

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING-WATER RATES  
INCREASE**

**Thursday, June 11, 2015**

There was a public hearing held by the Board of Water Commissioners for purposes of public comment on the new rate schedule for July 1, 2015. It was at the department administration offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut on Thursday, June 11, 2015.

**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 Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

President Berkmoes called the public meeting to order at 5:45 P.M. Commissioner Murphy called for a recess at 5:47 P.M. in the absence of an audience. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed on a voice vote. There were no speakers from the floor. The public hearing was adjourned at 6:00 P.M. on the motion of Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Semmel and passed on a voice vote.

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday June 11, 2015**

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held at the department administrative offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut on Thursday, June 11, 2015. A recording of this meeting can be found on file tapes # 638 and # 639.

**1) CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Robert Berkmoes. A quorum was determined by the President.

**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 Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

**2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 14, 2015 BOARD MEETING:** Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian was passed by a voice vote. Commissioner Semmel abstained.

**3) COMMUNICATIONS:**

a.) **Communications from the Public**

Mark Nowogrodzki from 100 Center Street addressed the Board to dispute a portion of an invoice he received when the Department responded to a request to shut water off because his pipes burst. Mr. Nowogrodzki asked the Board to forgive \$107.10 in overtime charges which were incurred when a distribution employee worked overtime to turn his water back on after his plumber made the repair. Mr. Nowogrodzki felt he should not be responsible for the overtime turn on fee because he did not need the water turned on that afternoon; however, because the water service is split, the Department needed to get water back to the other building as soon as possible. Mr. Nowogrodzki did not feel he should have to pay because of the split service. The consensus of the Commissioners was that the charge was appropriate, and the invoice should be paid as issued.

b.) **Communications from Administration**

Superintendent Rogers explained that the Department will be featured in the New England Water Works Journal for June 2015. An article about the history of the Department along with an article about the Department's aggressive capital improvement projects written by John McClellan from Tighe and Bond will be included.

Superintendent Rogers stated that Office Supervisor, Ann Marie Anop will be retiring on June 19, 2015, and thanked Ms. Anop for her service. Ms. Anop addressed the Board and requested a payout of her sick time. The Board declined the request. She thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to work at the Department.

c.) **Communications from Board Members:**

There was no communication from Board Members.

4) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a.) **Modifications to 54 & 82 Liberty Street buildings, Developer/Owner:AA  
Denorfia Building & Development**

Assistant Superintendent Casarella presented and explained the proposed changes to the site plan. The plan has been modified from 5 buildings to 4 buildings with an addition of one valve to ensure minimal water interruption to customers in case of a shutdown. Commissioner Domian made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on a voice vote.

5) **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

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

The past due jobbing balance due from S. Carpenter Construction Co. will be referred to Superintendent Rogers for collection in small claims court. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the listed invoices for payment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Santa Maria and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:**

Commissioner Klimaszewski questioned if one of our line protection customers had a repair being done on Clark Street. This customer had the Safety Valve plan. Office Supervisor Ann Anop explained that we are currently waiting for AES, Inc. to bill us for a repair done this past March. There are eleven new customers participating in residential line protection plan with no change for commercial line protection customers.

**c.) Review of Financial Statements:**

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the variances in operating expenses. Office Supervisor Anop reviewed with the Board several items that were creating variances from the prior year operating expenses.

**6) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a.) Executive Committee:**

No report.

**b.) Infrastructure Committee:**

Chris Wester from Weston and Sampson addressed the Board to explain change orders from Ludlow Construction that were generated for water main installations pertaining to our Capital Improvement Plan. He explained that in order to have the bids out to contractors in a timely manner, they did not wait for the comments and requirements from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) to come back. The specifications and drawings were sent out using past DOT requirements. Weston and Sampson did not anticipate the updated DOT specification requests which have resulted in approximately \$257,000 in change orders. None of this work has been performed to date, and Mr. Wester will negotiate charges with the contractor. A local contractor may be hired to perform some of this work. The Board requested Mr. Wester draw up a proposal as to how the Department may be compensated for this mistake.

Superintendent Rogers discussed the progress of the East Side Pressure Zone project. This project has been approved by the Department of Public Health and he has received in writing it will receive DWSRF funding. Southington Planning and Zoning has approved the plans. The job has been advertised with much interest. A preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for June 29, 2015, for potential bidders. The bid is due July 16, 2015. Because the Town is scheduled to pave Flanders Street, the Department may hire a local contractor to bring the water line for the Pump Station into the property and off the road.

Superintendent Rogers updated the Board in regards to the compliance and relocation of Well 2. SB Church is working with the Department to try to decrease the cost of drilling the well.

Superintendent Rogers spoke about the RWA hydraulic modeling which can potentially send 1,000,000 gallons of water into our system. This would be all gravity fed.

Superintendent Rogers discussed a proposal for solar panels to be installed on the administrative building. This would save the Department approximately \$500,000 in energy costs over the next 20 years. All capital installation, maintenance, and security would be paid by Greenskies, LLC. There is also the potential to save approximately \$1.2 million dollars in energy costs at Well 9 with an additional proposal for Well 1A.

Assistant Superintendent Casarella discussed that Ludlow Construction has installed water main on Mulberry Street and has moved over to South Main Street and Norton Street due to the state paving schedule. They will back on Mulberry Street shortly. The Alzheimer's Center and Mulberry Gardens have been tied into the new water main. Mulberry Street is approximately 65-70% complete.

**c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:**

A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2015 at 8 A.M.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**a.) 2015-2016 Budget:**

The budget was reviewed and discussed at length. The Board has requested an additional column be added to the operating expense breakout by category to include the proposed budget figures by category. Discussion ensued about changing the chart of accounts and the possibility for a Budget Committee to be formed. Commissioner Santa Maria asked for a printout of the chart of accounts to be presented at the Policy and Procedure Committee meeting.

Mr. Rogers reviewed each of the capital expenditures. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the 2015-2016 budget with the stipulation that the treatment plant roof replacement and parking lot pavement be moved from proposed capital items to rolled over capital items. Commissioner Domian seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously by voice vote.

**b.) Water Rates**

No one from the public attended the public hearing regarding the proposed rate changes to become effective July 1, 2015. Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to accept the rate increases as presented at the April 2, 2015 meeting. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and carried unanimously on a voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED FOR PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATION**

**MATTERS:** Commissioner Klimaszewski made a motion for adjournment of Executive Session, barring the public and the press but to include Superintendent Rogers and Assistant Superintendent Casarella. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Domian and passed on a voice vote at 9:02 p.m.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 10:00 pm.

Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to add Management Performance Review's under New Business (b). Commissioner Semmel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

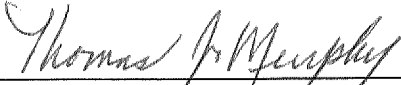
Based on performance, Commissioner Santa Maria made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase the Assistant Superintendent's salary to \$95,000 and to increase the Superintendent's salary to \$110,000 effective July 1, 2015. Commissioner Semmel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Attest:

  
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Thomas J. Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer