

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held on Thursday, September 10, 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 AUGUST 20, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:**

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

3.) **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

None.

b.) **Communication from Administration:**

Superintendent Casarella stated he received three bids to complete the Reservoir #2 Chamber Improvements. Dayton Construction had the lowest bid at \$139,000. D'Amato Construction - \$157,367 and Xenelis Construction - \$229,890. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated there will be additional costs associated with the project for engineering, however, the total cost of the project should remain under \$200,000.

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo brought the Douglas Street Water Main Extension back in front of the Board. A new revised plan was submitted in reference to the hydrant placement to the southside of Eastview. The Town will be retaining the right-of-way on the Douglas Street extension, therefore, the hydrant will be placed on a public water main.

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to accept the plans with the hydrant on the southside of Douglas Street. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote.

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

None.

4.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Leak Detection on Private Water Mains:

Superintendent Casarella state that Conn. Professional Water Services completed leak detection at several private communities including Jensen's and Spring Lake Village. No leaks were found. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to have Conn. Professional Water Services continue leak detection services for other private water mains. Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo will reach out to both the contractor and the condominium associations to coordinate the effort.

b.) Succession Planning

Superintendent Casarella stated there is the possibility of three employees retiring in the Spring of 2021. Succession planning has been 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 Berkmoes and it was passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

There was a net of 11 additions to residential line protection for July and August 2020.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Office Supervisor Nason spoke about the possibility of changing banks.

6.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

A meeting was held on September 1, 2020. Superintendent Casarella stated he would be speaking about the topics discussed under Old Business.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

A meeting was held on September 8, 2020. The Committee reviewed several new policies and brought three new policies to the full Board for approval.

Office Supervisor Nason read Policy PA-1, Payment Arrangement of Services Shut off for Non-Payment. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Office Supervisor Nason read Policy LP-1, Residential and Commercial Line Protection –

Modification. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Office Supervisor Nason read Policy JB-1, Prepayment of Jobbing. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

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 will be meeting with Don Vaughn of Valley Water on site at Shuttle Meadow Road on September 16th to continue discussing the details of an agreement to obtain the water main.

c.) Coronavirus:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated the Department has continued to do daily health screenings for employees and visitors. Masks, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer have been consistently distributed to employees. Review of vacation venues continues.

d.) Well 2A and Well 2 Remediation:

Superintendent Casarella stated that DPH has approved the funding for the project. Woodard and Curran have responded to the EPA's questions and are now waiting for their response. Once the plan is approved, D'Amato Construction will begin their work which may take between four to six weeks to complete.

e.) Tank Maintenance Proposal:

Superintendent Casarella stated the plan to start painting West Queen Tank 2 this Fall has been postponed to the Spring of 2021 due to the continued demand of water. He does not advise taking the million gallon tank off line along with shutting down the Treatment Plant right now.

f.) Mill Street Tank Site:

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that he has been working with Vinagro Construction to obtain a demolition permit for the two steel tanks at Mill Street. The permit has been issued and the demolition process is scheduled to begin Monday, September 14th. Site work will follow the demolition.

g.) Well #10 Update:

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that two test wells have been drilled and one of the locations looks like a viable location for a high capacity production well. Weston and Sampson's project team is currently reviewing all the information and will be preparing a

report to include their observations and recommendations. He stated he should receive the report in a few weeks.

h.) Manganese and Future Quality Treatment Plans

Superintendent Casarella stated bids for proposals of the Manganese Pilot study were sent out on September 4th. The final proposal is due back by October 2nd. Four consulting firms received the bid. Each firm will be presenting their proposal to the Board separately at a date and time to be determined.

i.) Water Rates

No discussion.

j.) Stone Bridge Crossing

Superintendent Casarella stated he is working on language for a MOA with the contractor and Regional Water. Regional Water has accepted the Department's request for \$200,000 to be paid when Regional decides to take over and provide water to the area.

k.) Water Restrictions

Superintendent Casarella he will be keeping the mandatory odd/even water restrictions in place until further notice.

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 Murphy and it passed on a voice vote at 6:46 pm.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 7:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamoreux and it passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to change the Department's banking institution to Thomaston Savings Bank. Commissioner Lamoreux seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cabata a made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lamoreux seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Attest:


Albert T. Fiorillo, Assistant Superintendent