

DRAFT

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING WATER RATES INCREASE

Thursday, June 9, 2016

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, 2016. It was held at the Department's administrative office, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT. on June 9, 2016.

PRESENT: President Michael Domian, Vice-President Thomas Murphy, Commissioner Robert Berkmoes, Commissioner Erika Pocock, Superintendent Frederick Rogers, Assistant Superintendent William Casarella, Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

President Domian called the public meeting to order at 5:51 P.M. Commissioner Berkmoes called for a recess at 5:52 P.M. in the absence of an audience. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Pocock and passed on a voice vote. There were no speakers from the floor. The public hearing was adjourned at 5:58 P.M. on the motion of Commissioner Berkmoes, seconded by Commissioner Murphy and passed on a voice vote.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING Thursday, June 9, 2016

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 9, 2016. A recording of this meeting can be found on tapes # 650.

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

PRESENT: President Michael Domian, Vice President Thomas Murphy, Commissioner Robert Berkmoes, Commissioner Erika Pocock, Superintendent Frederick Rogers, Assistant Superintendent William Casarella, and Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

2.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2016 BOARD MEETING:**

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

3.) **COMMUNICATIONS:**

a.) **Communication from the Public:**

None at this time.

b.) **Communication from Administration:**

Superintendent Rogers informed the Board that he signed the interconnection agreement with Regional Water Authority. He recognized the Board for their vision of guaranteeing Southington will have an adequate water supply for the future needs of its residents. Commissioner Berkmoes stated that the Board of Water Commissioners addresses the present and future needs of generations to come and offered his congratulations to this Board and past Boards. President Domian thanked Superintendent Rogers for all his hard work.

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

Commissioner Pocock stated a friend had questions regarding the water profile. Superintendent Rogers advised Commissioner Pocock to have the individual contact the Department directly for any questions or concerns they may have regarding water quality.

4.) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a.) **Fire Service, 93 Main Street (Town Building)**

Superintendent Rogers relayed to the Board that the Town Council asked the Department to donate parts and labor for a fire line to the historic Gura Building which will house the new Southington Community Cultural Arts. Commissioner Berkmoes stated that in the past the Board has approved and donated a four wheel drive for the police to oversee the reservoir grounds, donated a water line for the Community Gardens on Academy Street, donated a water main at the Drive-In, as well as, a water line at the Western Little League among other things. He felt that since there have been several volunteers and donations made to the SOCCA by the community, that he would also like the Department to contribute to their project. Commissioner Murphy stated the renovation of the building and addition of the SOCCA to the community is for the betterment of Southington and will draw people to town. President Domian agreed. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to waive all fees for taping of a fire line to the historic Gura Building. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Pocock and it was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

b.) **Dam Inspections**

Superintendent Rogers will be soliciting prices for inspections of Department dams and the updating of the Emergency Response Plan.

c.) **Patton Brook Well**

For purposes of negotiation, this item will be moved to Executive Session.

d.) **Well 7A**

Superintendent Rogers explained to the Board that although three contractors purchased plan specifications and attended the site meeting only one bid was received for Well 7 from D'Amato Construction. Superintendent Rogers informed the Board the bid came in at \$1,494,556 which is over the budget of \$1,000,000, however, there is approximately \$1,300,000 left in bond money for this project. The Superintendent explained the balance would have to be taken out of cash reserve. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the new price of \$1,494,556 for the new Well 7A and his motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed at length whether to rebid the project or consider the bid from D'Amato Construction. After much discussion, Commissioner Murphy made a motion to award the bid to D'Amato Construction for the new Well 7A. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on a voice vote.

e.) **Budwitz & Meyerjack 2015-2016 Audit Proposal**

Superintendent Rogers stated Budwitz & Meyerjack submitted their letter of intent for audit services and is holding their price at \$15,000.00. Commissioner Pocock made a motion to hire Budwitz & Meyerjack to perform the 2015-2016 audit. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on a voice vote.

f.) **Administrative Staff Performance Review**

For purposes of personnel matters, this item will be moved to Executive Session.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to give the Office Supervisor Maria Nason a 3% salary increase. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to give the Assistant Superintendent Bill Casarella a 2% salary increase. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pocock made a motion to give the Superintendent Fred Rogers a 2% salary increase. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5.) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the listed invoices for payment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

Office Supervisor Nason reported that residential line protection brochures were included in the May and June bill cycle and will also be included in the July billing cycle. It was also discussed there will be a claim for a residence on Marion Avenue which may meet the plan maximum.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Office Supervisor Maria Nason pointed out a summing error on page two of the 2016-2017 budget which does not affect the budget's bottom line.

6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No report.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

Superintendent Rogers explained that the concrete pad for tank for the East Side Pressure Zone has been poured. Erecting of the walls should begin end of June, beginning of July. He displayed pictures of the site for the Board to review. He stated he is quite pleased with the communication from the site representative as well as the project engineer. Commissioner Murphy asked if it would be possible to erect a second tank on the East Side Pressure Zone site. Superintendent Rogers stated it would be difficult to get another usable tank on the site that would have sufficient storage. Commissioner Murphy asked if it would be advantageous for the Board to add an additional zone in the future. Superintendent Rogers stated the Board would need to find another parcel for a second tank.

The final paving for the water main projects is almost complete.

Regarding Well 2A, Superintendent Rogers stated that DPH has agreed to approve the original site. He is now waiting for the agreement to come through.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

No report.

7.) OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Land for Sale – Mill Street

For purposes of negotiations, this item will be moved to Executive Session.

b.) Communications Monopole – Mill Street Tank Site:

Superintendent Rogers has reached out to the attorney that specializes in this type communication, however, has had no response. Superintendent Rogers met with two separate cell carriers which are very interested in participating with this project. Superintendent Rogers has reached out to Joe Harris who will speak with Northeast Towers regarding maintenance. Superintendent Rogers expressed to the Board his concern with tank maintenance and that he would like to bring in Utility Services to discuss a maintenance schedule for all the Department's steel tanks. This maintenance schedule/agreement can be financed over 8-10 years. An infrastructure committee meeting will be schedule to discuss these options with Utility Services.

c.) Well 9 – Operational Issues:

Superintendent Rogers reported on the progress of Well 9. He thanked Assistant Superintendent Casarella for his continued work on this project. Commissioner Klimaszewski met with Superintendent Rogers and Assistant Superintendent Casarella to discuss the specifications for the generator. It was determined it would be more cost effective to have the electrician spec out the generator. Superintendent Rogers thanked Commissioner Klimaszewski for his time. Assistant Superintendent Casarella stated the gas main installation is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 13, 2016. The two 1,000 gallon propane tanks are scheduled to be removed by the end of that week along with the old generator. The project is progressing nicely. Assistant Superintendent Casarella has spoken with Tower Generator and they are on notice should the Department need generator service for Well 9. Commissioner Domian asked how the old generator would be removed. Assistant Superintendent Casarella stated a lift will be rented and it will be scrapped. Commissioner Domian asked if we could recoup any costs by selling the old generator. Commissioner Berkmoes stated these types of generator used to be sold overseas but that was in the past. Superintendent Rogers stated that Commissioner Klimaszewski saved the Department \$8,000 on this project.

d.) Water Rates

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to raise the both the service charge and consumption rate 3%. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED FOR PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATION

MATTERS: Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion for adjournment to Executive Session, barring the public and the press but to include Superintendent Rogers and Assistant Superintendent Casarella. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and it passed on a voice vote at 6:44 pm.

The board reconvened back into regular session at 8:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pocock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Attest: _____
Gregory Klimaszewski, Secretary/Treasurer