

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Thursday, September 12, 2019

There was a meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held at the department administrative offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, Connecticut, on Thursday, September 12, 2019. A recording of this meeting can be found at the Department office.

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, Commissioner Rudy Cabata, Commissioner Ralph Warner, Superintendent William Casarella, Assistant Superintendent Albert Fiorillo, Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

2.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 8, 2019 BOARD MEETING

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

3.) COMMUNICATIONS:

a.) Communication from the Public:

None.

b.) Communication from Administration:

Superintendent Casarella presented a plaque that Pre-Load will be installing on the Mill Street Tank. The plaque will state the date the tank was built, the dimensions and will recognize the team that built the tank.

c.) Communication from Board Members:

None.

4.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) West Queen Street Water Main

Superintendent Casarella stated that on August 29, 2019, a very large water leak occurred on West Queen Street at approximately 4:30 pm. The leak caused extensive road damage with a loss of approximately 400,000 gallons of water in one hour. The leak was repaired by 2:30 am on Friday morning. West Queen Street was closed for approximately 10 days. Town officials met with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to discuss the road repair. Tilcon was hired to repair the road and this was completed by Saturday, September 7th. The Town will be

putting in a claim against the Water Department's insurance for the road damage. Mark Howard of Trident Insurance is the claims adjuster assigned to this claim.

Superintendent Casarella stated he had great cooperation with all Town departments and SWD staff did an outstanding job of fixing the leak in a short period of time.

5.) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

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

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

The plan netted two customers for September 2019. The Board briefly discussed developing a line protection project for private residential customers.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Office Supervisor Nason informed the Board the Department's 2011 Bond was refinanced through the Town and a new 2019 Bond has been issued. This Bond will be paid over the next two years with a net savings of approximately \$63,494.44.

6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

No meeting.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

No meeting.

7.) OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Well 2A

Superintendent Casarella stated the exhaust fan on the roof of the treatment building was installed last week. The chemical feed equipment installation is in progress. The Well 2A building was power washed on September 9th. The installation of the louver and actuators in the treatment building are also in progress. D'Amato is currently coordinating with Eversource to run power to the new building.

D'Amato will be submitting change orders on the following items. Electrical items inside the treatment building, exterior light fixtures, flood alarm containment, Eagle brand fluoride analyzers, and alarm sequence. Contract completion date is October 13, 2019.

b.) Mill Street Tank Project:

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board the project is on schedule. Painting will begin next week. Pipe is being installed in the tank and the vault has been ordered and site work will follow.

Eversource is requiring a 20' utility easement over our easement. The current easement agreement will need to be amended and re-signed by the owners of the easement. The easement may result in the Department needing to pave a second driveway.

The specification for the tank tower needed to be changed to allow for added weight due to possible future additional antennas. Bulking up the tower could potentially add an additional \$50,000 to the original quote. Superintendent Casarella will be requesting from CT DPH that some of the Tower cost be approved through the Mill Street Tank loan contingency, including moving our communications over.

Superintendent Casarella has been working with a neighbor of the Mill Street Tank site who had some issues when Pre-Load was shotcreting the tank. The issues have been resolved but he will remain in contact with the customer to ensure no future problems arise.

c.) West Main Street Water Main Installation

Superintendent Casarella stated all the punch list items have been completed. A site walk is scheduled for next week with DOT. Superintendent Casarella reviewed a summary of project expenses with the Board. He commended JJ Brennan Construction and Water Department staff for doing an excellent job.

d.) Well 9 Update:

Superintendent Casarella stated the well is running 24/7 at approximately 1000 gpm. The pump was factory tested and performed up to specifications. SB Church is requesting payment for the pump due to us delaying the installation start date.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to pay SB Church for the pump prior to the installation. Commissioner Pocock seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Superintendent Casarella felt that installing the new pump in mid-October would be beneficial depending upon weather conditions and demand.

President Murphy inquired as to when we would be purchasing a reserve pump. The Department will budget for a reserve pump in the FY21 budget and will purchase it to have on hand.

e.) **Rahlene Drive:**

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated the tentative start date to begin the main extension on Rahlene Drive is September 23rd. Quality Construction will be installing the main and will need to work out a schedule with Hillcrest Homes. Quality Construction will also work with the Highway Department regarding the culvert.

8.) **OTHER:**

Superintendent Casarella stated a customer installed a private well after obtaining a permit from the Health Department. The customer stated he had leak on his water service and claimed hardship. The Health Department approved the well. Upon investigation from the Department, we found there was no leak. The Superintendent sent a letter to the homeowner stating his disapproval of his actions and discussed that he must follow Department specifications and disconnect his service at the main. If the homeowner refuses, the Department will disconnect the line and charge the customer.

The Board is considering a tuition reimbursement policy for staff. Commissioner Pocock made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED FOR PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATION MATTERS:


Commissioner Pocock made a motion for adjournment to Executive Session, barring the public and the press but to include Superintendent Casarella and Assistant Superintendent Albert Fiorillo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cabata and it passed on a voice vote at 8:20 p.m.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 9:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cabata and it passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Attest: 
Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer