

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

There was a special meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held on Thursday, August 20, 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, and Assistant Superintendent Albert Fiorillo.

2.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 9, 2020 BOARD MEETING:

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to accept the minutes with a correction. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote.

The correction is as follows: On page 1, under Call to Order, “the meeting was called to order by telephone at 6:02 pm by President Erika Pocock” should have read “the meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Erika Pocock.

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 he will discuss the Town’s purchase of land from Valley Water during executive session, as this is a negotiation matter.

Superintendent Casarella discussed the effects Storm Isaias had on the Department. Mill Street Tank lost power and communications. Department staff were able to use the old communication building generator to supply power to the new building. The generator at Well 9 failed after one day. Eversource supplied Well 9 with a generator at midnight on Tuesday. Power was restored seven days later, on Tuesday, August 11th. Superintendent Casarella complimented Al Sylvester, Darius Karelus, Joe Beharry, Troy Damiano and Robert Karelus for their efforts during the storm. Al and Darius (Treatment Division) and Pizzitola Electric were instrumental in keeping our system running during and after the storm.

The Treatment Plant also was experiencing electrical issues after the storm. Pizzitola Electric and Woodard and Curran were called in to help troubleshoot.

c.) Communication from Board Members:

Commissioner Warner and Commissioner Berkmoes asked if Eversource would reimburse our expenses. A possible insurance claim was discussed.

4.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Douglas Street Water Main Extension, Approximately 425' of 8" Main Extended from the Existing 6" Main on Eastview Road. Owner: Mark Lovley, Contractor: Earth Contractors, Engineer: Kratzer, Jones and Associates:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo presented plans for the extension of an 8" water main extended from an existing 6" water main on Eastview Drive. After discussing the plans, Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the plans as presented with the stipulation that the proposed hydrant be tapped off the 6" public water main on Eastview Drive. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

b.) Well 3 Pump:

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that the new pump was installed. After a noticeable loss of production, the well was redeveloped with an 82% increase in specific capacity. It was noted on video the brass screen on the well casing was showing deterioration and will eventually need to be replaced. The screens are now made of stainless steel.

Unfortunately, after the storm there were some electrical issues that burnt the windings on the new motor. The spare motor was installed. Pizzitola Electric, along with Eversource, were called to troubleshoot the cause of the motor failure. Pizzitola found the starter relay became stuck and there was a faulty connection on the terminal blocks. The new motor is being repaired.

c.) Well 2A Distribution Pump:

Superintendent Casarella stated the well was having problems pumping water at night and had started to show a loss of production which is a clear sign of impeller problems. SB Church was called and verified the need for new impellers and a pump bowl assembly. The pump is currently being used but is having difficulty pumping against the higher head in the system. The lead time for a new pump is mid-September. Commissioner Warner asked if we should have a backup pump for Well 2A going forward.

d.) Lawsuit:

The Department was served with a civil summons as a defendant in lawsuit. Further discussion will be referred to Executive Session.

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:

No report.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

The budget comparison report for FY 2020 was handed out for review. Commissioner Murphy stated his concerns regarding the low interest rate on the Department's money markets. Superintendent Casarella will speak with the Office Supervisor regarding the rates.

6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

No meeting. A meeting was scheduled for September 1, 2020 at 5pm.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

No meeting. A meeting was schedule for September 8, 2020 at 3:30 pm.

7.) OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Contract Negotiations:

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

b.) Valley Water – Shuttle Meadow Water Main:

Superintendent Casarella and Attorney Ann Catino will be drafting a letter to Valley Water regarding the acquisition of the Shuttle Meadow water main. The Superintendent stated he planned to meet with Don Vaughan and go over the details of the agreement.

c.) Coronavirus:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo discussed with the Board a new vacation time policy which includes a vacation form that needs to be completed, signed, and submitted for approval.

d.) Well 2A and Well 2 Remediation:

Superintendent Casarella stated the building remediation is moving forward with the help of Woodard and Curran and the Department of Public Health.

e.) Tank Maintenance Proposal:

Superintendent Casarella presented the Board with a hand-out with the final figures from SUEZ for their tank maintenance proposal. The proposal includes bonding of two steel tanks over fifteen years. There was an additional cost of \$35,354 related to bonding costs included in the maintenance contract. The proposal presented also reflects a cost decrease of \$143,030. Further discussion will be referred to Executive Session.

f.) Mill Street Tank Site:

Superintendent Casarella stated the new tank has been on-line for a couple of weeks now. The old tanks are drained and the old communication building has been gutted. Antennas for the Town, T-Mobile, AT&T, and the Department have been installed. The Town, T-Mobile and the Department's antennas are active. AT&T will be cut over next week. Tank demolition is scheduled to start on August 31st, pending the electric being shut off. Site work will follow the demolition.

g.) Well #10 Update:

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that two sites on the property were picked from the Hydrogeologic study which seem to be the best location for the new well. Two (2) 4" test wells will be drilled to 130 feet. Superintendent Casarella, Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo, Don Iannicelli and Sara Nichol from Weston and Sampson had a conference call earlier in the day and spoke with DEEP officials and their attorney to discuss moving forward with the permit. DEEP wants the Department to sign a consent order in reference to the permit and to tie the River Flow Management Plan to the permit. The Superintendent will update the Board as needed.

h.) Manganese and Future Quality Treatment Plans:

Superintendent Casarella and Woodard and Curran have been discussing ways of how to put out Bids for the pilot study. The conclusion was to choose 3 to 4 firms to present their qualifications and methods for the project, prior to the bid, since there are several ways firms can approach the pilot study.

i.) Water Rates:

No discussion.

j.) Stone Bridge Crossing:

Superintendent Casarella stated there has been on-going negotiations with Regional Water Authority (RWA) to supply water to the project. Since it is in RWA exclusive service area (ESA) and SWD will supply the water a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) must be signed. Further discussion referred to Executive Session.

k.) ATVs for Patrolling:

Superintendent Casarella handed out an email referencing pricing for an ATV the Southington Police are requesting to patrol the reservoirs. He recommended purchasing the ATV they used last year not to exceed \$8,800.00. There is no trade in value for the old ATV. Further discussion will be referred to Executive Session.

I.) Water Restrictions

Superintendent Casarella and Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo had a conference call with Town officials to discuss the challenges with water demand and voice their concerns with continued development. All agreed to have further discussions. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo suggested the Department look at conservation and education measures for our customers and reaching out to the schools.

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 Lamoreux and it passed on a voice vote at 7:48 pm.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 9:17 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamoreux and it passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to counteroffer the proposal from Regional Water Authority for \$200,000 guarantee amount paid to SWD when RWA supplies water to the project. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to purchase one ATV from Land n Sea not to exceed \$10,500. Commissioner Lamoreux seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve \$2,676,170 for Suez's tank maintenance program and \$35,354 for bonding over the 15 year period. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was 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 9:30 pm.

Attest: William M Casarella
William Casarella, Superintendent