

FEB 03 2012

10:55 a.m.By Shelley H. Cotton
Town ClerkMINUTES OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, January 5, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at the department offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #582.

PRESENT: President Erik Semmel, Vice President Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/ Treasurer Michael Domian, Commissioners Thomas Murphy and Gregory Klimaszewski, Superintendent Thomas West, Assistant Superintendent Frederick Rogers and Office Supervisor Ann Marie Anop.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Erik Semmel at 6:02 P.M. A quorum is determined.

2. **Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2011 and Special Meeting of December 19, 2011.**
Commissioner Domian made a motion to approve the minutes as presented of the December 5, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. It passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2011. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The motion passed on a voice vote.

3. **Communications**

a.) Communications from the Public

Bob Donia addressed the Board as a member of the Community Emergency Response Team. There is an issue with storing cots used for the shelter and blankets, 75-100 of them. They are presently at Goat Island and there is some concern about water damage. He is requesting that space be found in the attic of the water department offices. Commissioner Murphy asked about the space needed. The equipment is stored folded. Following discussion, the staff acknowledged that there is plenty of space in the attic. Commissioner Murphy made a motion that the Board of Water Commissioners allow the Community Response Team to store emergency shelter equipment in the department attic. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. The motion passed on a voice vote. Bob also asked if any member of the Board knew of a nurse who would volunteer for the CERT team in the event of an emergency. They should contact the fire house.

Arthur Cyr addressed the Board. He wants to comment on the streetlights at Well #1A. He recalls that he made a comment about the street appearing to be a "Christmas tree" and within a week all of the lights were extinguished. He wonders if some of the lights will be turned back on. Assistant Superintendent Rogers answered that there is a plan to light 2 or 3 lights, staggered. Presently, the lights are linked together electrically and the problem is that all or none can be illuminated. He is investigating arrangements to separate them.

b.) Communications from Administration

None

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Berkmoes commented that Commissioner Domian participated in the Ice Rink project and thanked him for his interest.

President Semmel announced a change to the roster of internal committees. The Technology Committee will be removed and a Policy and Procedures Committee will take its place. He also thanked those who responded on Christmas Eve to the water main break. They did a "great job." He welcomed new Board member Greg Klimaszewski.

Superintendent West asked who would be on the Policy and Procedures Committee: Commissioner Santa Maria, Commissioner Domian and Commissioner Murphy. The chairperson will be Commissioner Santa Maria.

4. Financial Matters

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

Following review of presented invoices for payment and questions answered by Office Supervisor, Ms. Anop, Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the invoices for payment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Murphy had some questions about the tree removal at the Mill St tank. Superintendent West commented that there are other sites that should be considered for tree removal and addressed in the budget process. Commissioner Murphy asked about the listed expenditure for the Annual Audit and asked if it is available. Superintendent West plans to hand it out at this meeting and the auditor will be present at the February meeting. There was a discussion about the audit report being available at the library before it becomes available to the Board members.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

Ms. Anop gave a short report on the Line Protection Plan and the financial status. Commissioner Klimaszewski had some questions about coverage of multi-family dwellings. There was a discussion about this and it was decided to place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

None

b.) Infrastructure Committee

A meeting is pending, scheduled for January 11 at 5 P. M.

c.) Technology Committee

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

a.) Update on DEEP "Stream Flow" Regulations

Superintendent West announced that the regulations were approved with minor changes.

b.) SWD Water Mains Projects

Assistant Superintendent reported. Projects are on winter hiatus.

c.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project

Superintendent West reported that this project is in winter shut down. More has been completed before cold weather than had been projected. All of the wire winding is done. He gave the Board a complete report of the status of this project to date.

There was a discussion about the Christmas water leak and the sensitivity of the alarm system. Assistant Superintendent Rogers gave an in-depth report on the incident and the excellent handling of it by the water department employees.

d.) Water Capital Improvement Plan

This is on the Infrastructure Committee's agenda for the meeting next week. Tighe & Bond will be present.

e.) West Queen Street Pump Station Generator and Mill Street Tank Generator

The Mill Street tank generator is on order. The West Queen Street generator is also on order. It is a larger generator and it is not expected until the end of February. The pad has been installed and the removal of the old generator is underway. Commissioner Domian asked if staff had checked with the insurance company on this. Assistant Superintendent reports that he was skeptical, but happy to report that he has secured a verbal that the entire project will be covered. This windfall prompted a discussion about ordering a different, decibel-reducing enclosure. Commissioners were in favor of providing this. It was decided to wait until the insurance award is at least in writing before committing to an additional enclosure expense.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Well #8 Redevelopment

Superintendent West reported. He explained in detail the redevelopment project at well #8, the challenges and the possible solutions and the funding involved. Commissioner Murphy asked about potential pumping capacity and questioned the historical use of this well. President Semmel reviewed the original plan for redevelopment, the funding budgeted and questioned the reason for change in plan. Superintendent West explained that in order to get a clear picture of the well's status it was necessary to clean it up and get a camera down in it. When this occurred, a different course became available and advantageous. Superintendent West recommends the repairs be made to well #8. Commissioner Murphy asked about the last inspection of this well. He wonders if there is more than one bidder on the updated redevelopment service. There was a discussion. Commissioners were in favor of rebidding this project with the new parameters. Superintendent West will take care of this.

b.) Town Fire Protection Charges

Superintendent West reported that staff had been reviewing existing fire protection charges throughout town—public and private. Particularly at school sites a discrepancy has surfaced. Charges are different at newer sites vs older sites. He gave some examples. He feels that there should be some consistency in the charges. This has all happened over time when sprinkler systems were added or modified. President Semmel pointed out that these are municipal locations and any proposed changes must be timely and in keeping with necessary budget modifications. Commissioner Murphy noted that all of the schools could be sprinkler protected. There was an interactive discussion about services required and restructuring of the fees for fire protection at public schools, contrasted with condominium associations. Private fire hydrant maintenance was discussed. This issue will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

c.) Audit 2010-2011

The audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 is complete and Superintendent West distributed copies to the commissioners. The auditor will be in attendance at the next meeting to present it, and take questions from the commissioners.

d.) Pharmaceuticals Collection Day, 2012

Councilman John Dobbins has asked if the Board of Water Commissioners wishes to continue with this project. The national take back day will be on April 28. There is some question about the date of this year's program. It has been extremely successful and it continues to grow. The cost is a few thousand dollars including legal disposal of the pharmaceuticals. Bristol is interested in partnering in this. Commissioner Domian made a motion that the water department continue with the pharmaceutical collection in 2012, the date to be determined. Commissioner Murphy seconded his motion. It passed on a voice vote.

e.) Street Lights at Well 1A

Superintendent West reports. There are 6 decorative lights on the site—5 on the street and 1 at the well house. All 6 lights operate on the same circuit. It was intended that they come on at dusk and go off during the night on a timer. It has been commented that it was too bright with all lights on. There has been discussion about separating about half of those lights so that along Mill St either 2 or 3 would be on the same circuit. Pizzatola Electric has proposed some modifications to the lighting system there at a cost of \$1700. There is no CL&P incentive to do this. There was some discussion. Commissioner Murphy pointed out that the water department placed the decorative lights in this area for aesthetic reasons, for the pleasure and safety of the citizens who use the trail and the dog park, etc., but Mill St is a town road and it is up to the town if it cares to turn them on or off. Ultimately, Commissioner Murphy made a motion that the lights be handled according to the plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klimaszewski and passed on a voice vote.

f.) Lighting of Filter Plant

Assistant Superintendent Rogers reported. The lighting system at the plant is aging and in need of replacement. There have been failures and shorts. Calculations were offered by Pizzatola Electric on a retrofit vs a complete change out. A project cost is projected of \$11,383.97 for complete change of the fixtures. Rogers approached CL&P about a rebate deal and there was about \$3415 as an incentive. There is a pay back over time on energy savings of \$3651 a year which amounts to a three or four year pay back. There was a discussion about bidding, scope of the work and questions from the commissioners were answered. Commissioner Domian made a motion to expend the \$11,383.97 for complete change out of the lighting fixtures at the filter plant. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

g.) United Way of Southington Request for Campaign at Water Department

Superintendent West presented a proposal from the United Way that employees of the water department participate in their 2012 fund raising campaign. Employees may contribute one time or sign up for payroll deductions for the United Way of Southington. The town offers this to municipal employees. Commissioner Murphy noted the non-solicitation rule in the by-laws that will need to be addressed. There was a long discussion about precedent. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to make an exception to the non-solicitation policy for the United Way for its 2012 campaign. Commissioner Domian seconded his motion. It passed on a voice vote.

h.) AT&T Request to Re-Negotiate Contract at Mill Street Tank Cell Site

Superintendent West stated that this will have to be discussed in Executive Session.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters.

Commissioner Domian made a motion to enter Executive Session, barring the public and press, but to include the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent at 7:41 P.M. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

A negotiation matter was discussed

The Board left Executive Session at 8:50 P.M.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

Attest:



Michael S. Domian, Secretary & Treasurer