

# BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held on Thursday, June 11, 2020. 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 Erika Pocock. A quorum was determined by the President.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 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 and Office Supervisor and Recording Secretary Maria Nason.

## 2.) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 14, 2020 BOARD MEETING:**

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

## 3.) **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

The public was invited to call in via teleconference. No calls were received.

### b.) **Communication from Administration:**

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board an employee from the Treatment Division is out on FMLA due to an accident. The employee submitted a request regarding the use of sick time. Due to this being a personnel matter, the request will be discussed during executive session.

Superintendent Casarella stated Distribution fixed a leak on a tap and sleeve valve off the Department's 16" water main near Hawk's Landing. The repair took approximately a day and one-half to repair.

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that one of the employees was involved in a motor vehicle accident with a company truck. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance and was released. The truck was totaled by the insurance company and will need to be replaced.

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

President Pocock stated she received a water quality complaint from a customer on Chaffee Lane. Superintendent Casarella stated the customer is at the end of a 2" water main and the Department recently installed a blow-off valve to flush and help alleviate the quality issue.

**d.) Update on customer refusal to abide to SWD Specification**

Commissioner Berkmoes made motion to move 7a. **Old Business** to 3d. **Communications** to accommodate the arrival of Mr. Rob Sima to discuss agenda item 7a. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote.

Commissioner Warner recused himself from the discussion due to his relationship with Mr. Sima. The Board informed Mr. Sima that he must cut and cap his water service at the main as stated in the Department's Rules and Regulations in reference to abandonment of water services. Mr. Sima stated he is currently getting prices from contractors to do the work. The Board informed Mr. Sima the work must be completed within the time frame currently set forth in the certified letter he received. He stated he would try to meet the deadline.

**4.) NEW BUSINESS:**

**a.) Water Rates:**

There was a brief discussion regarding the Department's water rates. Commissioner Cabata pointed out the Department's water rates are in the lower 1/3 when compared to other water companies in the state. Further discussion will take place during review of the FY21 budget.

**b.) Valley Water-Shuttle Meadow Water Main:**

Superintendent Casarella met with Don Vaughan from Valley Water to discuss purchasing their water main located in Southington on Shuttle Meadow Road. If Valley Water is not interested in selling the water main, the Department will run its own main and loop into the main on Dunham Place. Superintendent Casarella hopes that both Departments can reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

**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 Warner and it was passed on a voice vote.

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

Office Supervisor Nason stated there was a net loss of 7 residential line protection customers for May 2020, mainly due to the high number of closings.

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

Office Supervisor Nason stated the bank continues to decrease the interest rates on the money markets.

**6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a.) Executive Committee:**

No meeting.

**b.) Infrastructure Committee:**

No meeting.

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

No meeting.

**7.) OLD BUSINESS:**

**a.) Update on customer refusal to abide to SWD specifications**

Refer to 3d.

**b.) Contract Negotiations**

Due to this being a negotiation matter, this will be referred to Executive Session.

**c.) Budget 2020-2021**

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with the final draft of the budget for the FY 2021. He discussed some changes to the capital expenditures. The budget includes \$140,000 for a pilot study for Manganese at Well 8. This item will be going out to bid. Several options regarding water rates were discussed. No action was taken at this time. Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the FY21 budget as presented. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was approved by a voice vote.

**d.) Succession Planning**

Ryan Libby has moved over to the Treatment Division as a Treatment Operator I. This leaves the Cross-Connection Inspector position vacant. Superintendent Casarella stated he will post the job in the next few weeks.

**e.) Coronavirus**

Superintendent Casarella stated the Department's labor attorney reviewed and proposed a leave request form in reference to The Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The Board was able to review the form.

Superintendent Casarella stated he will revisit opening the office at the end of June. A plexiglass partition for the office window has been ordered but not yet installed.

Unbudgeted COVID-19 related expenses were submitted to the State for reimbursement through the Town's Finance Department. The State has rejected our request because they are not considering us as part of the town, but as a district. Superintendent Casarella and President Pocock will continue to investigate this.

**f.) Well 2A and Well 2 Remediation**

Superintendent Casarella stated he received and reviewed the scope of work and will be moving forward and getting prices.

**g.) Mill Street Tank Project**

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board the communication building has been set and all the conduit is in. He is waiting on the electrical inspection before he can schedule Eversource to install the service. Currently, the electric service is dictating the schedule. The antenna is schedule to be installed on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the tank demolition is scheduled to begin July 14<sup>th</sup>.

**h.) Well 10 Update**

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with a proposal from Weston and Sampson for a hydrogeologic investigation in the amount of \$40,000. This investigation will evaluate and pinpoint the best place to drill the new Well 10. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the proposal from Weston and Sampson for a hydrogeologic investigation for Well 10 in the amount of \$40,000. Commissioner Lamoreux seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

**i.) Manganese and Future Quality Treatment Plans**

Superintendent Casarella will be requesting bids for the pilot study.

**j.) Tank Maintenance**

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with proposals for water tank maintenance. Suez Advanced Solutions - \$2,704,000 and Cortec - \$2,313,000. He explained that payments would be made over a 15 year period. Suez payments were lower each year, with Cortec asking for large payments early in the contract period. Commissioner Berkmoes had some questions regarding our cancellation rights if the vendors are not meeting the contract and how pricing would be affected if uncovered maintenance issues arise. Superintendent Casarella will reach out to the vendors for clarification and will report back to the Board.

**k.) Stone Bridge Crossing**

Superintendent Casarella explained to the Board that Regional Water Authority gave indications that during Phase 2 of the Stone Bridge Crossing project, they may take back the Cheshire customers that the Department are currently serving. Casarella stated there's been discussion of when we transfer the water main from this project to them, it will be without any cost. Superintendent Casarella brought the request before the Board. The Board directed Superintendent Casarella to inform Regional Water Authority that a no cost transfer would be unlikely.

**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 Warner and it passed on a voice vote at 9:03 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Attest: William A Casarella  
William Casarella, Superintendent