

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
DuPAGE WATER COMMISSION  
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008  
600 E. BUTTERFIELD ROAD  
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rathje at 8:35 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: E. Chaplin, W. Maio, G. Mathews (by teleconference), W. Mueller (by teleconference), A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje

Commissioners Absent: L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox

Also in attendance: Treasurer R. Thorn, R. Martin, R. M. Richter, M. Crowley, C. Johnson, T. McGhee, R. C. Bostick, F. Frelka, and E. Kazmierczak

Chairman Rathje presented Ross Christopher Bostick with a 15 year anniversary recognition certificate.

Chairman Rathje presented Rocky Ellingsworth with a 15 year anniversary recognition certificate.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rose Herlien, 4700 Fairview, Downers Grove, Illinois expressed her concern with the increase in water rates. Ms. Herlien questioned conserving water when her residence is being charged for 2 units of water but is only using 1 unit of water and further stated that she might as well let her water run since she's being charge for the extra unit.

Laurel Bowen, 829 Clyde Drive, Downers Grove, Illinois read the following prepared statement:

"I understand that the City of Chicago is raising DuPage County's water rates. I called and spoke with Mr. Martin on Friday, January 25, 2008 to learn how this Commission would respond to the increase. I must say that I was quite surprised by the unprofessional and suspicious, or protective manner, in which Mr. Martin responded to my questions.

My concerns are varied and important for your consideration, as you certainly wield critical control over our personal utility cost. Therefore, it is important to know what financial impact this rate increase and capital improvement plan will have on the residents of DuPage County.

I know that my water rate has increased in the past without Chicago having raised their rate to DuPage County.

Mr. Martin told me that DuPage County has never received a rate increase before. Just last year you handed out a generous rebate to municipalities. That rebate was never going to the end user – the

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resident. Please reconsider doling out any future rebates to the municipalities when a rate decrease would be more judicious.

I am quite concerned that the so-called need for capital improvements, as Mr. Martin explained as another justification for the rate increase, is truly too broad in scope.

- Just how necessary are these improvements? and
- What is stimulating this need for so many projects all at the same time?

I, and others, question whether it is wise to invest so much money in electrical generation and the other items in this plan. We have never lost water service in our life. We lost our power in Downers Grove in the summer one year for nearly a week **and our water service never stopped.**

Commissioners, I ask each one of you, how many times has the DuPage Water Commission **NOT** been able to provide water service to your customers?

A more important question must be asked and that is, what is driving this plan/project?

These enormous costs will most certainly and significantly drive up our personal water rates. How many capital project plans in the past have included projects of this magnitude?

We want you to perform maintenance and repair of the system, but your seemingly lavish plans seem both unnecessary and not warranted and, therefore, unjustifiable."

Ms. Bowen then made several concluding remarks, first noting her disappointment that she was not able to voice her concerns during the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding water rate increases which was an item the Board briefly discussed; questioning second, on behalf of a Prairie Drive resident, whether any federal funds are available to the Commission; questioning third why utility customers received a rebate from the Commission in 2007 and now face a water rate increase in the fall of 2008; questioning fourth the proposed 7% wage increases when *Cranes* and *The Wall Street Journal* report a 3% national average; and fifth, and finally, expressing confusion as to why employees that have reached their 15 year anniversary of service are still in need of training and suggesting better budgeting prioritization going forward.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Mueller moved to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2008 Committee of the Whole Meeting of the DuPage Water Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Vrdolyak and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

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All voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Chaplin moved to approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2008 Regular Meeting of the DuPage Water Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Saverino and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Maio moved to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2008 Special Meeting of the DuPage Water Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Zeilenga and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Thorn presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2008 which showed receipts of \$5,416,198.00, disbursements of \$3,943,272.00, and a cash and investment balance of \$89,225,508.00.

Commissioner Poole moved to accept the January 2008 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Commissioner Saverino and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Chaplin left the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Committee of the Whole**

None

#### **Administration Committee**

No meeting

#### **Engineering & Construction Committee**

No meeting

#### **Finance Committee**

No meeting

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None

**MAJORITY OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA**

Commissioner Poole moved to adopt the items listed on the Majority Omnibus Vote Agenda in a single group pursuant to the Omnibus Vote Procedures. Seconded by Commissioner Vrdolyak and unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote:

**Majority Omnibus Vote**

- Ayes: W. Maio, G. Mathews, W. Mueller, A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje
- Nays: None
- Absent: E. Chaplin, L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox
- Item 1: Resolution No. R-5-08: A Resolution Authorizing the Disposal of Certain Personal Property Owned by the DuPage Water Commission—"Majority Omnibus Vote"
- Item 2: Resolution No. R-6-08: A Resolution Authorizing the Electronic Transfer of Funds for the Direct Deposit of Commissioner and Treasurer Compensation, for the Payment of State of Illinois Withholding Taxes through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, and for the Remittance of Employee Contributions under the Commission's Deferred Compensation Plan and Approving and Authorizing the Execution of any Agreements Required in Connection Therewith—"Majority Omnibus Vote"

**SUPER/SPECIAL MAJORITY OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA**

Commissioner Poole moved to adopt the items listed on the Super/Special Majority Omnibus Vote Agenda in a single group pursuant to the Omnibus Vote Procedures. Seconded by Commissioner Saverino and unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote:

**Super/Special Majority Omnibus Vote**

- Ayes: W. Maio, G. Mathews, W. Mueller, A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje
- Nays: None
- Absent: E. Chaplin, L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox
- Item 1: Resolution No. R-2-08: A Resolution Approving and Ratifying Certain Task Orders Under a Master Contract with EN Engineering, LLC at the February 14, 2008, DuPage Water Commission—"Super/Special Majority Omnibus Vote"

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- Item 2: Resolution No. R-3-08: A Resolution Approving and Ratifying Certain Contract Change Orders at the February 14, 2008, DuPage Water Commission Meeting—"Super/Special Majority Omnibus Vote"
- Item 3: Resolution No. R-4-08: A Resolution Approving a First Amendment to Task Order No. 5 under a Master Contract with Greeley and Hansen LLC—"Super/Special Majority Omnibus Vote"
- Item 4: Resolution No. R-7-08: A Resolution Approving and Ratifying Certain Task Orders Under a Master Contract with Westin Engineering, Inc. at the February 14, 2008, DuPage Water Commission Meeting—"Super/Special Majority Omnibus Vote"

Commissioner Chaplin returned to the meeting at 8:52 P.M.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Due to the lateness of the hour, Chairman Rathje changed the order of New Business Agenda Items to consider the distribution of the Tentative Draft Management Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 before the presentation on the status of the Asset Management Program.

Commissioner Saverino moved to direct staff to distribute the Tentative Draft Management Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 as presented to the Commission's customer utilities. Seconded by Commissioner Poole.

Before the vote was called, General Manager Martin quickly went through the Budget, page by page, asking the Board if any changes were desired.

Commissioner Zeilenga moved to amend Commissioner's Saverino's motion by deleting the words "as presented" and inserting the phrase "as revised to include a wage pool for cost of living and/or merit increases for existing employees, to be calculated based upon the product resulting from multiplying the current base salary of the Commission's 34 current employees by 4.5% and to be distributed at the discretion of the General Manager" at the end of the motion. Seconded by Commissioner Poole.

After Financial Administrator Richter confirmed that the proposed wage pool would approximate \$106,000, Commissioner Zeilenga's motion to amend Commissioner Saverino's motion was unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: E. Chaplin, W. Maio, G. Mathews, W. Mueller, A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje

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Nays: None

Absent: L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox

After General Manager Martin confirmed that no vehicle purchases would be made until a vehicle replacement policy had been adopted by the Board, that the designation of the "conservation program" in the draft Budget would be changed to "water conservation program," and that the reference to "contingency" in the Five year Capital Improvement Plan portion of the draft Budget would be eliminated, the amended motion to direct staff to distribute the Tentative Draft Management Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 to the Commission's customer utilities as revised to include a wage pool for cost of living and/or merit increases for existing employees, to be calculated based upon the product resulting from multiplying the current base salary of the Commission's 34 current employees by 4.5% and to be distributed at the discretion of the General Manager was unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: E. Chaplin, W. Maio, G. Mathews, W. Mueller, A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje

Nays: None

Absent: L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox

Due to the lateness of the hour, Chairman Rathje deferred the presentation on the status of the Asset Management Program to a later date.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Commissioner Mathews moved to approve the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$86,117.72 subject to submission of all contractually required documentation. Seconded by Commissioner Mueller and unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: E. Chaplin, W. Maio, G. Mathews, W. Mueller, A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje

Nays: None

Absent: L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Chaplin moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters related to personnel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and (2). Seconded by Commissioner Maio and unanimously approved by a Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: E. Chaplin, W. Maio, G. Mathews, W. Mueller, A. Poole, F. Saverino, J. Vrdolyak, D. Zeilenga, and L. Rathje

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Nays:           None

Absent:        L. Hartwig, W. Murphy, and G. Wilcox

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:07 P.M.

Commissioner Zeilenga moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:45 P.M.  
Seconded by Commissioner Maio and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Maio moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 P.M.   Seconded by  
Commissioner Mathews and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

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