
Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported on the progress of the water main projects. Paving is proceeding on Welch St. Rogers spoke with Garry Brumback, Town Manager about the condition of the road on West Center Street and West Street and Brumback called a meeting immediately. There is a plan in place to remedy this before winter. The water main is complete at East Summer Street and ready to be paved. Rogers also reported that the highway department asked that a water service line be run out to Goat Island. They are considering adding lavatories and using out buildings there. There was a discussion about this.

c.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project.

Superintendent West presents the bids for the Mariondale water tank replacement. He states that two contractors bid on the contract and they were equally acceptable for the job. West discussed the financial background of the project. Michael McManus from Tighe & Bond announced the low bidder, Natgun Corporation. He is very familiar with their work and he discussed other instances in which he has found their product, ethic and adherence to schedule exemplary. He has also worked with the project manager assigned to this job and deems him worthy of reference. McManus discussed the project at some length with the Board and answered questions. He explained in great detail the complicated construction method to be used, separate components, concrete and weather requirements and the timeline of the project. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to award the contract to Natgun Corporation, the low bidder, in the amount of \$1,730,552 to build the Mariondale Drive Water Storage Tank. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote.

d.) Water Capital Improvement Plan.

Superintendent West reported. He noted that staff had been given the green light to negotiate with Tighe & Bond regarding the Capital Improvement Plan. A draft of scope and proposed fee for the scope from Tighe & Bond is eminent.

e.) Power Purchasing Agreement.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported. A contract has been negotiated for the next 2-3 years and an agreement has been secured with Suez Energy working with Secure Energy at an advantageous rate. The new contract runs from January 1, 2012 through December 30, 2014. He noted that this will sunset with the present BOE contract. Shipman & Goodwin was involved in the negotiations.

f.) Proposed Write off of credit balance for 691 West Street Subdivision discussed and acted on at August Meeting

Superintendent West explained that upon review of the motion made at the last meeting authorizing a refund, Ms. Anop pointed out that the intent was to write off the credit balance. She explained that the funds were on deposit in escrow from 1997, for some work that was pending. The contractor never did do the work. Ms. Anop explained and answered questions from the Board. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to rescind the action of the August meeting declaring a refund. Commissioner Semmel seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote, without remark. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to write off the credit balance from Accounts Receivable showing in the name of Denorfia. Commissioner Semmel seconded his motion. It passed on a voice vote.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

a.) Proposed Service for 22 Triano Drive, 1 ½" service for 3,840 sf Building, "Strollo Brothers & Sons."

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presents the site plan to the Board. Apparently Town Attorney Sciota had some concern about this road being paved and then adding this service connection.

Staff recommended main-to-curb installation, pending water company inspection and payment of appropriate fees, and that has been done. Rogers asks for approval for the entire line into the building. Plans meet department regulations and specifications. No fire protection is required. Superintendent West recommended approval. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the service for 22 Triano Drive, 1 ½" service for 3,840 sf building, "Strollo Brothers & Sons" as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lounsbury. The motion passed on a voice vote, without remark.

b.) Proposed Service for 135 Lazy Lane, 1 ½" service for 1,630 sf Building, the S. Carpenter Construction Co.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the site plan to the Board. The main has been approved. An existing well must be abandoned on the property in conjunction with setting the meter, in accordance with the State code. Commissioner Semmel made a motion to approve the service for 135 Lazy Lane for 1 ½" service for 1,630 sf building for the S. Carpenter Construction Co. with the stipulation that the existing well be abandoned according to State regulations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It passed on a voice vote.

c) Hurricane Irene

Superintendent West reported. Prior to the hurricane, water department staff checked all dams and dykes following the earthquake. The hurricane was very threatening early in the week and Southington Water Department began preparations for the worst. Sand bags were stockpiled at some of the lower elevation facilities. Water was released at the reservoirs as indicated. Emergency Response Plan and Dam Safety Plans were instituted. Reservoir elevations were monitored during the storm and safety of the dams and dykes were watched carefully through Sunday, when the recovery phase began. There were some issues: a few power failures, an issue at the Mill St tank site and at Well #1A where a pump was damaged by stress and is being replaced. West explained this to the Board. Assistant Superintendent Rogers added that Distribution was instrumental in facilitating the storm preparations, performing critical myriad details for the Water Department. He provided some examples: they prepared the sand bags, gassed up all generators, sharpened the department chain saws.

West spoke about the exemplary preparations the town made for this storm. He expressed his sense of privilege to be included in Southington's town wide preparations. The water department was invited to the staff meeting on Friday before the storm hit and West was very impressed with the level of leadership. He found Town Manager Garry Brumback's perspective on disaster planning refreshing and unique. West credits this somewhat to his previous tenure and commented that there is much to learn from Brumback's past experience. West commended the Water Department staff for their hard work and credits them, at least in part, for Southington's storm survival. The town has indicated that perhaps the Water Department will qualify for some FEMA funds to cover its storm-related extra costs.

The Board responded positively and commented on the cooperation reported and the advantages to the citizens of Southington overall. Commissioner Berkmoes asked about the water level post-storm and West reported that all reservoirs are full and spilling over. Commissioner Semmel suggested documenting the preparation process and outcome for future reference.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to add item 7d to the agenda of this meeting authorizing the President to expend up to \$15,000 for real estate and personnel matters. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded his motion. It passed on a voice vote without remark.

d.) Authorization for President to expend \$15,000.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to authorize the President to expend \$15,000 for real estate and personnel matters. Commissioner Lounsbury seconded his motion. It passed on a voice vote.

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

Commissioner Semmel made a motion at 7:06 p.m. to go to Executive Session barring the public and press, but including the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Office Supervisor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. It passed on a voice vote.

A negotiation matter was discussed.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert M. Berkmoes, Secretary & Treasurer