

Water Commission Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2007; 7:00 pm
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: James McLaughlin, Raymond Bahr, Bill Milardo, Catherine DeNunzio, Renee P. Edwards, Patricia Crowley, Robert Dynia

ABSENT: Brad Wilkinson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA OF JUNE 14, 2007 BY CATHERINE DENUNZIO AND SECONDED BY BILL MILARDO. All Aye

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2007 BY JIM MCLAUGHLIN AND SECONDED BY BILL MILARDO. 3 Aye; 3 Abstain

WATER PROJECT UPDATE - FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

J. McLaughlin reported that the booster station was delivered and installed in the appropriate location, but not yet connected to the water main. All 3 water storage tanks will be delivered the week of June 18. Once the well house is completed and the tanks cleaned, the new mains will be connected. B. Milardo added that several state approvals will be needed before the system can be operated to deliver water, some of which are as follows: 1) inspection to determine if the engineers built the system according to specifications, 2) testing of the wells, and 3) testing of the water to determine if there is any influence of surface water.

WATER COMPANY FINANCIALS

The Town Treasurer discovered a couple months ago that the water company was running a deficit. As of today, the deficit is \$2,665, which includes 1 payment of \$650 for repayment of the water company loan to the town.

Since this discovery, the Town Treasurer has been working with the Financial Officer to determine the reason for the deficit. Together, they have verified the following: 1) all deposits are correct, 2) all deficient customer accounts are clear, 3) no mis-recording between the Grant Account and the Durham Water Company Account, and 4) payments to Tim Smith are correct. By using billing records, they constructed a list of expenses since January 2005 that are considered non-routine (non-routine expenses are not covered by CT Water Company). The commissioners reviewed this listing and questioned the billing of several water testing fees that appear to be covered as routine expenses under the contract.

During further discussion, the commissioners determined that there has been no rate increase since the origination of the contract with CT Water Company 4 years ago (2003). This is undoubtedly one reason for the deficit since CT Water Company has a scheduled annual increase of 3% for their services.

The commissioners agreed that an adjustment of rates had to be made as soon as possible. All agreed that this would be an agenda item for the July meeting. In addition, B. Milardo together with J. McLaughlin will meet with CT Water Company to reconcile the water testing charges. Also at this meeting, CT Water Company will be asked to seek approval from the First Selectman's office before conducting non-routine work. In addition, a mechanism will be discussed whereby customers are charged for services they request from CT Water Company. And finally, R. Bahr asked that the commission review the loan structure and what the balance is for this obligation.

DISCUSSION OF CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS, CERTIFICATION FORM

The 2006 Consumer Confidence Reports have been published for each of the water systems: Durham Center, Durham Elderly Housing, and Lexington Place. Since the collective number of water system users is under 500, the CT Department of Public Health requires that the results of the reports be posted in public places. The commission decided to post the report for Durham Center on the website and in the library and town hall, the report of the Durham Elderly Housing in the community room of the complex, and the report of Lexington Place will be distributed by Patricia Crowley to association members via email. B. Milardo will sign off on the certification form for each report, which verifies that the water company has provided users with the reports.

B. Milardo said that the reports yielded little new information from the previous annual report.

BILL APPROVALS

R. Bahr and R. Edwards recommended that approval of bills be tabled until B. Milardo and J. McLaughlin meet with CT Water Company since each bill contained water testing fees that appear to be covered under contract with CT Water Company.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The regularly scheduled water quality report was reviewed and B. Milardo concluded that the results are satisfactory. An email from CT Water Company to home owner David Zemelsky was reviewed and provides a quote for connecting to the water system. Patricia Crowley questioned whether damage to the blacktop at Lexington Place was due to overflow from the dry-well. B. Milardo felt that natural soils were probably to blame for the blacktop erosion. B. Milardo agreed to speak to CT Water Company about the amount of backflow from the water system.

The next meeting will be held on July 12th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Edwards, Secretary