

**Southington Water Department**  
**MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners, Infrastructure Committee was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Department Offices, 605 West Queen Street, Southington, CT.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Berkmoes, Commissioner Murphy, Commissioner Pocock, Superintendent Casarella and Assistant Superintendent Albert Fiorillo were present.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Berkmoes at 5:42 p.m.
2. **Infrastructure Projects:**

**Well #10:** Superintendent Casarella stated that we needed to review both options provided by Weston & Sampson for the construction of Well #10. Option one would involve installing a smaller diameter well while utilizing the chemical feed equipment from Well #9 at a lower cost. Option two was also discussed which involve the installation of a larger diameter well with a stand alone building with its' own chemical feed system at a higher cost. The pros and cons of both options were discussed.

The Design Build method for the construction of Well #10 was also discussed. Due to the 18-month term of the project bond, the benefit of the design build method is that it will expedite the completion of the project as compared to the tradition method. Commissioner Berkmoes pointed out that there would be no cost savings by choosing the design build method. The consensus of the Committee was that the option two with a design build process will provide the Department with system redundancy and flexibility and will also allow Department to complete the project within the 18 months. The Committee will present its' view to the Board on Thursday for further discussion.

**Laning Street PRV Vault:** Superintendent Casarella stated the pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, the bids are due on February 25<sup>th</sup> with construction anticipated to begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. **Future Capitol Projects:**

**Iron and Manganese Plant Well #7A/8:** Superintendent Casarella stated the Pre-Pilot Planning Meeting with Blueleaf and Wright-Pierce is scheduled for Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The pilot test is scheduled to begin mid-May and will continue for approximately 8 weeks.

**Lead Services:** Superintendent Casarella stated the scope of this project is to be determined. The EPA has not officially determined the extent of the utility's responsibility for service replacement. The Department plans to chip away at service replacements annually. The Assistant Superintendent pointed out that the Lead results from samples collected during the Summer of 2020 indicated lead levels below the MCL of 0.015 mg/L at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. As a result, the Department would not be required to replace lead services at 3% per year.

**Treatment Plant Filter Replacement vs Rehabilitation:** Superintendent Casarella stated the cost to rehabilitate the filters would be significantly less than completely replacing them. The price provided by Tighe & Bond to replace the filters is \$3,451,000 versus approximately \$500,000 to rehab the filters and make the appropriate upgrades.

**Meter Change-Out: AMI/Itrons:** The Superintendent provided information regarding the current inventory (9,700 old meters, 4340 have erts, 5,360 have touch pads) of meters in the system. The touch pads should be prioritized to be changed out. The cost to change out these meters would \$247.46 each. The Assistant Superintendent stated that the goal would to targeting meter change outs by completing an entire district or meter reading route. Once completed, we would be able to read entire town with a van with 2-3 days. The last figure we received to implement Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) was approximately \$3,500,000 with software upgrades every 10 years. This would allow the Department to read our entire system remotely from the office.

**Suez – Tank Maintenance:** The Superintendent stated although the maintenance on Village Gate Tank has not been scheduled, the Department would need to budget approximately \$400,000 to complete the work. The Assistant Superintendent added that Suez would be able to role this work into our current maintenance contract which would allow the Department pay the cost of the work in four \$100,000 installments.

#### 4. **Succession and Future Planning:**

**Superintendent Position:** The Superintendent informed the Committee that the Department has only received two applicants. The applicant's resume's will provided to the Board on Thursday to discuss in executive session. The Assistant Superintendent was directed by the Committee to reach out to the recruiter, Municipal Resources, Inc. of New Hampshire to begin a larger search throughout New England.

**Office Supervisor Position:** The Superintendent stated that the Office Supervisor has elected to retire on June 6, 2021. Heather Maldonado is not interested in the position but is willing to get trained to help us bridge the gap if needed until we find someone to fill the position.

**Ordinances/Conservation Measures:** The Superintendent has mentioned the importance of water conservation going forward during the Town Public Works meetings. Specifically, that the Water Department has to be part of the approval/review process when residential, industrial and commercial developments are proposed to the Town. The Superintendent also informed the Town that odd/even water restrictions may be implemented every summer and that we are working on a Town ordinance to enforce the restrictions. Management will schedule a department heads meeting discuss in more detail how the Town can implement water conservation measures.

**Pattonbrook Well:** The Superintendent stated that the Department is waiting to hear back from the New Britain Water Department.

**Valley Water- Shuttle Meadow Rd:** The Superintendent stated that negotiations with Valley Water Systems are ongoing regarding the SWD's acquisition of the Shuttle Meadow Road water main.

Commissioner Pocock made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkmoes at **8:03 p.m.**

  
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Albert T. Fiorillo, Assistant Superintendent

Attest: