

WATER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 20, 2008
Durham Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Call to order: by Chairman Ray Bahr at 7:37 pm

Present: Selectman James McLaughlin, Patricia Crowley, Bill Milardo

Absent: Robert Dynia, John Hogarth, Dr. Brad Wilkinson, First Selectman Laura Francis

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda by J. McLaughlin, 2nd by R. Bahr. All ayes; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve meeting minutes of February 21, 2008 by J. McLaughlin, 2nd by R. Bahr. All ayes; motion carried.

POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS

Due to the presence of a contaminant, MTBE, in the groundwater at the southern end of Main Street, the consultant for the responsible party, APEX Environmental, is pursuing the connection of the buildings on the two impacted properties to the Durham Public Water System. Discussion ensued regarding costs of new connections to water mains. Applicants should be made aware of the costs and should cover those costs. Enhancement of the mechanism for informing perspective customers will be made.

RECENT REPAIRS TO WATER SYSTEMS

Repairs to the pressure switch/float mechanisms were completed at the Lexington Place and Durham Elderly Water Systems. The repairs should decrease the number of costly non-routine service calls to the systems.

STATUS OF WELL AT DURHAM ELDERLY HOUSING

The well that had been shut down due to the presence of bacteria has been sanitized, the water sampled and the tested, and the well put back into service.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SURVEYS FOR THE THREE WATER SYSTEM DIVISIONS

The Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Section encouraged all regulated community water systems to complete a statewide survey. The survey will help the Drinking Water Section determine the outreach and training needs of community water systems. The completed surveys were submitted to the Section.

STATUS OF PROPOSED DIVERSION PERMIT EXCEPTION LEGISLATION

The proposed bill was passed by the Environment Committee after the public hearing.

DISCUSSION OF TIMELINE FOR RATE FEES

A discussion of implementation of new rates for the coming fiscal year will take place in April.

First Selectman Laura Francis arrives and seats for Selectman James McLaughlin at 8:36 pm.

DISCUSSION OF CT WATER COMPANY AGREEMENT

Commission members were directed to review the current agreement and suggest revisions for possible renewal of the operations contract.

WATER PROJECT UPDATE – FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Review of the March 17, 2008 letter from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection concerning the STEAP grant shows a balance of \$21,643.04. However, based on a review of the spread sheet prepared by the Town of Durham Finance Director, it is plausible that the funds have been expended and additional costs incurred as of March 19, 2008.

WATER COMPANY FINACIALS

Discussion regarding the repayment schedule for the loan made by the Town of Durham to the Durham Public Water Company. It is noted that a few customers are 90 days late in making payment for water service. CT Water will be contacted concerning the outstanding water bills and collection of payments.

BILL APPROVALS

Reviewed the bills from CT Water, Harrington Engineering, and Water & Waste Equipment. Motion to approve the respective bills in the amounts of \$685.00, \$2369.70 and \$479.00 by B. Milardo, 2nd by P. Crowley. All Ayes except for R. Bahr's abstention; Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 pm by R. Bahr, 2nd by B. Milardo. All ayes; Motion carried.