

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Water Operations Committee

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

5:30 PM

Coles Road Firehouse
105 Coles Road
Cromwell, CT

Present: Commissioners Robert Donohue (Chairman), Charles Epstein and Donald Smith. Commissioner Mertie Terry was absent. Also attending were Executive Director Julius Neto, Water Operations Manager Joseph Palmieri and Chuck Adelsberger, Project Manager for Environmental Partners.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by Chairman Donohue.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Epstein and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted.
- III. Public Comment. There was no public comment to report.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Interconnection Project Update. Mr. Adelsberger provided his own agenda and mapping and will touch on points from his agenda as well as the Committee's agenda. He distributed copies of all his handouts. Copies are attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office. He explained that Environmental Partners has been working on the scoping of this project for a while. The District had appropriated \$186,000 which is a portion of what is necessary to move forward with this project.

There was a lot of information to put together which Mr. Adelsberger summarized in a letter he included with his handouts. The letter describes the proposed scope of work. The \$186,000 will cover the first 3 tasks under the scope of services in his letter. They envisioned to get started on the project under the first appropriation that was approved last spring at a District meeting. This spring they will need to appropriate more money to complete the design and move it forward through construction. The appropriation to finish the project should be lobbied for in the next budget cycle.

Mr. Adelsberger explained their plans for establishing an interconnection with MDC in Rocky Hill on Shunpike Rd. (Rte. 3), also establishing an interconnection with Middletown at Coles Rd., (Rte. 217) and establishing an interconnection with Middletown and the Berlin Water Control at Middle St. and Division Street.

Mr. Adelsberger reminded everyone that they only referenced 3 interconnections in the Preliminary Engineering Report which DPH wanted as the first phase. They went ahead and did a quality-based selection to select EP. Environmental Partners prepared the preliminary engineering report. There were 5 potential locations for interconnections. Three were with Middletown, one with MDC and one with Berlin. Berlin did not have enough water pressure. MDC has available flow. The need for the project is because they only have one source of supply. Mr. Adelsberger explained the maps he distributed. He did not go through all the tasks. He noted that they can review at their leisure.

He noted they are taking the project through the first three tasks. For Task 1 there are a lot of meetings with water suppliers to coordinate with three systems even though Berlin is not supplying any water to the District. They met with Berlin Water Control to discuss the project. Berlin will benefit because they can be serviced by either Middletown or Cromwell. Regarding the preliminary structural evaluation, they will be meeting with DOT to get their input on whether or not it is viable to go Rte. 217. They will provide DOT with both options. They will need DOT's approval on which bridge. The other option would be Rte. 3.

Mr. Adelsberger discussed Task 3, Wetlands Delineation, Survey and Mapping. That will take the project through to Spring when the District meeting will be held to amend the contract. They will be meeting with Stuart Popper to find out what permits are necessary. They don't know what the requirements are going to be with the Sale of Excess Water Permit. They will need to confirm what the requirements are, and they will amend the contract or the scope to include it.

The District will be responsible for confirm final design. Chuck will do that through Joe Buehler. Bidding and construction services will be paid through the construction contract. The only thing that is not figured in is the permitting costs because they do not know what they are going to need permits for yet. They also don't know what DOT's requirements are going to be. This would be for Task 4. DPH is in full support of the project. One of their main focuses is to get water systems to stop being independent and connected for national or statewide emergencies.

There was a lengthy discussion about security issues. Mr. Neto explained that the District is in a good position to appropriate \$250,000 this budget season to tighten up security. The District is also putting time and money into cyber security.

The Feds required that the District do a Risk Resilience Assessment and an Emergency Response plan. EP prepared the Risk Resilience Assessment and a lot of the recommendations are what Joe and Julius are currently implementing. Cyber security is seen more in the industry now.

Mr. Adelsberger spoke about the Diversion Permit for the well field and interconnection. Every year Mr. Palmieri includes this in his reporting which has been completed and submitted. The conditions included doing a water audit and a rate study. He included the tasks but did not finalize them because they are still under review.

Mr. Adelsberger also spoke about the GIS Needs Assessment. It is the first task towards another regulatory requirement that is more of a Federal concern. It is the lead and copper rule revisions. Mr. Neto and Mr. Palmieri are doing a lot of the work on their own. EP is just providing the guidance. A lead service line inventory will need to be done.

Mr. Adelsberger exited the meeting. It was noted that Mr. Adelsberger had briefly touched on all the topics listed on the agenda. Mr. Palmieri discussed the Diversion Reports for the Gardiner Well field and Berlin. There also needs to be one now for the Berlin interconnection.

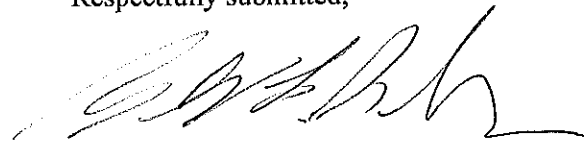
- B. Discussion on Water Rate Study. This was discussed with Mr. Adelsberger. The study is tied in with the Interconnection project.
 - C. Discussion of Water Audit Study. This was discussed with Mr. Adelsberger. The study is tied in with the Interconnection project.
 - D. Water Division Update. Mr. Palmieri reported that the new leak truck is due to arrive in a week and a half. Some of the lighting is on it, but it will need to be set up with equipment.
 - E. GIS Lead and Copper Database Update. This was also discussed with Mr. Adelsberger during the meeting.
 - F. Completion and Submittal of the Annual Diversion Report. This was reviewed with Mr. Adelsberger.
- V. Commissioners' Comments. President Rukowicz thought that Mr. Adelsberger gave a good presentation. He had a lot of updated information for the Committee. He found the maps very helpful.

Commissioner Donohue commented on the great job the Water Department did at today's job site. Everyone worked as a team. They had been working at the car wash near Taco Bell to install a shut off valve. Commissioner Donohue suggested the Water Department get some signs that can be displayed at a job site to let passersby know whose job site it is, and what they are working on.

Commissioner Epstein suggested Mr. Palmieri plan sometime before a Commission meeting to tour the Water garage to see the work Joe and his crew have done there. The President and others suggested having an open house in the spring to show off the new apparatus and ambulance along with the Water Department's leak truck.

- VI. Adjournment. There being no further business a motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Smith and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Donohue, Chairman

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary