

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND WATER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

October 14, 2009
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
2nd Level Conference Room A
7:00 P.M.

A quorum was not present at this meeting. No formal actions were taken.

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

Others present: Dave Smith, Town Engineer; Jack Keefe, Connecticut Water Company; Terrance P. O'Neill, P.E., Connecticut Water Company

Not in attendance: Glenn MacDonald; Andrew R. Netro and William Pakulis

1. **Discussion:** commenced at 7:14 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes from September 9, 2009 Regular Meeting and the September 23, 2009 Special Meeting.** -- Approval was tabled until the next meeting.
3. **CWC Regional Pipeline Project**

Mr. Joslin started the discussion regarding the pipeline stating that there were two pieces of financial data that needed to be finalized:

1. The \$35,000 annual fee; and
2. The charge between the two companies for water.

At the last meeting, the Commission agreed that it would recommend staying with the current rate it has with the CWC, \$3.25. The way Mr. Joslin reads the contract, the same rate will be paid back and forth.

Terry O'Neill, Connecticut Water Company ("CWC"), agreed that those were the two outstanding issues; the annual lease payment and the rate for trading the water.

The Tolland Water Commission ("TWC") put \$3.25 per hundred cubic feet on the table.

Mr. O'Neill commented that the Agreement would be subject to review by the DPUC and the Office of Consumer Counsel. Discussion continued about the rate. It was agreed that the rate would be based on whoever used the most water.

Mr. Joslin began discussion regarding the annual leasing fee.

Mr. O'Neill commented that the \$35,000 represented the existing revenue that the Town of Tolland was receiving from the customers, along Rt. 195 and Rhodes Road, on an annual year.

Mr. Joslin recalls that they deferred an amount at the previous meeting, and the discussion was that the TWC should go up to a higher dollar amount. Mr. O'Neill said that the CWC is utilizing 4,000' of Tolland's existing main. The CWC is installing 2-3 miles of pipe in Tolland. They are giving Tolland the interconnection and letting the customers be theirs. There is going to be more facilities, which the CWC is installing, that the town is going to benefit from rather than the CWC benefiting.

Mr. Joslin wanted confirmation that this wasn't going to be a meter connection. Mr. O'Neill said that it was not. It could be very expensive if they went that route. He thinks it could be managed by using radio read meters. They would be able to know what the base flow of the water is.

Eugene Koss handed out a copy of the Agreement with some revisions that he made to it. He commented that the changes in the Agreement were more a 'tone thing'. The suggested language changes do not affect numbers. Mr. Koss will e-mail the red-line version to Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Keefe to see in color. Discussion occurred regarding Mr. Koss' suggested changes. It was commented that if any overseeing authority changed anything on the Agreement it would become void.

Mr. Joslin put \$40,000 on the table for the annual leasing fee.

There was discussion regarding hydrants and the fire protection charges. Mr. O'Neill commented that they would like to recoup some of their investment. They are going to propose that Mansfield pay for the linear foot charge. Mr. O'Neill again commented that he is willing to enter into the Agreement, but that the DPUC needs to approve it. Everything that has to do with rates, has to be approved by the DPUC. The reason is because the billing rates being talked about are different than the CWC's DPUC approved rate schedule. It was agreed that there will not be hydrant charges or linear charges, subject to the DPUC approval.

Mr. Joslin mentioned there was no term on the Agreement and that there should be. There was discussion as to the length of the term, and the pros and cons of long terms vs. short term. Terry O'Neill suggested a term which could be automatically renewed, with either party having the option of opted out with proper notice. The plug can't just be pulled. Sufficient notice to the other party will have to be given. Mr. O'Neill will review different agreements to see what their terms are and work on the wording for this Agreement.

Terry O'Neill will bring the \$40,000 annual fee figure back to his boss. He will also have a draft back to the Commission members sometime next week.

4. Old Cathole Road Water Main Project Update

Dave Smith commented that the contractors are bringing their equipment and material to the site on October 15th. The job will be started on Monday. He estimates the project will take about 4-6 weeks for this project.

5. Diversion Permit Review

Dave Smith e-mailed the approval to the Commission members. The Diversion Permit expires September 3, 2024. At tonight's meeting, he handed out an Activities Checklist. The checklist was created so no milestones are inadvertently missed as the Commission complies with this approval. This document will be in the Clerk's office and will be placed in the TWC's Operations Manual.

6. Other Business

~Eugene Koss commented on the water discoloration at his house a couple of nights this week. Dave Smith, along with the representatives from the CWC, discussed the possible reasons for this. It was suggested that flushing's may need to occur more than twice a year in the trouble zones (ex. Walbridge Hill area).

~Mr. Smith brought up that 2-3 other households have come up with spiked water consumption readings. Mr. Keefe had commented that several of the homes that Mr. Smith mentioned were scheduled for periodic meter changes. The meters were changed, and that is when the spike was seen. It was after the new meters went in. The meters that came out were tested and they ran fine, although they were an older style meter that had an odometer outside reader. In these cases, the meters might have started to go bad, which tends to happen, and they begin to miss pulses because they are magnetic driven. The replacement is a new touch pad, and those are read directly off the meter. If this was the case, they are not using any more water; they are actually getting billed for the water they are using. Dave Smith commented that there are 4 - 5 homes that are protesting or having a problem.

The Commission requested the CWC give them an idea of how many older style units are out in the field. Mr. Keefe will see if he can get a report ran.

Mr. Keefe stated that the odometer style have been nothing but problems.

7. Discussion: ended at 8:41 p.m.

Michelle A. Finnegan
Water Commission Clerk