

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 7, 2013

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, November 7, 2013. A recording of the meeting can be found on file tape #614.

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by President Erik Semmel at 7:00 P.M.

Present: President Erik Semmel, Vice President Robert Berkmoes, Secretary-Treasurer Michael Domian, Commissioners Thomas Murphy, Angelina Santa Maria, and Gregory Klimaszewski, Superintendent Frederick Rogers and stenographer Janice Eisenhauer.

1a. Election of Officers. Semmel turned the attention of the post-election board to the election of officers and ceded the chair to Superintendent Frederick Rogers. Unanimous decision of the Board negated the need to caucus. Rogers opened nominations for President of the Water Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Murphy motioned nominating Commissioner Robert Berkmoes for President. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. No further nominations for President being heard, nominations were closed and Rogers called for a voice vote. The motion to elect Robert Berkmoes President passed. None were opposed.

President Berkmoes assumes the Chair. He called for nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Semmel nominated Michael Domian for Vice President. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Klimaszewski. There being no further nominations, President Berkmoes closed nominations and called for a voice vote. The motion to elect Michael Domain Vice President passed unanimously. Berkmoes then opened nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. Commissioner Santa Maria motioned to nominate Chief Thomas Murphy as Secretary-Treasurer. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Klimaszewski. There were no other nominations and nominations were closed. The motion to elect Chief Murphy Secretary-Treasurer passed unanimously. Congratulations were extended all around.

President Berkmoes appointed Commissioner Murphy Chair of the Infrastructure committee, along with members, Commissioners Semmel and Klimaszewski. He also appointed Commissioner Santa Maria Chair of the Policy & Procedures Committee, along with members Vice President Domian and Secretary-Treasurer Murphy. Superintendent Rogers commented that once those meetings are established (agendas and minutes), they are open to all Board members to attend.

2. Approval of minutes of October 8, 2013 Special Board Meeting. Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 8, 2013 Special Board Meeting as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. It passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

Art Cyr, 103 Berlin Ave addressed the Board. He commented on the positive response from the public to the new hydrant colors and the press coverage surrounding this program. He is still concerned about the painting and maintenance of the privately-owned hydrants in town.

Joe LaPorte spoke to the Board about the visible cooperation between the water department and the municipal sector. He also thanked the water department for the cooperation and crucial aid he received when he was working on the Drive In project. His main issue though, centered on fire connection charges, levied at

Prosperity Court. Superintendent Rogers spoke briefly about the problem and presented the site plan. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to add this to the present agenda at 4e for an in-depth discussion. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote.

b.) Communications from Administration

Superintendent spoke about 25th anniversary of an employee. He extended an invitation to the Board to attend a congratulatory pizza party for him.

Superintendent Rogers reported that the seasonal help program has ended, and how it was a success.

c.) Communications from Board Members

Commissioner Semmel thanked the Board for the cooperation and support each one has afforded him during his time as President. He noted many changes in the last two years, expressed gratitude toward Board members and Department staff, and wished President Berkmoes the same. President Berkmoes thanked Semmel for his dedicated service to the Board. He feels that a great deal has been accomplished in the last two years.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a.) 8 unit industrial building, 357 Captain Lewis Drive, Owner/Developer: Nick Robertson, Engineer: Kratzert Jones & Associates

Superintendent Rogers presented the site plan. It meets regulations of the water department. There will be individual metering of each unit. Questions were answered during discussion. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve this request as presented. Commissioner Santa Maria seconded his motion. It passed on a voice vote.

b.) Proposed domestic water service, and fire protection, 491 Darling Street (Wintergrove Apartments-HUD funded project)

Superintendent Rogers presented the site plan and refreshed the Board's memory of this project being before the Board in the past. The fire department requests a fire hydrant on the property. Commissioner Murphy raised the question of the necessity for an 8" pipe to the hydrant. Superintendent Rogers favors a fire hydrant across the street where the pipe is prepared to accommodate it. He will discuss this with the fire department. There was a discussion. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve this request with the addition of the proper size (8") pipe. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to add to 4b that the Superintendent be allowed to discuss with the fire department the placement of the fire hydrant as noted and make changes as he sees fit. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. This motion passed on a voice vote.

c.) 2014 Board meeting schedule

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for calendar year 2014 as presented. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. It will be presented to the Town Clerk.

d.) Maintainer 1 Position

Superintendent Rogers explained to the Board the efficacy of hiring an additional Maintainer I employee. There was some discussion. He asks the Board permission to post the position and begin preliminaries to a human resources search. Budget issues were discussed. Consensus of the Board was positive.

e.) Prosperity Court

Commissioner Klimaszewski speaks to this issue. He feels that there should be a set standard for this situation. It seems that tapping and fire connection charges are appearing individually for approval quite often, and that the Board should review and establish a regulation applicable to most. President Berkmoes acknowledged and agreed with his comments, but pointed out that this particular case is unique. There was an interactive discussion. Commissioner Murphy added that there needs to be a stipulation how many private hydrants will be included with a tap fee and a rate structure beyond that needs to be indicated. It was ultimately decided to table this request and bring it before the Infrastructure Committee for review and possible restructure. Commissioner Semmel made a motion to table item 4e for further investigation. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. It passed on a voice vote. President Berkmoes explained to Mr. LaPorte, who was present, and he was happy with this action. LaPorte expressed his thanks, for the efforts of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in dealing with the matter.

5. Financial Matters

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

Superintendent Rogers advised the Board that he was making preparations to purchase a new utility truck, which has been budgeted. There was some discussion. Commissioner Klimaszewski wondered where expenses are in relation to the proposed budget for the fiscal year. There was some discussion about use of the old truck. Rogers explained it has some continued use to the department. There was some discussion about jobbing longevity. Commissioner Klimaszewski felt that the capital expense should be approved by the Board, even though it appears in the budget. He explained why he feels that way. There was some discussion. Commissioner Semmel explained that the Board had asked Superintendent Rogers to keep them informed of large capital purchases so that if it were necessary to adjust course, it could be done.

There was a suggestion made that the paid flushing notices be canceled and this information be posted on the department web site.

Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the invoices for payment and the jobbing bills as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. It passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Domian made a motion to direct Rogers to purchase the discussed new utility truck and keep the old truck. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. The Board thanked Rogers for the courtesy of his keeping it informed of impending major purchases.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan

Superintendent Rogers reports and cites projected figures for review.

c.) Review of Financial Statements

Commissioner Klimaszewski asked if there was some reliable way to project income other than the amount of rainfall.

6. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

President Berkmoes announced that the Executive Committee will consist of the officers.

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Superintendent Rogers reported on the progress and completion of projects. Projects came in on, or below, budget. He is happy with the work done by staff. South Center St water main survey is complete. The Infrastructure Committee will be meeting to review the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for capital improvement projects derived for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee

Chair Santa Maria presented for approval Property Damage Policy. Motion to accept was made by Commissioner Murphy. Motion to second presented by Commissioner Domian and passed unanimously on a voice vote. Santa Maria expressed appreciation for the efforts of Ann Anop, Office Manager for the detailed professional presentation of the Policies & Procedures. Superintendent Rogers added that Assistant Superintendent Casarella and department staff contributed to this effort.

7. Old Business

a.) Ferguson Group LLC

There has been some reports from Bill Hanka passed on hard-copy to the Board. President Berkmoes reported that he contacted Senator Murphy without response, but he did speak with Senator Blumenthal. Blumenthal promised to help secure some grant funding. Berkmoes expressed the importance of spending federal funds for the greater good of the citizens and that Southington has a track record of doing so. Superintendent Rogers suggested inviting Bill Hanka to appear for a meeting with the Board. He will try to set this up.

b.) 2012-2013 Audit

The audit is nearly complete. Commissioner Semmel suggested that an audit summary be presented for the Board's review to promote greater understanding.

d.) Financing Capital Projects

Superintendent Rogers reports the Bond Ordinance for municipal bonding of capital projects has been approved by the Town Council and Finance Board.

e.) Reservoir #3 Dredging

Superintendent Rogers reports. Preliminary engineering is nearly complete. Improved water quality is the goal.

Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Klimaszewski to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:40 P. M., barring the public and the press, including Superintendent Rogers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 P.M.

Attest: _____
Thomas J. Murphy, Secretary & Treasurer