

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 6, 2012

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held in the department administrative offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut on Thursday, December 6, 2012. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #599.

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by President Erik Semmel at 6:00 P. M.

PRESENT: President Erik Semmel, Vice President Robert Berkmoes, Commissioners Thomas Murphy, Gregory Klimaszewski and Angelina Santa Maria, Superintendent Frederick Rogers, Assistant Superintendent William Casarella and stenographer Janice Eisenhauer.

2. Approval of the minutes of November 8, 2012 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Klimaszewski to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2012 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Santa Maria abstained.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the public.

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Ave spoke to the Board. He was complimentary regarding several road repairs following water main work done this year. He notes great improvement in project outcomes.

b.) Communications from the Administration

Superintendent Rogers reports that Mr. Nevulis was unable to appear before the board this meeting.

c.) Communications from Board Members

None

4. New Business

a.) Emergency Response Plan Update

Superintendent Rogers reports. Included in the presented packet is the updated information. He has discussed this with other consulting firms and he was advised that they would not compete with the bid on this because Woodard & Curran already has the base data. Staff continues to review and revise the plan before final implementation. Superintendent Rogers is requested the Board to reassign funds from another capital project, that has been rescheduled until fall 2013, to fund the emergency response plan. There was some discussion about assorted modes of implementation, and Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to expend no more than \$13,300--from one line item in the budget to another—as proposed. Commissioner Santa Maria seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) 2013 Water Board meeting schedule

The meeting schedule for next year was presented to the Board for approval. Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Thursday each month, with the exception of July, and it was requested to have the January meeting changed to the second Thursday, January 10. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve the 2013 meeting schedule with the January change. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote. The schedule will be filed with Leslie Cotton, Town Clerk for publication.

c.) 2013 Forestry Budget

Superintendent Rogers explained the forestry management plan and status to the Board. It is time to award the contract for the next phase. Rogers will go to bid for this work this month. He also explained an alternate way to assess the value of the wood harvested as it relates to the bid. This was discussed at some length, consensus being positive to explore this new avenue.

d.) Report on 2011-2012 Audit by Budwitz and Meyerjack, P.C.

Superintendent Rogers reported that the Auditors will be present at the January meeting to report. Rogers suggested that the Board may wish to consider going to bid on this. Service from the present firm is excellent, but he reminded the Board that it is considered good business practice to go to bid periodically.

5. Financial Matters

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

Superintendent Rogers explained the enhancement in the reports this month regarding construction project information and the documenting of unforeseen project costs. Suggestions were forthcoming from the Board. Commissioners posed questions which were answered. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the water billings, jobbing bills and invoices presented for payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. There was some discussion about the project accounting. The motion passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

This report is presented in hard copy in the commissioner's packet. There are no questions.

6. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

The CIP plan was discussed, as it nears completion. Commissioner Murphy expressed his concern that previously-committed projects would be discarded in favor of those indicated priority in the CIP plan. Rogers explained that the CIP plan will supersede prior planning. Rogers explained that the professional evaluations done by CIP are superior. Murphy does not want explorations and decisions made in the past to be just "scrapped." Rogers feels that ultimately, past planning and CIP will align, but added that ultimately all decisions rest with the sitting Board. A meeting was set for December 19 at 4:30 in the department offices.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee

Chairman Santa Maria reported on progress. A meeting was set for this committee to meet on December 19 at 8 am with a "rain date" of December 20 at 8 am.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a.) 2008 Water Supply Plan

Superintendent Rogers reports that there are some modifications needed to the plan as presented, but he feels confident that this can be rectified and it will be accepted.

b.) Fire hydrants on private water mains.

Superintendent Rogers reports that only documentation is pending before the first of the private inspections will be undertaken. The fire department is primarily interested in flow testing. Color coded-painting of hydrants indicating level of flow available was discussed at some length. Commissioner Murphy explained that in a perfect world, the color of the hydrant will indicate to the fireman, in an emergency, how much water flow he can expect from any hydrant—having been duly inspected and flow tested-- according to the color it is painted. Commissioner Murphy offered that American Water Works identifies three designations: 500 gallons, 1000 gallons or 1500 gallons. He explained that the Fire Department has used the National Fire Protection Association color coding system which is somewhat different. If all hydrants--private and public—do not use any prescribed system, there is no purpose of having any. Murphy expressed his hope that Southington will move to identify what the color code will be once and for all, and people will understand that they cannot paint their hydrants for any reason—“so that when the fire truck rolls down your street, the officer of that engine can make an informed decision about which hydrant that will be used, i.e. the green top or the red top, designating the water flow available to fight the fire.”

c.) Mariondale Storage Tank Replacement Project

Superintendent Rogers reports. The costs of the projects were discussed in detail. The return of the retainage was discussed. Bonding will remain in place for one year from date of completion. There are no issues at this point. Assistant Superintendent Casarella reports that the recommendation of the consultant is to return the retainage at this time. President Semmel recommends that the contractor be paid promptly for a job well-done. Commissioner Berkmoes speaks for release of the retainage. Consensus of the Board is positive for release at this time.

d.) Water Capital Improvement Plan

Superintendent Rogers reports that staff input is positive and helpful for the consultant, formulating the CIP. The final report and recommendations will be presented in detail, perhaps at a special meeting of the Board. Rogers is very pleased with the work and the communication between the water department and Tighe & Bond.

e.) Water Rates

Adjustment of the water rates will be entertained at some point following official presentation of the CIP report.

f.) Generator transfer switch, 605 West Queen Street administration building

Assistant Superintendent Casarella reported. The intensive work will begin next week. Casarella explained the schedule. It is anticipated that the job will take 4 days and one must be Saturday because it requires shutting the power in the building. The contractor is anxious to get this done.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel and negotiation matters, barring the public and the press but including Superintendent Frederick Rogers and Assistant Superintendent William Casarella. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote at 7:18 pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Attest: _____

Michael S. Domian, Secretary & Treasurer

