

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held on Thursday, July 9, 2020. A recording of this meeting can be found at the Department office.

1.) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by telephone at 6:02 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 JUNE 11, 2020 BOARD MEETING:

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Warner 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 public spoke.

b.) Communication from Administration:

Superintendent Casarella stated the Department will return back to its regular operation regarding shut-offs on July 19, 2020 and penalties for late payments will begin again on July 30, 2020.

Superintendent Casarella read a letter from Jeremy Mongillo thanking the Board for an advance of his sick time.

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo suggested the Board update the Department's Rules and Regulations to include a policy regarding access and use of the water shed. After a short discussion, Commissioner Cabata made a motion to refer this matter to the Policy and Procedures Committee for review and recommendations. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote. A meeting date will be scheduled at the August 2020 Board meeting.

c.) Communication from Board Members:

None.

d.) Tank Maintenance:

Adam Szczesniak from Suez Advanced Solutions, Asset Management Solutions presented a tank maintenance plan for the West Queen Street Tanks. He explained their services, costs, asset protection, etc. He discussed the advantages of using the program to maintain the tanks. He discussed the current needs of Tank 2. The Board directed the Superintendent to get a final cost proposal from Mr. Szczesniak which includes putting all the Department tanks into the program.

4.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Well 3 – New Pump

After investigating an unusual noise at Well 3, Superintendent Casarella, along with SB Church, determined the well needed a new pump and motor. Normal flow dropped from 560 gpm to 380 gpm and the well was shut down. After discussing the situation with President Pocock and Vice President Berkmoes, a new turbine pump and motor was ordered for \$33,690. The replacement should be completed by SB Church within the next few weeks. The old motor will be sent the Travers for refurbishing and it will be kept in inventory as a spare.

b.) Water Restrictions

Superintendent Casarella stated he believes the mandatory water restriction of odd/even outside watering should remain for the duration of the summer. The Board agreed.

c.) Cell Carrier for Mill Street Tower

As this is a negotiation matter, this has been referred to Executive Session.

d.) ATVs for Patrolling

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with an email from Lt. Egan of the Southington Police Department asking the Board to consider purchasing two ATVs for patrolling the watershed. The request was met with positive feedback since the patrolling has had such positive results. The Board stated they would like our staff to have access to the ATVs for when they work at the watershed. The Board directed Superintendent Casarella to reach out the Lt. Egan to see if they would be amenable.

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 Berkmoes and it was passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

Office Supervisor Nason stated there was a net loss of 2 to residential line protection for June 2020.

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

No comments.

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 Specification**

The customer complied with the request of the Department to disconnect the service. Staff witnessed the disconnection in June.

b.) **Contract Negotiations**

As this is a negotiation matter, this will be referred to Executive Session.

c.) **Valley Water – Shuttle Meadow Water Main**

Vice-President Berkmoes and Superintendent Casarella met with Don Vaughan of Valley Water to discuss acquiring the Shuttle Meadow water main. Superintendent Casarella felt the meeting was positive and will continue the negotiating process.

d.) **Coronavirus**

Superintendent Casarella stated the Department opened to the public on July 6th. A glass partition was installed at the front desk/payment window. Social distancing markers have been placed on the lobby floor along with door signs requiring masks to enter. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo presented the Board with a vacation request form that was designed by the labor attorney. Employees will be required to complete the form when requesting vacation. The form will be used to distinguish which employees may be traveling to states that qualify for quarantine measures upon return.

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

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with a proposal from Woodard and Curran for building rehabilitation construction costs for Well 2, Field Order 10. After reviewing the three options presented, Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept Option 2 and add line item #5 from Table No. 1. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

f.) **Mill Street Tank Project**

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that work on the electrical, tower, communication building and cell carriers continues. Once all the electrical and antennas are installed on the tower, the communications switch over will take place. He anticipates the first week of August. Draining the old tanks and demolition are tentatively scheduled for the third week of August. Site work will begin after the demolition.

g.) **Well 10 Update**

Superintendent Casarella stated Weston and Sampson is starting the 3D modeling of the area with past and present data. He may have the new well location as soon as 2 to 3 weeks.

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

Superintendent Casarella stated he is currently working on bids to do the pilot study. He stated the bid process should be completed by this Fall.

i.) **Water Rates**

No discussion.

j.) **Stone Bridge Crossing**

Superintendent Casarella stated the project seems to have halted. He is waiting to hear back from Regional Water.

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 Cabata and it passed on a voice vote at 8:11 pm.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 9:11 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamoreux and it passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm

Attest: William Casarella
William Casarella, Superintendent