

DRAFT

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING Thursday, December 12, 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, December 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 6:01 pm by President Erika Pocock. A quorum was determined by the President.

PRESENT: President Erika Pocock, Vice President Robert Berkmoes, Secretary/Treasurer Ralph Warner, Commissioner Thomas Murphy, Commissioner Rudy Cabata, Commissioner Ron Lamoreux, Superintendent William Casarella, Assistant Superintendent Albert Fiorillo (arrived 7:08 p.m.) and Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

2.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2019 BOARD MEETING:**

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

3.) **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Eric Morin of 217 Jude Lane, Southington addressed the Board. He stated his backflow preventer at his residence had broken and dumped water for an unspecified number of days while he was not at this home. The office had notified him of high usage and after inquiring realized his bill was going to be much higher than normal. He asked the Board to consider offering him credit for the usage. The Board stated since the water passed through the meter, they were unable to credit his water bill, however, they agreed to a payment arrangement.

Matthew Erasmus of 9 Robin Road, Marion addressed the Board. He explained that he lives on a private road and inquired about the ownership of the road and if there was a water main break would the Department repair the line. The Board explained since the road is private, the main is private, and the Department would not be responsible to make repairs if a water leak arose. Mr. Erasmus stated any help he could receive in trying to find who owns the road would be appreciated. The Board suggested he reach out to the Town of Southington and President Pocock stated she would try to reach out at the state level.

b.) Communication from Administration:

Superintendent Casarella congratulated President Pocock on being the first female President of the Water Board.

Superintendent Casarella also presented an engraved gavel to Commissioner Murphy in recognition of his service to Board, not only as a member, but for being President for three terms. The Board expressed their appreciation for his guidance, commitment and dedication to the Department.

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that he and the Assistant Superintendent attended an Intended Use Plan meeting in Hartford regarding DWSRF. He was able to address the Department's concerns regarding our need for subsidies and grant money for future capital projects. He stated it is imperative that our state representatives get involved in the process.

The Board discussed the need to put together a capital plan prior to meeting with our State Representatives. The infrastructure committee will meet to work on this.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent met with Regional Water to discuss the interconnect MOA and upcoming additions to DPH's regulations regarding PFAS, manganese and the lead and copper rule.

The Superintendent informed the Board that Regional Water is interested in supplying water to a new commercial development off Route 322. The Department was originally approached by the developer to supply the water.

Office Supervisor Nason presented the Board with new signatory cards for the accounts at People's United Bank which were signed and notarized.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to add agenda item 3b1. Future Treatment Plans for Manganese. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

1. Future Treatment Plans for Manganese

Superintendent Casarella stated he is getting a budget quote for building of manganese plants at Well 2, 7, and 8.

c.) Communication from Board Members:

Commissioner Berkmoes praised Commissioner Murphy for his accomplishments as both the President and a Commissioner serving on the Water Board. He thanked Commissioner Murphy for his leadership. President Pocock also thanked him his dedication.

4.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) 2020 Schedule for Water Board Meetings

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with a list of meeting dates for the 2020 calendar year. Meetings will be scheduled on the second Thursday of each month and will be held at the Department office at 605 West Queen Street, Southington Ct. All meetings will begin at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the meeting schedule as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Meeting dates are as follows:

January 9 th	April 9 th	July 9 th	October 8 th
February 13 th	May 14 th	August 13 th	November 12 th
March 12 th	June 11 th	September 10 th	December 10 th

b.) Itron Software Upgrade

Office Supervisor Nason explained that our current Itron meter reading software and hardware will need to be upgraded by the end of 2020. Training will be on site for both the office and field staff. Superintendent Casarella reviewed the quote for implementation. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the quotation for the software and hardware upgrade in the amount of \$38,462.00 plus travel expenses. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

5.) FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

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

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

Office Supervisor Nason stated there was a net of 4 cancels for the month of November. The Board reviewed the current policy of requiring an in-home inspection prior to approving line protection applications. Office Supervisor Nason stated there are many customers who do not respond to the request for in home inspection, and therefore never become participants with the plan. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Warner made a motion to require to do a visual inspection and to listen for leaks of the water line outside at the curb box prior to approving a

residential line protection application. Commissioner Lamoreux seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

The Board discussed the viability of the commercial line protection product, including pricing and coverage. Office Supervisor Nason will confer with other companies regarding their handling of line protection on commercial properties. The issue was tabled.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Office Supervisor Nason stated that People's United Bank has dropped the interest rate on all our deposits.

6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

A meeting has been scheduled for January 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

No meeting.

7.) OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Well 2A:

Superintendent Casarella stated that DPH made a final site visit on December 4th. A pending issue of a water source protection plan is being addressed. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo is working with Woodard and Curran and has reached out to the State DOT.

Superintendent Casarella stated Well 2 building needs to be brought up to code. It currently needs a new heater inside and possibly a new roof. Superintendent Casarella is getting a quote for repairs.

b.) Mill Street Tank Project:

Superintendent Casarella presented the board with a project schedule. The utility easement driveway was paved at 477 Mill Street. The storm drain piping and structures in Hightower Road and up the easement will continue after the water pipe

is installed. The Department installed an 8" x 8" tap today and Tabacco Brothers will continue to lay the water main.

The vault is scheduled to arrive on December 19th. All remaining pipe must be installed and the vault connected before water can be added to the tank. The weather has been playing a factor in the schedule.

c.) Well 9 - Update

Superintendent Casarella added an extra day of redevelopment to see if they could increase the specific capacity. The specific capacity leveled off so redevelopment was stopped. The specific capacity before redevelopment was 27.32 gallons per foot of drawdown and is now up to 105.91. The originally specific capacity when the well was installed was at 197. The same issue arose in 2009.

The original plan for the Well 9 site was to install two wells. Due to the importance of the well to our system, Superintendent Casarella recommended to the Board that a second well be drilled. Casarella said he look into our options and report back to the Board.

Superintendent Casarella stated that when Well 9 was started after redevelopment there was an electrical issue that caused the copper winding in the motor to burn. Traver Electric is working to make the repair. They stated that it was a possible malfunction caused by the VFD. Pizzitola Electric is also looking into the cause. The cost to repair the motor is \$13,190.00. Because it was imperative to get the well running, Superintendent Casarella approved the repair.

The motor will be reinstalled on December 16th. Pizzitola Electric will be on site for the installation.

d.) Town of Southington Claim – West Main/South Main CBYD Claim

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to amend the agenda to the change item 7d. Town of Southington Claim – West Queen Street Leak to Town of Southington Claim West Main/South Main CBYD Claim. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Brennan Construction is still waiting for payment on a claim from a mismarked CBYD by the Town's vendor. The Town is again pursuing USIC about the claim.

e.) Tuition Reimbursement

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with two (2) Memorandum of Agreements regarding tuition reimbursement. The Board reviewed the MOAs. Commissioner Cabata made a motion to accept the first MOA and to bring it to the union for their response. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it was

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 Casarella and Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murphy and it passed on a voice vote at 8:16 p.m.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 8:26 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner and it passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Attest: _____
Ralph Warner, Secretary/Treasurer