

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 11, 2017

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, May 11, 2017. A recording of this meeting can be found on tape # 661.

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 Mike Domian, Vice President Thomas Murphy, Secretary/Treasurer Gregory Klimaszewski, 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 APRIL 13, 2017 BOARD MEETING:**

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

3.) **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

None

b.) **Communication from Administration:**

Superintendent Rogers informed the Board he received a letter from Ray Esponda, Acting Director for the City of New Britain Water Department, which stated the City officially has rescinded the offer to sell the New Britain Well to the Department.

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

None.

4.) **NEW BUSINESS:**

T-Mobile Lease Agreement

Superintendent Rogers informed the Board he was contacted by T-Mobile to renegotiate the cellular lease for Robert Porter Road which is up for renewal in 2018. The Board directed the Superintendent to move forward with negotiations.

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:

President Domian asked if mailers were still included in the bills. Office Supervisor Nason confirmed. There was a brief discussion about the outside vendors who contact our customers with solicitations to purchase similar coverage.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Commissioner Murphy mentioned a CD rate of 1.5% at Citizens Bank. Office Supervisor Nason will shop for CD rates and report back to the Board with some options.

6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No report.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

Superintendent Rogers stated the Infrastructure Committee met on May 4, 2017 and reviewed the Mill Street tank bids, the Route 322 realignment project, discussed the capital budget, reviewed the East Side Pressure Zone as well as the construction of Well 7A, Well 2A and the Regional Water interconnection.

Superintendent Rogers updated the Board that site work at the tank site for the East Side Pressure Zone is on-going. The dome of the tank needed additional paint which has been completed. Department staff have currently installed 98 pressure reducing valves to homes in this zone with approximately 225 more to follow. Placing a vault at the corner of Hitching Post Drive has become cost prohibitive due to traffic control and road shut down, therefore, individual PRVs will be installed in these homes instead. The Department will use the PRV purchased when it loops Shuttlemeadow Road in the future. The pumps at the pump station were not meeting curve specifications and therefore have all been returned to the manufacturer for repair or replacement. Superintendent Rogers stated the project is still on schedule.

Superintendent Rogers informed the Board he will know within the next 30 days if the Flanders Road water main will be approved to be included the East Side Pressure Zone project and therefore covered under DWSRF funding.

Superintendent Rogers stated the Well7A building will drop this week. Staff is current working on the controls in the old building and doing some repairs and maintenance.

Superintendent Rogers stated that Well 2A design is approximately 95% completed and he will be meeting with the engineer on May 17th.

The Regional Water Interconnect water main extension has begun.

Superintendent Rogers is currently trying to get solar approved at Well 1A as part of the ELUR permit approval.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

Nothing to report.

7.) OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Communications Tower – Mill Street Tank Site:

This project has been placed on hold until the Mill Street painting bids are reviewed and a decision is reached regarding the maintenance of the tanks.

b.) Mill Street Tank Painting:

Superintendent Rogers gave a brief overview of the bids. A brief discussion ensued about the broad range of the pricing. Superintendent Rogers stated the bids were all higher than anticipated. He stated there are two other options other than painting the tanks. He has requested a quote from DN Tanks for a 1 million gallon tank and 2 million gallon tank. He will also schedule Utility Services to meet with the Board to discuss their asset management program for the steel tanks.

c.) Budget 2017-2018:

The capital expenditure portion of the budget was again reviewed. These figures are subject to change pending the decision about tank maintenance and the Flanders Road water main. A vote to approve the budget has been postponed until then. Superintendent Rogers discussed with the Board the addition of a vehicle, the Celella Drive water main project, hydrant maintenance, reservoir three study, the need to update our communication components as well as safety equipment and leak detection equipment.

A discussion about hydrant maintenance and the cost to the Department ensued. Commissioner Berkmoes stated that he has concerns about the town budget if the Department raised hydrant charges. The Board cut the hydrant rates for the town in 2012. Commissioner Klimaszewski reminded the Board this was a major concession and Commissioner Murphy stated we have to rebuild the revenue base from that discount. Superintendent Rogers stated this is part of the driver behind increasing rates and recommends an increase. Commissioner Berkmoes reminded the Board that we were able to increase revenue in other ways, for example, the line protection program. The Board reviewed the rate increases from 2010 to 2016. Commissioner Klimaszewski stated before there is any consideration of a rate increase, the proposed budget needs to be completed.

After these discussions, a special meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED FOR PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATION MATTERS:

Commissioner Klimaszewski 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 Pocock and it passed on a voice vote at 7:29 p.m.


The board reconvened back into regular session at 7:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Attest:



Gregory Klimaszewski, Secretary/Treasurer