

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

There was a meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held virtually on Thursday, January 14, 2021. 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 6:01 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 DECEMBER 10, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING:**

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Warner 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 the Police Department has resumed patrolling the reservoir with the new purchase of the ATV and recently issued 8 simple trespass citations.

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

President Pocock stated she reached out to a customer who posted a picture on of his water filter which appeared to be black on Southington Talks. She would like to follow up with him along with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent about his concerns and issues he may be experiencing with possible manganese.

Commissioner Cabata stated his neighbor received a letter from the Superintendent regarding the leak on Summit St and thanked him for reaching out.

4.) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a.) **CWWA Position:**

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board that the CWWA has asked Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo to fill an open Board seat. He explained that the position would allow the Assistant Superintendent to represent municipalities and would provide a

platform with the Department of Public Health. The position begins May of 2021 and is a three year term.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to allow Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo to serve on the CWWA Board. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

b.) DPH Guidance on Elevated Salt Levels:

Superintendent Casarella explained the Department must notify its customers of elevated sodium levels in the water due to road salt. Wells 1, 2, and 3, which are located close to roadways, have tested above the Secondary Maximum Contaminate Level (SMCL) for CT DPH limits.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to notify customers of the elevated sodium levels by placing notification on customer bills, with the Superintendent approving the language. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

c.) Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Risk Resiliency Assessment (RRA) Proposal:

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to award Woodard and Curran the proposal for the ERP and RRA in the amount of \$27,000.00. Commissioner Berkmoes seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

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 Cabata and it was passed on a voice vote.

b.) Water Service Line Protection Plan:

After review of the residential line protection pricing, Commissioner Warner made a motion to increase the plan to \$50.00 per year, billed quarterly at \$12.50 per month, with the increase to begin April 1, 2021. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

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.) **Well 10:**

Superintendent Casarella stated Well 10 is moving forward in the DPH/DEEP permitting process. On January 11, 2021, a well site suitability certification was issued from DPH. This certification approves the well site location; therefore, a production well is able to be drilled at this location.

The Superintendent asked for the Board's approval to seek bids for a design build of Well #10. While ordinarily, a project of this scope would go out to public bid, the Superintendent made a request to the Board to permit him to limit the bidding invitation to four (4) companies. The reason for this change in procedure is based upon a good and compelling cause. More specifically, the Water Department is required to have the project complete and operational within 18 to 24 months. His concern is that submitting the project to a public bid will likely delay the ultimate completion of the well. Should the Department fail to complete the project within the projected time, the Board could be in non-compliance with the bonding terms, as well as, the potential for not being able to service customers if Well 9 has to be shut down.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to limit the bidding invitation to four (4) companies for the design build of Well 10. Commissioner Cabata seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Superintendent Casarella also informed the Board he had a very productive meeting with DEEP on January 13, 2021, on the diversion renewal. There most likely will not be a change in the River Flow Management Plan for a couple of years. The Department will need to show the need to pump 3 million gallons per day from the well field. Suggested policies may have to include implementing conservation marketing, rate structures for high consumption users, water restrictions, and ordinances for the enforcement of those water restrictions. Applying these measures will be part of the process for DEEP's approval of the diversion renewal without further reduction from the well field.

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo will reach out to consultants regarding marketing strategies that fit the requirements stated above and will report back to the Board with suggestions.

b.) **New Britain Well/Patton Brook Well:**

Superintendent Casarella stated DEEP explained at the current time the well cannot be used to transfer water into another basin. He will continue to follow up with DEEP.

c.) **Manganese Pilot Study:**

A special meeting of the Board will be scheduled to allow for a vote to award the study.

d.) Contract Negotiations:

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

e.) Valley Water – Shuttle Meadow Water Main:

Superintendent Casarella has been communicating with Don Vaughn from Valley Water and the plan is moving forward.

f.) Coronavirus:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo explained employers subject to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) are no longer required to provide employees with COVID-related paid leave but may do so voluntarily.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion discontinue the paid leave for COVID-related absences and to follow the lead of the Town of Southington. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion and it was passed on a voice vote.

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated that CWWA is lobbying to include water utilities as frontline workers to make the COVID vaccine available to staff sooner.

g.) Well 2A and Well 2 Remediation:

Superintendent Casarella informed the Board removal activities associated with the PCB containing paints has been completed in accordance with EPA's approval. The follow up paperwork for the EPA documentation is in progress. Installation of the plywood ceiling and roof hatch began last week. The inside is painted, the roof installed, and the heat and electrical work is being scheduled in a few weeks. Due to new electrical equipment the Town electrical inspector is requiring a stamped electrical drawing.

h.) Mill Street Tank Project:

Superintendent Casarella stated the DWSRF loan is scheduled to close on January 31st. The final punch list includes seeding and finish paving by April 30, 2021. The Department will be holding \$60,929 in retainage until all items are completed.

Superintendent Casarella reviewed a letter he received from Preload explaining the efflorescence on the tank as minor. He also had SUEZ inspect the tank. It was agreed the issue is minor.

i.) Stone Bridge Crossing:

Superintendent Casarella stated the developer has changed the overall design plan indicating the first phase of the project will be off Clark St., not Route 10. The Superintendent does not want to commit to supplying water for more than five years or 400,000 gallons per day, whichever ever come first. Our Attorney is working on language for the MOU.

j.) Cybersecurity:

The Office Supervisor reviewed with the Board a proposal from Citrix Secure Access System which will provide cloud storage for offsite storage of sensitive information along with added security to Microsoft Outlook for sending emails.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to purchase the Citrix Secure Access System for three years, for five users, at a total cost of \$2160.00. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote.

k.) PRV Vault for Laning Street:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated the bid will be advertised on January 25, 2021. A pre-bid meeting will be held on site on February 9, 2021, with construction to begin on April 1, 2021.

l.) Reservoir 2 Vault Chamber:

Assistant Superintendent Fiorillo stated the project was completed on December 22, 2020. Treatment staff was able to operate all the valves. The reservoir is currently full. He stated that Tata and Howard, the project engineer, and Dayton Construction, the contractor, did a great job.

11.) 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 Warner and it passed on a voice vote at 8:36 p.m.

Commissioner Warner made a motion to reconvene back to Regular Session at 9:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes and it passed on a voice vote.

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to add c) Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Risk Resiliency Assessment (RRA) Proposal to New Business. The motion was seconded by Warner and it passed on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cabata made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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