

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS
Thursday, August 9, 2012

A special meeting of the Southington Board of Water Commissioners was held in the Department Offices at 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #574.

PRESENT: President Erik Semmel, Vice President Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer Michael Domian, Commissioners Gregory Klimaszewski, and Angelina Santa Maria, Thomas Murphy and Superintendent Frederick Rogers.

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. by President Erik Semmel.

2. Approval of minutes of July 12, 2012 Board meeting. Commissioner Domian made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012 meeting as presented. His motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Communications from the Public

Arthur Cyr of Berlin Avenue addressed the Board. (1) He commented positively on the road repair where the water main was placed on Meriden-Waterbury Road. (2) He is concerned about the previous headquarters site on High Street where there is a pleasant rest area near the rails-to-trails and two non-functioning water fountains. He sees that the benches are often being used and the people sitting there report that the water fountain does not work. He realizes that the “gorgeous” water fountain designed for that area has been vandalized, but he wants the Board to be aware that people do stop there and enjoy the area. The Board acknowledged that it would like to have the fountain working but it is continually vandalized.

b.) Communications from the Administration

None

c.) Communications from Board Members

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Water Rates

Postponed, pending completion of the Capital Improvement Plan.

b.) Financial Planning – (RBC)

Superintendent Rogers reported that he had contacted the accountants, Budwitz & Meyerjack, who advised him that public utilities are not allowed to invest in vehicles that may represent risk. Commissioner Klimaszewski had some questions about the RDC CD offerings covered by FDIC. He referred to an e-mail he received noting several failures of private banks. He has concerns that all funds under the auspices of the Water Board be fully protected by FDIC. This will be explored further.

c.) Maintainer I position

Superintendent Rogers reports. He advertised the staff opening and received 120 applications. The short list is 6. Following interviews it is narrowed to 3. He commented on each applicant for the benefit of the Board members. Rogers requested that two maintainer positions be filled, considering recent reductions in staff and eligible retirees. There was some discussion. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Rogers to hire the top two candidates, contingent on the background check, physical and drug testing. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept John Formeister and it was seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

d.) Open Assistant Superintendent Position

Superintendent Rogers asked the Board to afford him the ability to advertise this position even though he is aware that there is an internal candidate. Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to advertise the Assistant Superintendent position. It was seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion passed on a voice vote.

e.) 2006 Water supply plan

Mr. Rogers explained to the Board that the 2006 Water Supply Plan is a regulatory requirement document required by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, reporting long term planning for future adequate water supply and production. Mark Coquette of the McGuire Group addressed the Board and presented a historical perspective on the plan and present status. Updating requirements have resulted in a productive meeting with the state agent to update this survey. There are some details to be completed. Commissioner Klimaszewski asked when the report will be completed. Projection is within a week or two. The Board discussed this at some length.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Following review and substantial discussion, Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the water billings and the invoices presented for payment. This was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and it passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Santa Maria commented positively upon the efficiency of Office Manager Ann Marie Anop.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

Superintendent Rogers reported the status of the plan.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a.) Executive Committee

No report.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Mr. Rogers reported on the recent meeting. South End Rd., private fire hydrants, town paving of Bellevue Ave and the Capital Improvement Plan were among the topics discussed.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee

There is one policy change in the packet presented for approval. Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the Capitalization Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The motion passed on a voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a.) Fire hydrants on private water mains

Superintendent Rogers reports his personal review of present charges, labor costs including benefits, and overhead involved in hydrant maintenance. He has also reviewed maintenance charges by outside contractors. There is an SOP for hydrant maintenance done by the Water Department. There was a discussion about setting a fee consistent with covering the department's costs with no profit margin. After some discussion, Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to charge owners of private fire hydrants \$145 per hydrant for basic routine maintenance, plus tax if applicable. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote.

b.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project

Mr. Rogers reported that the site work and drainage is being completed. There is an issue with the parking lot which sustained considerable damage during the construction and this was discussed. Progress is somewhat slow but the contractor projects two weeks for final completion of the punch list. There will be one last phase of the project to be done by in-house staff.

c.) Expansion of Service Line Protection Plan

The brochure has been reviewed and edited again.

d.) South End Road Water Main

Mr. Rogers reports that the project is complete. Final sample results are awaited before it will be put on-line. A hydrant will be installed there. He explained some final completion elements of the site plan to the Board.

e.) Water Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Rogers presented the updated activity report and reviewed it with the Board.

f.) Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Reservoir Dam Inspection

Mr. Rogers has attempted to contact the DEEP about the approval of the Department's resolution, without reply.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion at 7:20 P.M., to adjourn to Executive Session, banning the public and the press but including Superintendent Rogers and Bill Casarella. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A negotiation matter was discussed.

The Board left Executive Session at 8:36 P.M.

Commissioner Domian made a motion at 8:36 P.M., to go back into Executive Session, banning the public and the press but including Superintendent Rogers and Elaine Bedard. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klimaszewski. The motion passed on a voice vote.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 P.M.

Attest: _____
Michael S. Domian, Secretary & Treasurer