



**Town of Berlin – Water Control Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2023**

The Berlin Water Control Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bruce Laroche at 7:00 p.m., September 26, 2023 in the Public Works Department (Room 120), 240 Kensington Road.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Chairman Bruce Laroche, Commissioners: Barry Fairwood, Tom Lasker, Liam Mitchell and Alvaro Garcia, Jr. (zoom). Staff – Ray Jarema, P.E., Berlin Water Control, Jim Horbal – Deputy Director of Public Works (zoom).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the July 25, 2023 meeting were previously mailed (and e-mailed) to the Commissioners for review.

Commissioner Fairwood made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 25, 2023 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell. The motion was unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Baxter Avenue – Wright-Pierce Report**

Mr. Jarema reported that Wright-Pierce has performed an extensive study of the Baxter Avenue meter station and have provided a comprehensive report. Three companies missed the proper way to install the meter for proper readings. A new meter and attachments have been ordered and will be installed properly and we're looking forward to accurate readings. Chairman Laroche questioned how long it would need to run to get an accurate reading and Mr. Jarema felt that within a month we would start getting accurate data.

The cost has escalated for all of the research, a new meter/attachments, and installation, but will be well worth the investment with accurate readings. In evaluating the meter installation at Baxter Avenue, camera review of sewer line from the station to Webster Square was conducted. Mr. Jarema will meet with Wright-Pierce to determine if this line needs to be rehabilitated by re-lining. The line is in the Worthington Fire District but receives 95% of Kensington Fire District flows. If any work is done, we will need to consider an equitable cost-sharing process. It is hopeful that there can be some cost-sharing with the expenses with the Districts.

**Public Forum Discussion**

Mr. Jarema mentioned that he would like to sponsor a Public Forum that begins a public awareness of the three public water systems in Berlin and educate people about leak prevention, lead/copper rule

revisions, PFAS concerns, long-term plans and water quality questions.

Commissioner Lasker suggested reaching out to the local newspaper with articles of information to allow people to start absorbing the various topics of interest.

### **Leak Detection Project**

Mr. Jarema reported that he procured Conn-Professional to perform preventative leak detection in August, and they found a few critical places that made it well worth the expense. This company does work for Aquarion and the Connecticut Water Company. The company looked at approximately 513 hydrants (2 needing repairs), 28 curb stops, 31 gate valves and found a significant leak at Lands End Court and some issues on Orchard Road, Casner Dr., and Spruce Brook Rd. The leak detection process has always proven to be beneficial by being cost effective.

### **PFAS – Class Action Settlement**

Mr. Jarema reported that he was recently advised of a couple of Class Action Settlements [Dupont and 3M] that were producing products with Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that get into in drinking water systems and of course leading into the sewer systems. Berlin is scheduled to test levels in 2024 under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Reporting (UCMR 5) an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) testing program.

Mr. Jarema, at the recommendation of our Town Counsel “registered” for the settlements in case future monitoring indicated PFAS. Those water utilities that have had positive results were all unexpected. Therefore, there is no clear picture of which utility or source will have positive PFAS results.

### **Cromwell Fire District – PFAS Results**

Mr. Jarema reported that Cromwell had been tested and had two positive results, so they are looking to specifically identify the well with positive results. Berlin typically purchases water from Cromwell from May to September. The PFAS tests have indicated approximately 20 systems in the State as having positive results. There are a couple of available treatment options [ i.e. Granular Activated Carbon and Ion Exchange].

### **Letter to Commissioner (Dept. of Public Health) – Deviation from QBS**

Mr. Jarema reported that he recently sent a letter to the Commissioner of the Dept. of Public Health requesting a deviation from the Quality Basic Selection (QBS) process. We would like to continue to use the services of Haley Ward with the design and oversight of the interconnection with Meriden. We believe by selecting Haley Ward previously by the QBS process, we are in fact complying with Regulations, and would save time and money. The Commission is allowed to provide a deviation of the Regulations in certain cases.

### **Meriden Water Department Initial Meeting**

Mr. Jarema previously mentioned that he is waiting to hear from the Commissioner [Dept. of Public Health] to approve the Engineer and begin the design this fall with construction early next year to begin

the interconnection between Meriden and Berlin. There will be a memorandum of understanding or an agreement written for the record. The benefits are reciprocal in that Meriden needs a pump and we need the water to be available to take out Lamentation Tank for interior corrosion repair, in the future.

**Rate Changes (assessment, connection, and permit fees)**

Mr. Jarema mentioned again that it has been at least ten years or more that certain rates have not changed, namely assessment, connection, and permit fees. Mr. Horbal verified that it has been far too long since assessment, connection, and permit fees have been adjusted to meet today's prices. Mr. Jarema has done some comparisons with surrounding utilities and found that we are well behind others with certain fees. He will put together a proposal for the Commissioners review and approval.

**Safety Valve Renewal**

Mr. Jarema presented the Safety Valve Agreement which is up for renewal (through December 31, 2026). Customers seem to like the option of carrying insurance should they have a main break. Safety Valve periodically mails application/information to eligible customers in the water district. [Amendment 3 attached to minutes.]

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve Amendment 3 of the Safety Valve Agreement, through December 31, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Fairwood. The motion was unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Deming Road Project**

Mr. Jarema reported that the Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) first payment of approximately \$230,000.00 came in from the Deming Road Pump Station project. They will make payments twice a year [April and September] for four years. The MDC will also pay for pump station operations (approximately \$40,000 for 2022) and additionally pay approximately \$2,500 for sewer service for their customers on Rowley Street.

**RFP – District Study - Status**

Mr. Jarema reported that a District Study is on hold because the other two districts are unlikely to participate. Our Town Attorney will reach out to the Districts to see if they will provide any data. We are waiting for a report from Haley-Ward identifying available data.

**Executive Session - CGS-Sec 1-200 (6) (B): discuss strategy meeting with Corporate Counsel relative to Worthington and Kensington Fire Districts.**

Commissioner Fairwood made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. regarding a strategy discussion, seconded by Commissioner Lasker. The motion was unanimously approved. The Commissioners invited Ray Jarema, Jim Horbal, and Lecia Paonessa to attend the session.

Commissioner Fairwood made a motion to end the Executive Session at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Lasker. The motion was unanimously approved. No actions were taken.

**Good of the Order:**

**Mattabassett District Tour**

Mr. Jarema reported Liam Mitchell (Mattabassett District Director for Berlin) has arranged a tour of their facility/treatment plant for the Commissioners and the Water Department personnel for October 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

**16" Water Main Replacement- Status**

Commissioner Lasker requested that Mr. Jarema try to have a final bill realized in the near future. The formal closing for this project has been tentatively scheduled for October 31, 2023. Our Bond Counsel will be representing us at the closing.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Fairwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Lasker. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lecia Paonessa  
Recording Secretary

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 9/29/2023, 12:26:44 PM



BERLIN TOWN CLERK

AMMENDMENT 003  
To  
MASTER AGREEMENT  
Between  
Homeowner Safety Valve Company and Berlin Water Control

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This Amendment 003 ("**Amendment 003**") is entered into as of 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023, (the "**Effective Date**") between Homeowner Safety Valve Company, an Aquarion Company, with offices located at 835 Main St Bridgeport CT 06604, (the "**Owner**") and The Berlin Water Control Commission with offices located at 240 Kensington Road Berlin, CT 06037, (the "**Client**"). As used in this Amendment, "**Party**" means either Owner or Client and "**Parties**" means both Owner and Client.

The following terms and conditions are changed with the effective date of this Amendment; Term of the Agreement/Exclusive Rights, Law and Cost to Customer; and replaced with the proposed language below.

**TERM:** The term of this agreement shall be to extend the existing contract for 3 years, and expiring not later than December 31, 2026. Owner shall have the right to renew the agreement for 2 one-year consecutive terms under the same term and condition. Renewal options shall be at the Owners sole discretion and submitted 90 days prior to the Amendment expiration date.

**APPLICABLE LAW:** The Agreement and the rights and duties of the parties hereunder shall be governed by and construed, enforced and performed in accordance with the laws of the State of Connecticut.

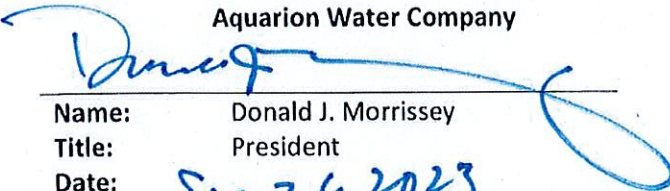
**PRICING:** HSV will provide SV-Water Plan to BWC customers at an initial annual cost of \$85.99 per customer which provides a \$10,000 annual and \$6,000 per incident repair cap. HSV will provide SV-Sewer Plan to BWC customers at an initial annual cost of \$109.99 per customer which provides a \$5,000 annual and per incident repair cap. Customer enrollment in each program shall be for a term of one year, renewable annually for further one-year terms. HSV will contract with and receive payment directly from each BWC customer enrolled in the plan. Additionally, HSV will provide SV-Water Plan and SV-Sewer Plan (if purchased together and at same time) as follows: a multi plan enrollment and payment option to BWC customers, whereby a one-year Water and Sewer plan may be purchased for \$176.38, thereby providing the customer's a 10% per year discount. HSV will contract with and receive payment directly from each BWC customer enrolled in the plan(s). HSV will also offer in-home plumbing at \$89/year with an annual and per incidence cap of \$2,000.

Only the changes noted in this Amendment are effective upon execution of this amendment. All other terms and conditions, previously agreed upon in the Master Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect.

The Parties have caused this Amendment to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

Aquarion Water Company

Berlin Water Control Commission

  
Name: Donald J. Morrissey

Title: President

Date: *Sp 26, 2023*

  
Name: Bruce Laroche

Title: Chairman

Date: September 26, 2023