

# **BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**

## **Thursday, November 14, 2019**

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, November 14, 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, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Berkmoes, Commissioner Rudy Cabata, Commissioner Ralph Warner, Commissioner Ron Lamoreux, Superintendent William Casarella, Assistant Superintendent Albert Fiorillo, Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

**2.) ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** President Murphy turned the meeting over to Superintendent Casarella for election purposes.

Superintendent Casarella opened nominations for President. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to nominate Commissioner Pocock for President. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. Nominations for President were closed. There was no discussion. The motion for election was passed on a voice vote.

Superintendent Casarella opened nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to nominate Commissioner Berkmoes for Vice-President. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. Nominations for Vice President were closed. There was no discussion. The motion for election was passed on a voice vote.

Superintendent Casarella opened nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to nominate Commissioner Warner as Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Lamoreux seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer were closed. There was no discussion. The motion for election was passed on a voice vote.

**President Erika Pocock assumes the Chair:**

**3.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 10, 2019 BOARD MEETING:**

Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Cabata. No comments on the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

**4.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2019 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:**

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. No comments on the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

**5.) COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Former Water Board President and Commissioner Ed Pocock addressed the Board and expressed his support for his daughter who was sworn in as President of the Water Board.

The owners of Southington Business Park addressed the Board with regards to the relocation of a private fire line on Aircraft. Since this item was on the agenda as 6a. New Business – President Pocock moved the item to 5a.1

**1. Fire Service Relocation 75 Aircraft Rd. 335' of 10" water main relocated to southeast side of main building. Consultant/Property Manager: David Galer & David Mase. Engineer: Harry E. Cole**

Superintendent Casarella presented the plan as submitted by the Engineer. The Board briefly discussed the placement of the new fire service. The Board reviewed the plan, however, since the line is private no vote was required. The Board thanked the owners for presenting the plan for their review and for keeping them informed.

**b.) Communication from Administration:**

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that CT DPH sent a circular letter on manganese water testing. Manganese is not currently regulated nationally or in State regulation, however, the DPH is lowering the Action Level (AL) and testing will be required in the future. Superintendent Casarella will be hiring an engineering firm to do research on a manganese removal plant. He will utilize the money that was budgeted this year.

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

Commissioner Murphy thanked the current board members for all their hard work over the last two years. He spoke of all the great strides the Board and Department has made improving the Department's infrastructure.

Commissioner Berkmoes echoed Commissioner Murphy's comments and thanked Commissioner Murphy for his many years of service, advice, and knowledge.

President Pocock asked if the Department could reach out to the Fire Department to see if it has used any fire fighting foam near any of the wells. Her concern is with PFAS. Superintendent Casarella stated that we have done PFAS testing at the well sites and will be doing a second round of sampling shortly. Results have been good.

**6.) NEW BUSINESS:**

- a.) **Fire Service Relocation 75 Aircraft Rd. 335' of 10" water main relocated to southeast side of main building. Consultant/Property Manager: David Galer & David Mase. Engineer: Harry E. Cole**

See item 5a. #1

**7.) 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 Warner and was passed on a voice vote.

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

Office Supervisor Nason stated there was a net of 6 cancels for the month of October. Brochures were included in the October, November and will be included with the December water bills in hopes to increase membership.

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

No comments.

**8.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a.) **Executive Committee:**

President Pocock, Vice President Berkmoes and Secretary/Treasurer Warner will serve on this committee.

- b.) **Infrastructure Committee:**

President Pocock, Vice President Berkmoes, and Commissioner Murphy will serve on this committee.

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

President Pocock resigned her position as chairperson and appointed Commissioner Cabata chairperson. Commissioner Warner and Commissioner Lamoreux will also serve on the committee.

**9.) OLD BUSINESS:**

**a.) Well 2A:**

Paving has been completed. The chemical feed systems, electrical, SCADA connection and alarms and other installation work is currently being worked on. Once the water quality data is finished, the DPH filings will be wrapped up and the site work and regulatory review can be completed. After the well and the chemical testing is finished, it is possible the system may be started in approximately two weeks.

**b.) Mill Street Tank Project:**

Tabacco has tied in the 12" main on Mill Street and ran 280' of 12" DICL water main up the utility easement. The electric bank has been installed. The driveway for the utility easement will be paved next week. Storm drainage from the tank to Hightower Road will begin next week followed by the water pipe, the vault installation, and then back to completing the drainage work. Tank will be filled to 5-10 feet in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January to prevent frost heaves. The tank will go into service in the Spring.

Superintendent Casarella reviewed the proposal from Preload for the tank demolition in the amount of \$246,771.25. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the proposal as presented. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

**c.) Well 9 Update:**

Work is scheduled to begin on the redevelopment and the installation of the new pump on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. The motor will be removed and sent out to replace the bearings. The pump will be removed and redevelopment will begin. This is expected to take 7-10 days. The new pump will be installed after the redevelopment is complete. Targeted completion is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**d.) Rahlene Drive:**

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated he received an email from Planning and Zoning. A resident complained about the connection and the potential for people to use the area as a cut through for traffic. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo replied to Planning and Zoning with the advantages of installing a hydrant and water line. Superintendent Casarella suggested the Board go to the location. The resident was

surprised that she was not notified of the project. Planning and Zoning will be addressing the resident's concerns.

**e.) Town of Southington Claim – West Queen Street Leak**

Argonaut Insurance Company sent a denial of the claim for the West Queen Street leak to Mark Sciota stating the investigation into the water main break revealed no evidence of negligence against the Board. Since the break was sudden and unexpected, it was unforeseeable. Therefore, the insurance company took the position the Insured is not responsible for the incident and the damages sustained. No voluntary settlement offer will be made.

Attorney Catino believes we should send all the invoices to our insurance company for payment under our policy coverage.

**f.) Office Lighting Upgrade**

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo met with a representative from Eversource Energy which confirmed the audit for energy efficient lighting at the Department offices. Eversource has offered a 56% rebate for upgrading the lighting and fixtures. The project total is \$110,009.76, with the 56% rebate the Department will be responsible for \$48,346.21, over the next three years at 0% interest. The payments will be made monthly and will be reflected on our monthly statements. The Department will see an immediate savings of \$475.00 per month. After the three-year payment term, the Department will see a savings of approximately \$1,818.00 per month. The fixtures are warranted for (7) seven years and the tubes for (12) twelve. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the proposal from Eversource to install energy efficient lighting in the amount \$48,346.21. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote.

**g.) Tuition Reimbursement**

Superintendent Casarella reviewed with the Board the possibility of offering tuition reimbursement for higher education to union members. Commissioner Cabata made a motion that tuition reimbursement for higher education will be at the prerogative of the Board, will be done on a case by case basis, and there must be a direct benefit to the Water Commission. Superintendent Casarella will discuss with the union and a waiver request is pertinent to an agreement. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

**h.) Other**

**1. Stagnant Water Problem**

Superintendent Casarella stated he has received water quality complaints from a customer on a private line off Meriden Ave. The Department has been flushing

the blow off to help resolve the problem. However, the complaint remains. He has been in touch with the developer. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated he reviewed the plan and it seems the line that was installed longer than actually approved. After a brief discussion, the Board asked Superintendent Casarella to reach out to the developer and ask him to work with his engineer to review the plan and the length of the line.

**2. Representatives from the Board for Town Committees**

Superintendent Casarella stated that Mark Sciota is requesting representatives from the Board to sit on a few town committees. He is looking for Commissioners to sit on the Sewer Committee, Public Works Committee, and Open Space.

Superintendent Casarella is currently on the Public Works Committee and would like to remain since this has given him the opportunity to be transparent with the Town regarding our projects. The Board agreed. Commissioner Berkmoes will serve on the Open Space Committee and President Pocock will serve on Sewer Committee.

**3. Illegal Drilling Permit**

Attorney Ann Catino has drafted a letter to send to a customer in reference to an illegal permit that was obtained to drill a well on his property. The State DPH is now involved and Superintendent Casarella is awaiting their response.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED FOR PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATION**

**MATTERS:** Commissioner Cabata made a motion for adjournment to Executive Session, barring the public and the press but to include Superintendent Casarella and Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and it passed on a voice vote at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 8:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and it passed on a voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Ralph Warner, Secretary/Treasurer

12-12-19