

TOWN OF WINDHAM WATER COMMISSION
Minutes of the Regular Meeting Wednesday April 10th, 2013
Windham Water Works, Conference Room

Members Present: Chairman J. Michael Callahan, Elizabeth Huebner, Maxine Smith, Dan Roth, Anna Hope & William Sayers

Also Present: Jim Hooper, Superintendent, Paul Deveny Assistant Superintendent
Members Excused: M. Smith left at 7:05PM

Chairman Callahan called the Meeting to order at 6:36 PM

Approval of Previous Minutes: E. Huebner motioned to approve the Minutes from the March 13, 2013 meeting; Seconded by D. Roth, A. Hope and W. Sayers abstained, unanimously approved.

Citizens & Delegations: none

UCONN/ Mansfield Water: (1) W. Sayers motioned that the WWW Superintendent and/or WWC Chairman inform the Town Manager, Mayor, Windham Town Council, our State Representatives, the Town of Mansfield, UConn, DPH and DEEP that WWC/WWW does not consider Options 1,3,4 & 5 viable or acceptable and therefore will not agree to hold any discussions or negotiations regarding these options, 2nd by Dan Roth, unanimously approved.

(2) W. Sayers motioned that the WWW Superintendent and/or WWC Chairman inform the Town Manager, Mayor, Windham Town Council, our State Representatives, the Town of Mansfield, UConn, DPH, and DEEP that the WWC/WWW considers Option 2 viable and therefore will agree to further discussions within the WWC and with regional stakeholders regarding the practical, technical, economic merits regarding these options and appropriate forum(s) to develop a better understanding of the process to evaluate the Options being considered, 2nd by A. Hope, unanimously approved.

(3) W. Sayers motioned that the WWC authorize the WWW Superintendent and WWC Chairman to request from UConn and Mansfield their immediate feedback regarding each option being considered by the WWC/WWW and keep all interested parties informed of these ongoing discussions, 2nd by A. Hope, unanimously approved.

(4) W. Sayers motioned that WWC's authorization of the WWW Superintendent and WWC Chairman to initiate preliminary discussions is limited to sharing information and fact-finding activities and is not an authorization to negotiate on behalf of the WWC and/or make binding commitments, 2nd by E. Huebner, unanimously approved.

(See attachment)

Cement Line Riverview Road Update: J. Hooper addressed the Commission.

Intake Structure Update: J. Hooper addressed the Commission.

2012 (CCR) Consumer Confidence Report: J. Hooper addressed the Commission.

Superintendent's Report: J. Hooper addressed the Commission. See attachments

Citizens & Delegations: No Comments

A. Hope motioned to adjourn at 8:30 PM, Seconded by D. Roth, unanimously approved.

Minutes taken by: E. Huebner

Submitted J. Hooper

April 10, 2013 – Options to Consider

Option 1: Constructive Engagement – At a minimum agree to furnish water to Mansfield through a new transmission line. Consider developing new service areas in Mansfield and/or taking over UConn’s distribution system

Option 2: Bulk Water Only – Only agree to furnish “bulk” water to Mansfield through a new transmission line.

Option 3: Abandoned Mansfield: - Build a new treatment plant on the east side of the river then sell the WWW treatment plant and water distribution system located in Mansfield to the Town of Mansfield, University of CT and/or a private water company. Make interconnection at the Windham/Mansfield line. Sell “bulk” water on RT 32.

Option 4: No Water: - Decide not to provide any water to UConn or Mansfield.

Option 5: No Action: - Decide not to decide.

Option 6:

Option 7:

Option 8:

Draft Position Paper

Option 1 – Constructive Engagement

March 2013

Definitions:

Service Area – A geographic areas that the WWW agrees to provide water.

Service District – Services area that WWW agrees to take responsibility (i.e. pay the cost) for the maintenance, repair, upgrade and replacement using revenue for water ratepayers based on metered consumption.

Assumption

1. UConn and Mansfield conclude/determine that obtaining water from WWW is the preferred option.
2. DPH or DEEP endorse and support the Windham option.
3. There is a general consensus in Mansfield, Windham that the approach in this position paper is appropriate.

Basic Planning Principles

1. Existing Mansfield and Windham ratepayers **will not pay** for the installation of the new pipeline(s) that will service proposed new services area or service districts.
2. Water rates in existing Mansfield and Windham service districts **will not change** as a result of WWW servicing new services areas or service districts in Mansfield.
3. The WWW/WWC will establish rates for each proposed services areas to cover the cost of:
 - Treating water
 - Pumping the water
 - Maintaining the transmission waterline(s)
 - Maintenance, repair, upgrade and replacement of water transmission waterlines and hydrants located between the Water Treatment Plant and the proposed new services areas and/or service districts in Mansfield.
4. The State of CT, UConn and/or Mansfield will provide funding for the planning design, permitting, and installation of the new transmission line(s) that will service the proposed new services areas or service districts in Mansfield.
5. The cost for the initial infrastructure for proposed services areas will **not** b paid for by the WWW.

6. The cost for treating, pumping the water, and maintaining the transmission lines for proposed service areas in Mansfield will be paid for by water consumers/ratepayers in the new services area based on metered consumption.

Issues to Consider

1. In relative terms the number of new ratepayer and the expected revenue in some if not most of the proposed new services areas is expected to be very low. Therefore, water rates are expected to be significantly higher in the proposed services areas and/or service districts located in Mansfield.
2. The expected cost for planning, permitting, design, installation and as well as the cost for future treatment, repair, upgrade and replacement are very uncertain and will be difficult to estimate.
3. The future growth of Mansfield, Windham and UConn is uncertain. Therefore, it will be difficult to predict the total water demand. As a result, the future treatment requirements will be difficult to estimate.
4. Ownership of the existing UConn water distribution infrastructure and well fields could remain with UConn or transferred to Mansfield or the WWW. The specific details could be negotiated after the new transmission line(s) has been installed.
5. The required oversight of the proposed service areas, services districts, and existing UConn water distribution system is unknown.
6. Challenges associated with permitting and “buy-in” from the local community stakeholders.

Proposed Approach

In order to service the growing need for water in the Storrs/UConn areas of Mansfield, Windham Water Works (WWW) proposes to expand its service area by building a transmission line to a “to-be-determined” location in Mansfield and continue operation under its existing legal/management structure as a municipal water company. As a municipal water company, the WWW would continue to be regulated by DPH and DEP but not be subject to PURA regulations.

The Windham Water Commission (WWC) would continue to set policy as well as be responsible for annual budgets, setting rates within existing and proposed services districts, and determining required capital improvements.

The WWW staff would continue to manage the day-to-day operations and be responsible for the maintenance, repair, upgrade and replacement of the system components in designated WWW Service Districts.

A. Windham Water Commission (WWC)

In order to quickly and efficiently extend water service to the Storrs area of Mansfield, the Windham Water Commission (WWC) and Windham Water Works proposes the following:

1. WWW defines & develops formal plans to extend water service to the following *new* services areas in Mansfield:
 - RT 195 corridor Service Area
 - Spring Hill/Maple Road Services Area
 - Storrs Service Area
 - UConn Service Area
 - Mansfield Four Corners Service Area
 - Mansfield Depot Service Area
 - Other areas requested by Mansfield and/or UConn
2. The WWW/WWC maintains diversion permit for existing service districts and proposed service areas.
3. The WWW/WWC designs, builds, and operates a new water transmission line (with required pumping and storage) between the existing WWW treatment plant and a water storage/distribution facility located in Storrs. The location of the new water storage/distribution facility located in Storrs would be determined through negotiations.
4. The WWW/WWC upgrades the capacity and technology of the existing treatment plant as necessary to accommodate the existing districts and proposed new service areas.
5. The WWW/WWC works with Southeast Council of Government (SECG) to develop an alternative water supply and interconnection at the south end of our existing service District.
6. The WWW/WWC works with CT Water to develop an interconnection at the north end of the proposed Mansfield Four Corners Service area.
7. The WWW/WWC works with Mansfield, UConn, DPH, DEEP and other Towns on regional water planning issues.
8. Once the installation of the new infrastructures is completed, the system is operational, and if desired by the MWFA, WWC/WWW will negotiate with MWFA to determine which service areas will become WWW service districts.

B. Mansfield Water Financing Authority (MWFA)

To facilitate the planning, design financing, construction of new treatment, pumping and pipe line infrastructure to the proposed new service areas in Mansfield, the WWW/WWC recommends that the State of CT DEEP, State of CT DPH, UConn, Town of Mansfield, Town of Windham, WWW staff and WWC work with the State Legislature to pass legislation to form a Mansfield Water Financing Authority (MWFA).

1. The MWFA would have representatives from UConn and Mansfield.
2. The legal structure, composition and specific duties/responsibilities of the MWFA would be determined by UConn and Mansfield.
3. Initially, the primary responsibility of the MWFA would be to obtain and administer funds for the planning, design, permitting and installation of the required infrastructure related to the proposed new pipeline from the WWW plant and Storrs as well as the expansion of the WWW water treatment plant.
4. MWFA would work with the WWW/WWC to permit, plan and install the new water main.
5. MWFA would work with the WWW/WWC and other area stakeholders on regional planning issues/initiatives.
6. Taking into consideration the specific circumstances and needs of the University and Mansfield community, the MWFA would:
 - Determine if and when proposed services areas would be WWW service districts
 - If Mansfield would form a Municipal water department
 - If UConn would be responsible for the new service areas

Draft Position Paper

Option 2 – Bulk Water Sale Only

April, 2013

Definitions

Mansfield Service Area – A specific area designed in Mansfield that the WWW agrees to provide “bulk” water.

Assumptions

1. UConn and Mansfield conclude/determine that obtaining water from WWW is the preferred option.
2. DPH or DEEP endorse and support Windham option.
3. There is a general consensus in Mansfield, Windham that the approach in this position paper is appropriate.

Basic Planning Principles

1. Existing Mansfield and Windham ratepayers **will not pay** for the installation of the new pipeline(s) that will service the proposed new Mansfield Services Area.
2. Water rates in existing Mansfield and Windham service districts **will not change** as a result of WWW servicing the Mansfield Services Area.
3. The WWW/WWC will establish rates for the proposed Mansfield Services Area to cover the cost of:
 - Treating water
 - Pumping the water
 - Maintaining the transmission waterline(s)
 - Maintenance, repair, upgrade and replacement of water transmission waterlines and hydrants located between the Water Treatment Plant and the proposed new Mansfield Services Area
4. The State of CT, UConn and/or Mansfield will provide funding for the planning, design, permitting, and installation of the new transmission line(s) that will service the proposed new Mansfield Services Area.
5. The cost for the initial infrastructure for proposed services area will **not** be paid for by the WWW.

6. The cost for treating, pumping the water, and maintaining the transmission lines proposed services areas in Mansfield will be paid for by water consumers/ratepayers in the new services area based on metered consumption.

Issues to Consider

1. In relative terms, the number of new ratepayers and the expected revenue from new ratepayers in Mansfield Service Area new services areas is expected to be very low. Therefore, UConn and water users currently connected to the UConn water system water rates can expected to pay significantly higher rates than existing WWW rate payers.
2. The expected cost for planning, permitting, design, installation and as well as the cost for future treatment, repair, upgrade and replacement are very uncertain and will be difficult to estimate.
3. The future growth of Mansfield, Windham and UConn is uncertain. Therefore, it will be difficult to predict the total water demand. As a result, the future treatment requirements will be difficult to estimate.
4. With this option, WWW does not expect to assume ownership of the existing UConn water distribution infrastructure and well fields.
5. The required oversight of the proposed service areas and existing UConn water distribution system is unknown.
6. Challenges associated with permitting and “buy-in” from the local community stakeholders.
7. If we sell bulk water, we may end up being regulated by PURA.

Proposed Approach

In order to service the growing need for water in the Storrs/UConn areas of Mansfield, Windham Water Works (WWW) proposes to expand its service area by building a transmission line to a “to-be-determined” location in Mansfield and continue operation under its existing legal/management structure as a municipal water company. As a municipal water company, the WWW would continue to be regulated by DPH and DEP but not be subject to PURA regulations.

The Windham Water Commission (WWC) would continue to set policy as well as be responsible for annual budgets, setting rates within the existing and proposed services districts, and determining required capital improvements.

The WWW staff would continue to manage the day-to-day operations and be responsible for the maintenance, repair, upgrade and replacement of the system components in designated WWW Service Districts.

A. Windham Water Commission (WWC)

In order to quickly and efficiently extend water service to the proposed Mansfield Service District, the Windham Water Commission (WWC) and Windham Water Works proposes the following:

1. WWW defines & develops formal plans to extend water service to the following **new** service areas in Mansfield:
 - RT 195 corridor Service Area
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 - Storrs Service Area
 - UConn Service Area
 - Mansfield Four Corners Service Area
 - Mansfield Depot Service Area
 - Other areas requested by Mansfield and/or UConn
2. The WWW/WWC maintains diversion permit for existing service districts and proposed service areas.
3. The WWW/WWC designs, builds, and operates a new water transmission line (with required pumping and storage) between the existing WWW treatment plant and a water storage/distribution facility located in Storrs. The location of the new water storage/distribution facility located in Storrs would be determined through negotiations.
4. The WWW/WWC upgrades the capacity and technology of the existing treatment plant as necessary to accommodate the existing service districts and proposed new service areas.
5. The WWW/WWC works with Southeast Council of Government (SECG) to develop an alternative water supply and interconnection at the south end of our existing service District.
6. The WWW/WWC works with Mansfield, UConn, DPH, DEEP and other Towns on regional water planning issues.

B. Mansfield Water Authority (MWA)

To facilitate the planning, design, financing, construction of new treatment, pumping, and pipe line infrastructure to the proposed new Mansfield Service Area, the WWW/WWC recommends that the State of CT DEEP, State of CT DPH, UConn, Town of Mansfield, Town of Windham, WWW staff and WWC work with the State Legislature to pass legislation to form a Mansfield Water Authority (MWA).

1. The MWA would have representatives from UConn and Mansfield.
2. The legal structure, composition and specific duties/responsibilities of the MWA would be determined by UConn and Mansfield.
3. Initially, the primarily responsibility of the MWA would be to obtain and administer funds for the planning, design, permitting, and installation of:
 - The required infrastructure related to the proposed new transmission pipeline from the WWW plant to the proposed Mansfield Service Area, as well as
 - The expansion of the WWW water treatment plant
4. MWA would work with the WWW/WWC to permit, plan and install the new water main.
5. Once the installation of the new transmission pipeline is completed, the MWA would own, manage, and if necessary expand the water system in the Mansfield Service Area.
6. The MWA will meter water consumption and bill ratepayer for consumption
7. The MWA would purchase “bulk” water from the WWW at bulk rates determined by the WWW/WWC.
8. The MWA works with CT Water to develop an interconnection at the north-end of the proposed Mansfield Four Corners Service Area.
9. MWA would work with the WWW/WWC and other area stakeholders on regional planning issues/initiatives.
10. Taking into consideration the specifics circumstances and needs of the University and Mansfield community, the MWA would:
 - Determine if and when proposed services area would be expanded
 - If Mansfield would form a Municipal water department
 - If UConn would be responsible for the new service areas
 - Take up matters related to water in Mansfield.