

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday September 10, 2009 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #552.

PRESENT: President Stephen Pestillo, Vice President Thomas Murphy, Commissioner Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer John Dobbins, Commissioner Angelina Santa Maria, Commissioner Erik Semmel, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers, Superintendent Thomas West and stenographer, Janice Eisenhauer.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by President Stephen Pestillo.

### **2, Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2009 meeting.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Berkmoes to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Dobbins and was passed on a voice vote. Commissioners Dobbins & Semmel abstained.

### **3. Communications**

#### a.) Communications from the Public

Superintendent West presented a letter from a resident requesting relief on a bill reflecting higher than usual charges, due to an obscure leak. The commissioners discussed the situation and expressed compassion in light of the client's age. However, the policy of the water board is that metered water is considered consumed, but the board offered to extend the customer additional time to pay, if that would help. The bill has been paid and the leaking has been addressed. A motion was made by Commissioner Murphy not to alter policy but to reply with regret. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed on a voice vote. Superintendent West will produce the letter and suggest that the sewer department be contacted.

#### b.) Communications from Administration

Superintendent West questioned the board about early planning for the drug recovery project in 2010. He suggested that April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 date be set in coordination with Earth Day. Commissioner Dobbins reported on statewide interest in this program and its expansion. Commissioner Berkmoes noted that citizens will plan drug disposal in April. It was also noted that Dobbins is due to receive a professional practice award from the Connecticut Pharmacist Association at their October banquet for his work on this program. President Pestillo congratulated

him on behalf of the Water Commissioners. After some discussion, Saturday April 24 was designated for the Drug Recovery Program.

c.) Communications from Board Members

President Pestillo presented a letter from Kelly Berkmoes on behalf of the STEPS program. They plan a picnic on September 20 at Sloper's and request a donation for this event. Following some discussion, Commissioner Dobbins made a motion that a donation of \$100 be sent to the STEPS program for their picnic on September 20. This was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote.

**4. Financial Matters**

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

Superintendent West reported that water billings are off twelve percent, as compared to last year, due to the wet weather and explained some of the infrastructure bills presented. Commissioner Santa Maria had some questions about various testing bills and there were other questions. Superintendent West answered them. Commissioner Semmel made a motion to approve scheduled invoice payments as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

**5. Committee Reports**

a.) Executive Committee

No report.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported on the Marion Ave project, now close to completion. He expressed his complete satisfaction with the work done there. He anticipates that this project will come in under budget. Superintendent West noted that the scope of the project was expanded beyond original plans and he feels that for it to be within budget is exemplary.

Commissioner Murphy asked for a progress report on the Progressive Development project discussed at the last meeting. Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported that the agreed-upon \$9.14 differential amount worked and he reviewed with the developer all quotes for fittings, valves and accessories that were the responsibility of the water board, finding them to be more than fair and equitable. He discussed exact figures with the board.

c.) Wellhead Protection Phase 2

Superintendent West reported on the final phases of this project. The last piece is a coupling needed for the motor and base plate, promised within the week. The site work is nearly complete. Benches, water fountain and bike rack at the entrance from the rails-to-trails are not in place yet. Commissioner Murphy commented on the condition of the landscaping and this was discussed. Some hydro seeding may need to be redone due to recent wet weather. He also discussed access to the property by the public. The concept called for foot and bicycle access from the trail, where walkers or bikers could rest briefly, have a drink of water or fill their water bottle. It must be remembered that this is Southington's number one wellhead and therefore the surrounding grounds must be protected and respected. That being noted, the board feels that since it sits on a beautiful piece of property, it would be a service to the community to share this open space with residents, but excessive vehicular traffic cannot be encouraged. There is public parking nearby to access the walking trail. Commissioner Murphy questioned wheelchair accessibility.

There was a discussion about the invitations for the planned dedication on October 23. A plaque to be placed on the fence at the main access point was discussed and the board recessed at 7:03 to view the wording of the plaque placed on the water department building. The meeting reconvened at 7:16PM and the format of the plaque was agreed upon. Superintendent West will order the plaque and it will be placed in time for the official dedication service.

d.) Technology Committee

No report.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

a.) Update on Federal Grants, State Grants and SRF Loans.

Superintendent West presented a grim report on funding provided by grants. He is particularly concerned about the lack of WRDA (Army Corp.) funding. The no new start provision stands. The record indicates that no request was registered by Senator Lieberman or Dodd on behalf of the Southington Water Co., in spite of staff application and a trip to these offices in Washington D.C. Plans were made to apply for 2010 funding.

The loan closing occurred last month on the water main project and payments will begin on that. There is a loan closing scheduled for mid-November on wellhead phase 2.

b.) Cost Savings Initiative

There is nothing new.

c.) Safety Valve Update

Paul Roberts of Safety Valve reported. They have contacted past customers and have had a good response. He asked the board for permission to solicit consumers newly added to the rolls. He also spoke about profit sharing numbers. The board offered its approval to expand the program.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

a.) Proposed 8" Private main for 1596-1610 West Street for the Connecticut Sikh Association, Inc. includes 1" domestic service, 2-2" domestic services and a 6" fire service.

Assistant Superintendent Rogers presented the plot plan and proposed water service for this project. Commissioner Murphy discussed the fire hydrant placement, which appears to be on private property. This led to a discussion about private hydrants in general and their maintenance. The Fire Department has approved this plan. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept this proposal as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed on a voice vote.

b.) New Date for October Board Meeting

After some discussion the October meeting was set for Thursday, October 6 at 6PM. Commissioner Murphy made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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

Commissioner Dobbins made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. This was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and this motion passed on a voice vote.

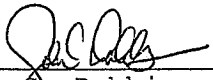
The Board entered executive session at 7:51 PM

The Board Left Executive Session at 9:07 PM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Attest:

  
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John C. Dobbins, Secretary & Treasurer