

DRAFT

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2014

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held in the department administration offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut on Thursday April 10, 2014. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tapes #619 and #620.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President, Robert Berkmoes at 6:00 P.M.

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

2. Approval of minutes of March 13, 2014 Board Meeting. Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2014 Board meeting as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Klimaszewski and passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Santa Maria abstained.

3. Communications

a.) Communications from the Public

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Ave addressed the Board. He spoke positively about the condition of the roads after a hard winter. He complimented the crew for the exemplary work that was done keeping the roads in good condition. He questioned the Board about the number of radio transmitters on meters. Superintendent Rogers answered that there are 800 in use and more to come.

President Berkmoes thanked Cyr for his positive comments. He reinforced the great pride that the Water Commissioners have in the work force of the department.

Larry DePaolo of 106 Blakeslee Avenue had several concerns and expressed his frustration with the town about the roll out of private metering, in light of the new sewer fee schedule. He asked if the Water Department could purchase the meters for resale to the public, so that private citizens could take advantage of bulk pricing. He presented his personal calculations regarding the sewer revenue increases and asked the Water Department to "do something for us."

Brian Emerick of 245 Harness Drive spoke about the new sewer metering system and the implications for people who have irrigation systems and others who use a lot of water outside.

b.) Communications from Administration

Superintendent Rogers read a thank you note received from Office Supervisor Ann Anop and her family in gratitude for a bereavement gift basket received from the Board recently.

c.) Communications from Board Members

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

*** See additional addendum notes**

*a.) Irrigation Metering

Superintendent Rogers introduced Town Manager Gary Brumback to speak on the Sewer Department's irrigation metering plans. The new rate structures are in process and he discussed a major hurdle with the new rates to begin on July 1, 2014. The new sewer rates will include water that runs through the water meters for every month during the year and, therefore includes water that is used outside in the yard during the summer. The question has arisen whether citizens can meter the water usage directed to outside faucets and/or irrigation systems so that it can be documented and exempt from sewer charge. He asks support and cooperation from the Water Department for the benefit of the people. He asks that the water department staff take on some additional tasks to this end, basically the reading and insuring that private meters are placed properly. The responsibility for the meters, their maintenance will be with the resident who decides to have one. There were several questions from the commissioners. Commissioner Klimaszewski had several concerns. He questioned the tardy notice of need, in light of an obviously complicated and vast plan, that must have been in the works for some time. Most prominently, he wants to be assured that the State of CT regulations do not mandate responsibility for this private metering system to the Water Department. Klimaszewski noted that there may well be some additional costs associated with providing the service that Mr. Brumback is requesting and wonders if this occurs, could the Water Department bill the town? Mr. Brumback responded that such billing would be honored by the town. Klimaszewski also asked for assurances that the Water Department will not be responsible for maintaining these meters. President Berkmoes spoke on the subject, explaining that the additional meter will belong to the homeowner and the responsibility for it would rest completely with the homeowner. He thinks it could be worked out to the advantage of the citizens. Commissioner Semmel questioned Mr. Brumback about the accuracy of the meter's installation. Brumback assured him that the town will require a permit and it will be inspected. The Water Department's regulations will apply. Semmel also asked how many irrigation systems would be impacted and was told that there are about 800 town- wide. There was a long discussion, but ultimately it was decided that Mr. Brumback will move forward with the sewer department's project and work with the water department staff, with a mutual goal to provide the best, fair and equitable service for the people.

*B.) Water Rates

Superintendent Rogers presents a data spread sheet on the new overhead for discussion and explained the figures to the Board. There was a rather long interactive discussion about the recommendations. Revenue planning over several years was discussed along with future project development. It was at issue to raise the rates incrementally, as opposed to a substantial rate increase in the future. Commissioner Klimaszewski opined that, essentially, that strategy charges rate payers

before the funds were actually required, presumably in the interest of saving them from a shocking increase, but he wonders what will be done with that money. Would that be a responsible course? Commissioner Murphy talked about the infrastructure for which the Board is responsible. President Berkmoes mentioned the increasing and unpredictable cost factor of operation it was decided to discuss this in Executive Session.

c.) 2013-2015 Budget

Superintendent Rogers informed the Board that he has started work with the staff on the budget for the fiscal year beginning July, 2014.

d.) DWSRF Resolution – Design and Construction for East Side Pressure Zone Project
(Concrete Tank, Pump Station, Water Mains)

Superintendent Rogers reported on the progress of this project. The application is being favorably received and he wishes to move forward to recapture the entire cost of the project in the amount of \$5 million. Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion to approve the resolution for the design and construction of the East Side Pressure Zone project under the DWSRF resolution application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. It passed on a voice vote, without dissent.

e.) Hunters Landing, 19 Lot Subdivision off Wonx Spring Road (8" main extension) Wonk Road Partnership, LLC.

Superintendent Rogers presents the site plan. The application meets all Water Department specifications. Hydrants are pointed out. Questions from the commissioners were adequately answered. A motion was made by Commissioner Domian to accept the plans as presented. Commissioner Santa Maria seconded the motion. It passed on a voice vote with the abstention of Commissioner Klimaszewski.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Ms. Anop, Office Supervisor is present to answer the questions of the Board. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the invoices presented for payment, the outstanding jobbing bills and the water billings. Commissioner Semmel seconded her motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan.

Commercial accounts are static. Residential participants have reached 2000.

c.) Review of Financial Statements

The Board thanked Ms. Anop for submitting the financials before the meeting, so that they had ample time for review before the meeting.

6. Committee Reports

a.) Executive Committee

None

b.) Infrastructure Committee

Superintendent Rogers reports on the various projects underway around town and some that are planned for the future. Rogers reports that Assistant Casarella has completed updating the department specs. An RFP has been prepared for the design work on the water main project. Returns are due back on April 25 for review at the next meeting.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee

Chairperson Santa Maria reports. There are a few policies to be completed and staff has one additional issue to add to the list for preparation.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a.) Reservoir #3 Dredging

Superintendent Rogers reports. The survey is nearly done. There has been some discussion about lowering the reservoir so that some low areas can be examined but maintain the water so that aquatic life will be protected through that process. Rogers will research what the cost for that would be so that it can be incorporated in the budget for the new fiscal year. He explained the rationale and advantages to the Board.

b.) Succession Planning

Superintendent Rogers proposes that one more Maintainer I be added. There was some discussion about timing. It was decided to advertise this position. The Board's consensus was positive.

8. Executive Session Anticipated for Personnel and Negotiation Matters.

Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion at 7:58 PM to adjourn to Executive Session barring the public and the press, but including Superintendent Rogers, Assistant Superintendent Casarella and Office Supervisor Ann Anop. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote.

ADDENDUM MINUTES

The meeting was called back to order at 9:20 PM by President Berkmoes.

*4a). Irrigation Metering

A motion was made to offer services for irrigation water metering by Commissioner Santa Maria. Charges for this service are as follows: There will be a charge for meter and remote reading device at cost, \$90 an hour labor charge for setting up and installing the meter plus tax. The owner of the meter has to comply with all terms and conditions of the Southington Water Department,

state and federal regulations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian. The motion passed on a voice vote; none opposed.

***4b.) Rate Increase**

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to raise the water rates by 5% on July 1, 2014 and to raise meter charges as listed (Proposed Rate increased attached). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel. Commissioner Klimaszewski commented, for the record, that he felt the increase was a little more than he would like to have seen, based upon the increase levied last year. The motion passed on a voice vote. Commissioner Klimaszewski registered his nay. The Board will hold a Public Hearing regarding the rate increase on May 8 ,2014 at 5:45 pm just prior to the regular Board meeting.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

Attest: _____
Thomas J. Murphy, Secretary & Treasurer