

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

There was a meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held virtually on Thursday, November 12, 2020. A recording of this meeting can be found at the Department office.

1.) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by phone at 6:04 pm by President Erika Pocock. A roll call was taken. 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 OCTOBER 20, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:

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

3.) COMMUNICATIONS:

a.) Communication from the Public:

None.

b.) Communication from Administration:

Employee John Formeister thanked the Board for the sympathy basket that was sent in remembrance of his father.

c.) Communication from Board Members:

None.

4.) NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Development on Pacer Lane:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo presented for a development on Pacer Lane that would consist of 15-1” domestic services, age restricted single units. The project is approximately 800’ of 8” private main extended from an existing stub on Pacer Lane and looped into the existing 8” water main on South Fork Circle. Superintendent Casarella stated the plan meets all Department specifications. Owner: Mark Lovley, Contractor: To be determined, Engineer: Kratzert, Jones & Associates. Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the plan as presented. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) Well 3 – New Electric Service

Superintendent Casarella stated that Well 3 has an old delta electric service that was in question during a pump failure at Well 3 during Storm Isaias. Eversource was contacted and has agreed to replace the service at no charge. Pizzitola Electric submitted a proposal to upgrade the electrical at Well 3 for \$9,995.00. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the upgrade of the electrical at Well 3 from Pizzitola Electric in the amount of \$9,995.00. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

5.) OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to move Executive Session items 8a, 8b, and 8c after item 4b on the agenda. These items are also referenced as 5a, 5b, and 5e under Old Business. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

- a.) Review certain commercial and financial information related to the permit renewal for Well #10 and as pertains to SWD's future strategic planning providing in confidence and relating to safe water supply planning pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1210(b)(5) and (19).
- b.) Review evaluations relative to various draft agreements relative to acquisition of property from Valley Water pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1-210(b)(7) and (19).
- c.) Review evaluations relative to public water supply and draft agreements relative to RWA pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1-210(b)(7) and (19).

Commissioner Berkmoes made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:17 pm for the purpose of personnel and negotiation matters and to include Superintendent Casarella, Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo, Engineer Sara Rossetti-Nichols, Engineer Don Iannicelli, and Attorney Ann Catino. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 7:27 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner and was passed on a voice vote. No votes or actions were taken on the above items.

a.) Well 10:

Referred to Executive Session – Item 8a.

b.) New Britain Well/Patton Brook Well:

Referred to Executive Session – Item 8a.

c.) Manganese Pilot Study:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated that presentations will be held virtually on November 21, 2020. Weston and Sampson has rescinded their proposal.

d.) Contract Negotiations:

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

e.) **Valley Water – Shuttle Meadow Water Main:**

Referred to Executive Session – Item 8b.

f.) **Coronavirus:**

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated the Department continues with its same policies. He met with staff to discuss the Department’s policy regarding when employees need to quarantine and when COVID tests will be required. Superintendent Casarella stated Shane Lockwood, the Town’s Health Director, stated that all meetings should be virtual and to be prepared for the virus to peak in January.

g.) **Well 2A and Well 2 Remediation:**

The asbestos clearance inspection passed. Based on those results, the area is cleared from an asbestos standpoint. The field inspector collected post-paint removal verification samples of the floor, walls, ceiling, and sump. The samples will be submitted to a lab with results expected in a week. The waste is currently being maintained on site in the designated waste storage area. Woodard and Curran is working with Accurate Insulation to get the information required for the waste profile.

h.) **Mill Street Tank Project:**

The fence installation is 90% complete. The arborvitae planting is done. Crush stone track has been placed around the tank. The stumps have been completely removed. The Department installed an additional generator pad for a back up generator. The BAC test failed and another sample was taken today. Grading of the grass area with topsoil is ongoing. Driveway restoration for two abutters will be completed in the Spring.

i.) **Water Rates:**

Superintendent Casarella and Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo will reach out to surrounding towns regarding their tier rate structure and report back to the Board.

j.) **Stone Bridge Crossing:**

Referred to Executive Session – Item 8c.

k.) **Cybersecurity:**

The Board reviewed a letter that was drafted by the Department’s Cybersecurity Attorney related to a security breach that happened in August. The letter will be mailed to those persons that were identified as potentially affected. The Department is still working with the review vendor to make certain the Department meets its obligation under the law.

l.) **PRV Vault for Laning Street:**

Wright-Pierce is moving forward with the engineering. Lead time on the vault still needs to be determined.

m.) Reservoir 2 Vault Chamber:

Dayton Construction began their work on the chamber on November 9th. The gate valve stems, guides and ladder have been removed. The top two inlet valves have been removed and plugged. The 20" outlet and the 14" inlet valves were opened and drained the reservoir further. The 14" valve that had never been operated, and was thought inoperable, was found to be in perfect working condition. The contractor will provide us with a proposal to clean the valve cover and apply an epoxy and switch out the valve bolts with stainless steel replacements.

n.) Treatment Plant Filters:

Superintendent Casarella stated the Department budgeted \$30,000 to replace the media in filters 2 and 3, but after inspecting the filters and reviewing and discussing the condition of the filters with Suez and staff, he believes it is senseless to replace the media without refurbishing the structure of the filters. It would be best to put off replacing the media until we can sandblast, repaint, and inspect the filter under drains. Instead of paying \$3.5 million dollars to replace them, The Department could probably get away with spending around \$400,000 to \$500,000 and get another 10 years from the filters. The budgeted \$30,000 can be used to replace the original finish water check valves.

o.) Succession Planning:

Training for the treatment foreman is going well. Cross training of the office staff and recruitment for the Superintendent's position was discussed.

6.) 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 loss 6 applicants for October due to the large number of closings. Office Supervisor Nason stated she expects the number to decrease over the next couple of months, but expects the numbers to increase again in January, February and March.

c.) Review of Financial Statements:

Office Supervisor Nason stated that Thomaston Bank had originally offered a rate of .02% on the Department's operating account. She stated she was contacted the beginning of the month and the operating account does not qualify as an interest-bearing product. However, if the Department agreed to forego the .02% interest on the operating account, the bank would increase the Infrastructure Reserve and the Tank Maintenance Fund by .05%. Commissioner Warner made a motion to accept the proposal from Thomaston Bank to increase the Infrastructure Reserve Fund and Tank Maintenance Fund by .05% and forego any interest on the operating account. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board the Town of Southington refinanced their bonds, which included our 4.1 million dollar 2014 bond. The Department will see an approximate savings \$290,000. The Town is currently working to refinance three of the Department's DWSRF loans.

7.) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a.) Executive Committee:

No meeting.

b.) Infrastructure Committee:

No meeting.

c.) Policy and Procedures Committee:

No meeting.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to add the review of Policy WC-2, Workers Compensation and Family Medical Leave to the agenda. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote.

Superintendent Casarella read Policy WC-2, Workers Compensation and Family Medical Leave. Commissioner Cabata made a motion to accept the policy as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

8.) EXECUTIVE SESSION ANTICIPATED FOR PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATION

MATTERS: Commissioner Murphy made a motion for adjournment to Executive Session, barring the public and the press but to include Superintendent Casarella, Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo and Office Supervisor Maria Nason. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cabata and it passed on a voice vote at 8:23 pm.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 9:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamoreux, and it passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Attest: William M. Casarella
William M. Casarella, Superintendent