

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

Monday August 13, 2018

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held at the department administrative offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut, on Monday August 13, 2018. A recording of this meeting can be found on tapes # 685 & # 686.

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

PRESENT: President Thomas Murphy, Vice-President Erika Pocock, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Berkmoes, Commissioner Michael Domian, Commissioner Rudy Cabata, Commissioner Ralph Warner, Superintendent William Casarella, Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

2.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2018 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:

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

3.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 16, 2018 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:

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

4.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 30, 2018 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:

Commissioner Pocock made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner and was passed by a voice vote with Commissioner Cabata abstaining.

5.) COMMUNICATIONS:

a.) Communication from the Public:

Joanne and Ronald Salvatore of 3 Woodruff Street, Southington addressed the Board regarding a concern they had with their May 1, 2018 water bill. The water bill was 4 times the normal usage. After reviewing the case, the Commissioners agreed to average their water bill for the purpose of calculating the May 2018 bill. The Water Commissioners made it clear that this would be for this one time only and will not set a precedent moving forward. Commissioner Domian made a motion to average their water bill for purposes of calculating the May 2018 bill. Commissioner Pocock seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously on a voice vote.

b.) Communication from Administration:

Superintendent Casarella discussed the 2.5-million-dollar grant that the Town of Southington received for its Safety Improvement Project for Plantsville Center. He spoke about replacing the water main from Summer Street to the East side of the intersection of Main and South Main St.

Superintendent Casarella estimates the replacement of the main could be up to \$300,000. Commissioner Berkmoes asked the Superintendent to speak with the Town Manager to see if any of the grant was earmarked for water main. Superintendent Casarella stated the water main project would probably qualify for DWSRF funding.

c.) Communication from Board Members:

None.

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Administrative Staff Performance Review

Refer to Executive Session.

Upon adjournment of Executive Session, Commissioner Domian made a motion to approve a 5% raise for Office Supervisor Maria Nason to be retroactive to July 1, 2018. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to approve a 4% raise for Superintendent Bill Casarella to be retroactive to July 1, 2018. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

7.) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

Commissioner Domian made a motion to accept the listed invoices for payment as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

An additional 6 residential plans were approved this month. Direct marketing of the plan to those customers with wrought iron services will begin this week. We will begin with approximately 50 letters per month.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Office Supervisor Nason explained that some reports will not update until the FY 2017-2018 is closed in the financial software.

8.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

Superintendent Casarella stated that CT DOT is requiring the Department to permanently pave the trench that resulted from a water main break located at Main Street at Old Turnpike Road this past June. DOT has marked the area and Superintendent Casarella has hired Layden Construction at a price \$17,000 to pave the area.

Commissioner Warner asked about the necessity of replacing the hydrant that was recently hit in front of 301 Main Street. He asked Superintendent Casarella to investigate the distance between that hydrant and the one near the Southington Public Library.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

No meeting.

9.) OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Art for a Cause:

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with a new rendering of the pollinating garden proposed by Kim Reis and Claire Bean. Superintendent Casarella proposed to move the original garden site to the area where the ice-skating rink was located. The area is already built up, has a concrete pathway, is more secure, fenced, and is handicapped accessible. Superintendent Casarella visited the site and believes this is the best place for the garden. Commissioner Berkmoes asked if special approval was needed due to the ELUR. Superintendent Casarella stated as long as the cap was not penetrated, no permission was needed. Commissioner Warner asked if our insurance would cover any liability. Superintendent Casarella stated it would be covered under our umbrella policy.

Commissioner Domian made a motion to switch the location of Art for a Cause to the site of the prior ice-skating rink on Mill Street. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

b.) Rourke and Hill Bid Award

Superintendent Casarella presented the bid prices for the replacement of the water main on Rourke Ave and Hill Street. D'Amato Construction was low bid at \$286,885. D'Amico Construction was the second lowest at \$311,660. Special duty policy and paving are not included in the bid price. The project is estimated to be completed by the third week of September. Trench paving will be done this Fall with full street paving done next Fall to allow for possible trench settlement.

Letters have been sent to those customers that will be affected by the water replacement on Rourke Ave and Hill Street. Letters were also sent to customers on Water Street and Beecher Street because of possible traffic delays.

Meridian Development will allow the contractor to use their property as a staging area. They requested the contractor and the Department name them as additional insured for insurance purposes.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to award the bid to D'Amato Construction for \$286,885. Commissioner Domian seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

c.) Well 2 – Review Bids and Award

Superintendent Casarella reviewed bids for Well 2 installation. LEED Construction the low bidder did not complete the bid form completely as required. Woodard and Curran and Superintendent Casarella met with LEED Construction for clarification of the omissions. The Board voted to disqualify LEED Construction for not completing the Bid as required. Commissioner Warner made a motion to disqualify LEED Construction and to award the bid for Well 2 to the second lowest bidder, D'Amato Construction for \$1,718,799.49. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

d.) Tilcon Quarry Expansion

Commissioner Berkmoes explained the Department's position regarding the Tilcon Quarry Expansion to State Representative William Petit, Jr. who was in attendance.

A letter outlining the Southington Board of Water Commissioner's position was sent to the CT Water Planning Council, several state legislatures, departments and committees. The letter and other comments can be found on the Department website.

e.) Mill Street Tank Project

Southington Planning and Zoning tabled the Special Permit Use (SPU) and Site Plan Review (SPR) until the August 21, 2018 meeting. Superintendent Casarella has contacted several of the neighbors to discuss the project and the response has been positive.

Tighe and Bond has completed the preliminary design memorandum and the drawings have been reviewed. A new Bond Resolution will be needed from the Town for the Department to receive DWSRF approval.

f.) Website

Office Supervisor Nason provided the Board with a proposal from Brave River Solutions for design of the website. They will review the proposal and will revisit this next meeting.

g.) Other

None.

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 Casarella. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cabata and it passed on a voice vote at 7:52 p.m.

Commissioner Domian made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 9:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner and it passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Domian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Attest: 
Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer