

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND WATER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

September 9, 2009
HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
2nd Level Conference Room A
7:00 P.M.

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

Others present: Dave Smith, Town Engineer

Not in attendance: None

1. **Call to Order:** Stewart Joslin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes from August 12, 2009 Regular Meeting**

Approval of the August 12, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes: Rene Wagner motioned to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2009 meeting; Seconded by Andrew Netro. All in favor. None opposed. Glenn MacDonald and William Pakulis abstained.

3. **CWC Regional Pipeline Project**

The Commission and CWC continue to sort out items with regard to the contract. Dave Smith provided the members a package of materials to help start discussion.

1. The CWC is suggesting \$35,000 for use of our 4200 feet of pipeline in Rt. 195. Mr. Smith received and provided a year's worth of data containing the charges/usage from Kelly at the CWC. It does show just about \$35,000 of billing from customers on that leg, with the exception of the daycare on Rhodes Road, which was unintentionally omitted (from Mr. MacDonald's previous notes, it was ascertained that the daycare "Kids Academy" averages about \$600.00). \$35,000 is close to the amount currently being billed for our Rt. 195 customers on an annual basis, per the CWC.

2. The rate we pay each other for water used for our Rt. 195 customers was the next item for discussion. As the contract is currently set up, it is an equal amount. Currently, the CWC pays us \$3.25 per 100 cubic feet which is constant with no increase or decrease for higher use. This is for water sent to Willington. We cannot afford such a rate for our Rt. 195 customers, as we would lose money based on our current rate schedule. Mr. Smith obtained a "Year to Date Budget Report" from the town and although some charges on it could be broken down over a number of years, ex. the Milone & MacBroom fee, or any one-time charge, it was a base-line to work with. It reflects just under \$3,000 worth of expenditures of operating expense for the last fiscal year completed. Dave Smith worked some figures and found it was costing us just under \$3.00 per 100 cubic feet of water to produce. We are not making

money every time we turn around. We are breaking even. We should be mindful of what the cost is to produce the water. Mr. Joslin wanted to get a fix on the average of how much we are earning per cubic feet and how much it is costing us.

Mr. Smith crunched some numbers during the meeting and figured for the Merrow Road customers, we are charging \$4.56 per 100 cubic feet. The meter charge is carrying the day, because some facilities have little water charge, but they get charged the same meter charge rate.

The Commission continued a lengthy discussion regarding the rates, fire protection, maintenance, etc. to the pipeline route. They also reviewed the contract and its contents.

It was agreed that Dave Smith would pull together information concerning how much it would cost to replace the pipe, and amortize it over the life of the pipe. He will also segregate the meter charge from the water usage charge.

It was agreed amongst the members that a workshop would be scheduled to discuss these issues on September 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Smith will arrange for a location and advise the members.

4. Old Cathole Road Water Main Project update

Dave Smith updated the Commission members stating that the contract has been signed with CATCO Construction. They will be commencing the project in October. Now that the contract has been signed, the vault can now be ordered. The work within the school has been completed. Smith had estimated those costs at \$20,000, but it turned out to be \$12,000. Steve Werbner is in the process of signing the Assistance Agreement with the State Treasurer's office as far as the AARA funding. Near the site, a sign will be erected containing the AARA seal and some information about the AARA on the bottom of it.

Mr. Joslin confirmed that when this project is done, we will be connected to the Farmbrook/Clearbrook line all the way up.

Smith commented that work related to the CATCO Construction is the only portion being submitted for stimulus money. The \$152,000 contract with CATCO is part of the stimulus program. 57% of that figure will be forgiven. Whatever is remaining, will be split equally between the town and the Tolland Water Commission's funding source (50/50 between TWC and the town). The work to do the school items was solely for the benefit of the school and will be tagged to the town side. The inspection charges during construction and some of the design work will be part of the dollars being split between the TWC and the town.

Mr. Smith further commented that when the project is complete and when we find out that our Diversion Permit has been completed, the customers can be switched over. There was discussion amongst the members as to whether or not notification to the other water company was needed and whether notice should go out to the customers. The members will review the prior agreement for the terms relating to this issue.

5. Other Business

With regards to the meter, Dave Smith commented that he had been away, but will make arrangements with the fire department to go there, fill up a tanker and conduct a test.

There was a brief discussion with regard to 32 Avebury Lane' outcome at the August 12, 2009 meeting amongst the members.

Glenn MacDonald commented that another family member who is on another Commission heard a comment made about Willington 'themselves' drilling into the aquifer. Should we have any concern? Smith commented that depends on where they are talking about. We do not have any rights to the water we do not use.

6. Adjournment

William Pakulis motioned to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Eugene Koss at 8:49 p.m. All were in favor. None opposed.

Michelle A. Finnegan
Water Commission Clerk