

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 4, 2013

There was a Public Hearing held on April 4, 2013 in the department administrative offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut at 5:30 P.M. for purposes of considering comments on the 2013/2014 changes to the rate schedule.

PRESENT: President Erik Semmel, Vice President Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer Michael Domian, Commissioners Thomas Murphty, Gregory Klimaszewski and Angelina Santa Maria, Superintendent Frederick Rogers, Assistant Superintendent William Casarella and stenographer Janice Eisenhauer.

President Erik Semmel opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M. There were no speakers. Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to recess the public hearing at 5:37. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 5:55 p.m. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. It passed on a voice vote.

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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, April 4, 2013. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tape #606.

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Santa Maria abstained.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the public

Art Cyr addressed the Board. He made several complimentary comments about the operations of the Southington Water Department during the winter, in comparison to surrounding towns. Cyr also spoke positively about the cooperation between the municipal staff and the water department, specifically regarding the excavation and paving of roads, noting that this will ultimately benefit taxpayers and ratepayers.

b.) Communications from the Administration

None

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Santa Maria spoke about an event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on April 24 to be held at the Manor Inn for breakfast. Details are available on the Chamber website.

4. New Business

a.) New Britain Well Lease

Commissioner Klimaszewski reports. He looked over the proposed lease agreement and notes a few conflicts that should be addressed. Specifically, he cites conflicting “wear and tear” provisions and another concerning termination terms. There was some discussion. Superintendent Rogers will address this with New Britain before the new lease is signed.

b.) Proposed water service, 6 lot sub division, 806 Southend Road, Curtis Farms/Coccomo Brothers

Superintendent Rogers presented the site plan. There were some questions from the Board which were answered. Commissioner Murphy had a question about a gas line planned for this site. Superintendent Rogers answered him. Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept this project as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote.

c.) Proposed water service, 56 Center Street, restaurant & Offices, 508 Properties, LLC
Withdrawn

5. Financial Matters

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

Following review of the presented documents, questions from the Board were answered. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the Outstanding Jobbing Bills and to approve the invoices listed for payment. Commissioner Domian seconded his motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

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

c.) Review of Financial Statements

Superintendent Rogers noted some highlights on the financial reports. He noted that the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year will begin in May.

6. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Chairman Berkmoes reported on a recent meeting of the committee. Superintendent Rogers reported on several small but complicated projects to be considered for this fiscal year; as identified on the recent Capital Improvement Project report. Rogers has worked with Highway and Engineering closely, and commented on their cooperation and his appreciation for that. There was some discussion about the various projects.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee

Chairman Santa Maria reported. The crafting of the written policies and procedures is 75% complete. The committee has decided to take a hiatus until June to allow staff to concentrate on preparation of the budget.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a.) Drug take Back Day, April 27, 2013

Superintendent Rogers reports that this annual event is coming together as planned.

b.) Emergency Response Plan update

Assistant Superintendent Casarella reports. This project is progressing well, now 80% complete.

c.) Exclusive service area agreement with Bristol Water/Lake Compounce Campground

Superintendent Rogers reported. He is in final discussions with Bristol on the contract. Town Attorney Mark Sciota is helping with the review of the contract language.

f.) Ferguson Group, LLC

Superintendent Rogers reported on some information received from the Ferguson Group regarding some changes that are being considered in Congress affecting federal funding for Corps of Engineers Civil Works projects and there is a looming de-authorization of Southington's prior \$9.4 million authorization for federal funding. It is suggested that the Southington Water Department engage the Ferguson Group to represent Southington's interests. There was a long discussion. It was suggested that the Board contact Senator Chris Murphy and the appropriate House Representatives. Commissioner Klimaszewski warned that this situation must be allotted close attention from the Board. All Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to immediately enter into a contract with Ferguson Group on a month-to-month basis. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The motion passed on a voice vote.

d.) Fire hydrants on private water mains.

Assistant Superintendent Casarella reported that the Water Department will be scheduling some private hydrant tests soon on an experimental basis.

e.) Water Rates

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to institute the proposed water rate and service charge increases, as published, effective May 1, 2013. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed on a voice. (Rate Schedule Attached)

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters. Commissioner Domian made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 6:56 PM., barring the public and the press, but to include Superintendent Rogers and Assistant Superintendent Casarella. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed on a voice vote.

Upon exiting Executive session Superintendent Roger's requested to add a line item under new business for the installation of new water main on Columbus Avenue, at a cost of \$160,000, per the engineers estimate in the Capital Improvement Plan. The \$160,000 is to be transferred from the Well 7A capital budget project currently on hold pending DWSRF funding. Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to approve the Superintendent's request. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Attest: _____
Michael S. Domian, Secretary & Treasurer

