

Water Commission Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2006, Durham Public Library

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. In attendance were members J. McLaughlin, R. Bahr, P. Crowley, C. DeNunzio, B. Dynia, B. Milardo, and R. Primus. Absent was B. Wilkinson.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA MADE BY J. MCLAUGHLIN, SECONDED BY R. BAHR. ALL AYE.

Water Project Update:

J. McLaughlin reported that in 1 month, if agreeable to the commission, the water project could be submitted for re-bid using a base bid (variable-speed pump, generator, infrastructure only) with alternate (storage tank and booster station). The goal is to construct a total bid that will come in around 1.1 million. If the STEAP grant for \$500,000 is received, the booster station may be constructed as part of the 1.1 million total price. The Durham Fair Association has been contacted and is agreeable to use of their pump house for a chlorination system.

Other strategies do exist including the refurbishing of the Strawberry Hill storage tank. Refurbishing this tank would remove the need for the booster station. The DEP has funding that may be available for water systems/components that are deemed polluted. Steve Messer (DPH) spoke with Chris Westor (Weston and Sampson) and verbally stated that if the town planned to refurbish the Strawberry Hill storage tank as part of the current water project, that the requirement for a consent form (which defines a timeline for the improvement of the tank) would be waived, but a deficiency would be noted until the new tank was available for use. An additional strategy suggested by the DEP includes developing a long range plan that would address all of Durham's water needs, including those north of Allyn Brook.

The commission agreed to stick to the original plan of submitting a base bid with alternate. The hope is to have the new water system infrastructure available for use during the summer of 2006.

Old Business:

Financial Report:

All members received the contract between the Water Commission and the Town of Durham regarding the payment of the \$35,000 loan to the Town. In April, 2004, the Town and the Water Commission, the oversight body of the water company, entered into an agreement whereby the Town would be repaid a loan which the Town made to the water company in the amount of \$35,000. The water company was to pay the Town \$655 per month, with interest at 4%, beginning May, 2004, until such time as the \$35,000 had been repaid. Additionally, the loan was to be paid exclusively by the water supply system's users with a separate monthly charge of \$6.55 being assessed each user. Through June 30, 2005, the water company had made no payments on the loan. J. McLaughlin explained that he learned the reason was due to the need for the insertion of a line item into the accounting software. J. McLaughlin reported that the new line item was subsequently inserted, and that the water company is up to date with payment on the loan.

J. McLaughlin reported that new checks have been printed for the water company and that now 3 signatures must be obtained for all water company disbursements. J. McLaughlin stated that the duties of water company bank account reconciliation were transferred to his Administrative Assistant.

Durham Volunteer Fire Company request for connection to the Durham Public Water System:

J. McLaughlin informed the trustees of the DFVC that Town Hall does pay for water service from the water system. B. Milardo offered to contact Connecticut Water Company to obtain a billing listing of all Durham Town facilities that pay for their water service so that we can recommend the billing structure for connection of the fire house to the water system. B. Milardo furthered explained that he discussed with Connecticut Water Company the trustees request for connection of the firehouse to the water main used by the Ackerman house. Connecticut Water Company has advised that the trustees either wait for a fire house connection with the new water system or that they connect now with the new main on the other side of the street from the fire house. The connection with the Ackerman house would require tapping into an old main that is in questionable condition. Connecting with the main on the opposite side of the street will cost more than connecting with the new water system infrastructure. B. Milardo will contact Steve Messer to research whether or not the well that supplies the firehouse will have to be abandoned prior to hook-up to the public water system. B. Milardo will also contact the trustees to let them know their options suggested by Connecticut Water Company.

Engineer request for service to 349 Main Street (Grippe's Station):

B. Milardo informed the commission that the DPH has responded to our intent to operate, but not own, the proposed water supply system for Grippe's Mobil. In order to operate, but not own, the Town would be required to seek approval from WUC. Since there isn't time based on the needs of the applicant, the DPH has said that the Town will not have to operate the system as long as the water system is maintained appropriately by the business owner. In the occasion that the water system is not handled appropriately, the Town will become responsible for its operation. Discussion by members of the commission centered on the original motion and if it needed to be adjusted (ie, MOTION THAT WATER COMMISSION DECLINE OWNERSHIP, BUT THAT THE WATER COMMISSION AND/OR AGENT PROVIDE THE OPERATION ONLY FOR THE TRANSIENT, NON-COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY AT 349 MAIN STREET MADE BY P. CROWLEY AND B. WILKINSON. ALL AYE). B. Milardo explained that we needed to modify the motion only if we would now like to also own the water system or if we now don't want to own *or* operate the system. All agreed that operation of the water system was in the spirit of the wishes by the DPH. B. Milardo felt that this was a safe course of action. Commissioners were still not interested in owning the water system as there were too many concerns regarding liability for a water system located on a service station site.

Rules of Regulations Handbook Review:

The Rules and Regulations Subcommittee submitted the handbook for review by the commission members. All were told to review it for the next Water Commission meeting.

New Business:

None reported.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF JANUARY 12 2006 MADE BY M. MILARDO AND SECONDED BY R. BAHR. ALL AYE

Meeting Adjourned 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Renee Primus, Recording Secretary