

COMMON COUNCIL

Special Meeting

Joint meeting of the Water Board and Common Council

April 28, 1994

A special meeting of the Water Board and Common Council was held at 7:30 pm on April 28, 1994, at the Waste Water Administration Building, Route 12 South.

Present:

Chairman Albert Sullivan
Comm. David Wagoner
Comm. Michael Sinniger
Comm. Bartolo Natoli
Comm. Winfield McIntyre
Comm. Roland Guinn
Comm. James Dunne
Comm. and Ald. George Carnrike

Mayor Joseph Biviano
Ald. Patrick McNeil (8:10 pm)
Ald. Barbara Schermerhorn
Ald. David (Sam) Symonds
Ald. Charles Angelino

Also:

Water Supt. Carl Ivarson
Asst. Water Supt. Fred Gray
Clerk Jody Zakrevsky

Water Board Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 7:30 pm by thanking everyone for taking time to attend this joint meeting of the Water Board and the Common Council.

Chairman Sullivan explained that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain Common Council support for the next step in the required upgrade of the Water System. He emphasized that with regard to the Stearns & Wheler reports on estimated project and operating and maintenance costs for Water Source Facilities, the figures are general estimates only.

The Chairman gave a background on the events that have lead up to this evening including the research on other water systems, pilot plant studies, the filing of grant and loan applications to the Farmer Home Administration, the Council authorizing the issuing of serial bonds in the principal amount of \$5,000,000 for the upgraded filter plant, the Council request that further study be conducted on the use of ground water and the approval by Farmers Home Administration of the funding application with a grant of \$1,500,000 and a loan of \$3,350,000. A companion well to the present deep well #3 was located in an area north of the City and Stearns and Wheler was commissioned to study the supply, transmission, distribution and storage system with the purpose of recommending the technically practical and economically sound upgraded system.

Chairman Sullivan stated that at this point the Water Board would like the approval of the Common Council to proceed with the next phase of the process which includes 1) beginning preliminary engineering design plans for the combined ground water deep well, modified surface water filtration system and the necessary infrastructure modifications and, 2) to submit an amended grant application to Farmers Home Administration in order to retain the \$1,500,000 grant and the \$3,350,000 loan.

The Chairman concluded by saying that with the combination of additional ground and surface water supply, the City will have the flexibility and dependability of a first class water supply source with which to meet the EDZ growth of the Greater Norwich area and the proposed multiple water districts in Town of Norwich and the North Norwich Airport Industrial Park.

Clerk Zakrevsky asked, regarding future growth, if we are adding capacity. Chairman Sullivan said we will have additional supply source and flexibility for increased volume.

Clerk Zakrevsky noted that an environmental impact assessment will need to be updated.

Comm./Ald. Carnrike stated that the City Engineer recommends that the City go with a dual system and focus on infrastructure, rather than spend too much money on pump houses and heating and ventilation. He feels the pump house can be done at a far lower cost. Chairman Sullivan noted again that the costs presented from Stearns and Wheler are general estimates. He stated that the estimated cost of a combined filtered system plus deep well has been reduced from \$4,000,000 to \$3,000,000 and that Farmers Home will maintain the loan and the grant and hold the extra for infrastructure. He noted that if the City borrows less than \$3,000,000 the \$1,500,000 grant would be lost.

Ald. Angelino stated that his concern is that estimates came in at \$3,000,000. Ald. Symonds asked where the estimates came from. Chairman Sullivan said the estimates came from engineers at Stearns and Wheler. Clerk Zakrevsky questioned being able to bond without separating out the improvements. Chairman Sullivan stated that, according to Bill Hartman, switching from a full filter plant installation to combination and infrastructure are both eligible for forty year bonding.

Mayor Biviano said the consensus is that everyone is in favor of a dual system, however, regarding estimates, the Common Council will require real figures before voting. He requested that there needs to be a review process for the costs. Chairman Sullivan said a review would be done as soon as the design figures come in.

Clerk Zakrevsky explained the concern he has heard from people is that the project went from \$5,000,000 for a filter plant to a \$3,000,000 filter plant and system. Because of this, there is some concern that perhaps the figures are still inaccurate. Ald. Angelino stated that the City will give the Water System all the money they need, but not more than they need. Chairman Sullivan said it is the Water Board's intention to operate the Water System the best and most efficient way it can.

Mayor Biviano said there should be a policy for review when the estimates come in. Ald. Carnrike also noted there are some legal questions that need to be addressed by the City Attorney regarding existing transmission users in the Town.

Comm. Dunne noted that when it comes time to review the next phase, the Water Board and James Suozzo would review it.

Comm./Ald. Carnrike asked if the Water Board is under contract with Stearns and Wheler for the next step. Chairman Sullivan said it is not. Ald. Symonds suggested sending out Requests for Proposals for the next step and hire a value engineer to make a recommendation.

Comm. McIntyre said what contractors would propose through an RFP is what they will do before getting to the point of giving estimates. He agreed that the scope needs to be looked at, but we need to get through the next step of preliminary engineering. He said it is during that step that there should be a review and discussion on the scope.

Ald. Angelino stated that the City wants to be in compliance, but nothing more. Clerk Zakrevsky noted that according to the County Health Department, if the City goes with a well system, it should be in compliance. Water Supt. Ivarson stated that some infrastructure is also required to be in compliance.

There was discussion regarding James Suozzo's position in the matter and the possibility of Mr. Suozzo being part of the review process. The Mayor said that Mr. Suozzo cannot act as a consultant on a project and also submit a proposal to do the project as it would be a conflict of interest. Clerk Zakrevsky asked that if the preliminary estimates come in at \$1,000,000, will the remaining funds be used for the replacement of lines. It was noted that there are funds for upgrading. Ald. Angelino suggested

Natoli Engineering for the infrastructure as Mr. Natoli is a former City Engineer and is already familiar with the system. Water Supt. Ivarson said that the Water System has targeted for line replacement streets that need to be replaced.

Chairman Sullivan asked if the consensus was that all were in support of a dual source of water supply; a surface water supply with a modified filtration system and an additional new ground water deep well supply with the required upgraded infrastructure. The Mayor, Common Council and the Water Board were all in agreement.

After some clarification, the Water Board and the Common Council agreed that the Water Board would solicit Requests for Proposals from various firms to do a preliminary design proposal on the cost of a dual system with infrastructure, and that James Suozzo will review all plans and cost estimates before final approval is given.

Chairman Sullivan said the Water Board would put a scope together of line items that they want and get bids from all the firms that they have done business with in the past.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.