

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND WATER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

August 12, 2009
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
2nd Level Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Stewart Joslin, Chair; Andrew R. Netro; Rene C. Wagner; and Eugene Koss;

Members Absence: Glenn MacDonald; and William Pakulis

Others Present: Dave Smith, Town Engineer; Ed Reilly and Dr. Gayle Block, owners of 34 Avebury Lane

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Joslin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2009 Regular Meeting:**

Mr. Netro motioned to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2009 meeting; seconded by Mr. Koss. All in favor. None opposed.

3. **32 Avebury Lane Water Usage**

Dr. Block read a statement concerning the initial visit from the technician from Connecticut Water Company when they were informed about the high water usage. The technician gave them tablets to check the toilets. Dr. Block reviewed their efforts to find the 100,000 gallons of water and what could possibly have occurred. She had statements from the company that filled their pool, the irrigation company that worked on their system and also the statement from the septic system company who explained that if 100,000 gallons of water had gone through the septic system, it would have been catastrophic. It was also determined that the meter was working fine. The quarterly water usage has returned to normal since that quarter. Dr. Block reviewed past bills and paid what they had paid for the same quarter the year before. The homeowners are requesting that the remainder of the water bill be waived.

A discussion followed about what would have caused the high water usage for that quarter. There was concern that perhaps there was some sort of a signal in the area had caused the spike or perhaps some sort of construction in the area. Mr. Koss was disappointed that the Connecticut Water Company did not do enough of an investigation or ask to do a walkthrough of the house and property.

Mr. Netro motioned and Mr. Wagner seconded that on a one time basis to eliminate the balance due.

Mr. Koss felt that foregoing the full balance was not in accordance with procedures from utility companies and it should be a 50/50 split.

Mr. Joslin, Mr. Netro and Mr. Wagner in favor. Mr. Koss abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith will contact the Connecticut Water Company concerning the bill and also find someone at Connecticut Water Company concerning the possibility of a signal being the cause of the excess usage.

4. Impact at Well #1 Meter Recalibration

Mr. Smith reviewed that in early July a calibration test was performed on Well #1. When the numbers were compared with the prior year, the production meter was over registering and was similar to the values reported prior to last years adjustment. He indicated that a simple test would be to fill a tanker at different flow rates for another check. He also has a request for cost data on a magnetic meter, but the data was not yet available. Mr. Smith indicated that the existing Water Supply Plan needs to be corrected to reflect this new information. Lenard Engineering can do this for approximately \$1,000.

Mr. Wagner motioned and Mr. Netro seconded to go forward with redoing the report at a cost of \$1,000.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A discussion followed about resubmitting a Diversion Permit request to increase the capacity beyond the 220,000 gallon figure and Mr. Smith reported that they will resubmit in December.

5. CWC Regional Pipeline Project

Mr. Smith indicated that the data was not ready for the project. He was going to request that Al Braig of the Connecticut Water Company provide the data. The information would be available at the September meeting.

Mr. Netro stated that he felt that our agreement with CWC should require that our system not be adversely impacted regarding turbidity, pressure increases, etc. even if those parameters are not actionable from a Health Department perspective. We should retain the option to invalidate the agreement if they can not operate it without these impacts.

6. Old Cathole Road Water Main Project update

A letter from the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health to enter into a contract to start construction has been received and a contract will be signed next week and work to begin in September. The internal work at the Tolland Middle School was done during the summer.

7. Other Business

Mr. Koss discussed the Water Utility Coordination Committee meeting that he and Mr. Smith attended in Ashford on July 14, 2009. There were three points discussed at the meeting.

- One goal of this project will be the allocation of the entire region among public water systems.
- Those participating in the process will be able to influence the plan and water supply allocation in the region.
- Water supply and its characteristics can affect development and type of development in a town and region.

Considering the importance of these points, Mr. Koss felt that it is very important for Tolland to be consistently at the table at these meetings.

The need to update the operational manual of the Water Commission was also discussed.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Wagner motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Koss at 8:41 p.m. All were in favor. None opposed.

Cheryl J. Abbott
Acting Water Commission Clerk