



## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia  
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TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting

January 6, 2016

Present: Nunzio Parente, Chairman  
Michael D'Alessio  
Carmine Durante  
Andrew Geruntho  
Ken Plavnicky  
Charles Stowe  
Dan Ventre

Others in Attendance: Rita St. Jacques  
Brian Capozzi  
Joan Radin, Alderwoman (5<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Randy Carroll, Alderman (1<sup>st</sup> Ward)

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Parente.

All present rose and pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

DISCLAIMER: The minutes of the WPCA provided by the Secretary are not verbatim and are the best effort of the Secretary to capture all of the conversations taking place during the meeting.



## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Ventre made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the December 2, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Durante seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

## **Public Session**

Chairman Parente asked three (3) times if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission. There being no one, he closed the public session.

## **Executive Session**

Mr. Durante made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. Everyone left the room with the exception of the Commission members. Mr. Plavnicky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. D'Alessio made a motion to close Executive session and go back into Regular session at 7:30 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session. Mr. Geruntho and Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

## **Sewer Administrator's Report (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)**

Rita St. Jacques, Sewer Administrator was present.

Ms. St. Jacques reviewed her report with the Commissioners. She explained the bankruptcy collection report and the update of collections. She said until there is a replacement for Ms. Turschmann this will be the last bankruptcy report. The agreement was when Ms. Turschmann took the new position as the Grants Specialist in the former Economic Dev. Office that she would remain with WPCA until February or there was someone to take her place.

Ms. St. Jacques said that Mr. Bshara could not be at the meeting this evening. He had a family commitment.

Ms. St. Jacques said the Expense Report and the WPCA Due To/ Due From Report has been updated with the pension figures. The financials and the bank balances are included. The Balance Sheets are updated and they look good. Marshall Davies collection this month is \$144,000. Marshall Davies received the first payment from Birmingham and they are making three to four incremental payments. The monthly collection is up and the total annual collection is \$723,120.58. This total is up from last year's annual collection of \$449,821.11.

Chairman Parente asked if there are any monthly payments from Attorney Murray for Mr. Hooker's account.

Ms. St. Jacques said that she has received two promised payments per the agreement.

Mr. Plavnicky said that Attorney Murray told him Mr. Hooker was to sign the agreement today and he will send it to Ms. St. Jacques.

Chairman Parente said that Attorney Murray should not be telling Mr. Plavnicky what is going on. There are ways to be more professional. He should send a letter to WPCA through Ms. St. Jacques. He said he is not blaming Mr. Plavnicky.

Mr. Durante made a motion to send a letter to Attorney Murray asking him what he is doing on this issue. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Stowe stated he should have gone to Ms. St. Jacques.

Mr. Durante made a motion to send a letter to Attorney Murray stating that any communications he has regarding WPCA he should either send a letter to the Board through Ms. St. Jacques or if time is of the essence send Ms. St. Jacques an e-mail for the Board. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to approve Ms. St. Jacques report as presented. Mr. Durante seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Parente thanked Ms. St. Jacques for her report and asked her to give an update on her 2 person office that is now a 1 person office. He said he is prepared to act immediately.

Ms. St. Jacques said that Ms. Turschmann left having taken the position as the Grants Specialist in the former Economic Dev. Office. They agreed when giving Ms. Turschmann this position that they would hold off bringing her into the new position until they filled her position in WPCA. Last week they came in and asked her if she could leave Monday. Ms. Turschmann asked to stay until Tuesday. She said she has sent a half dozen e-mails to Mr. John Marini. Requesting Ms. Turschmann remain until they fill the WPCA position.

Chairman Parente said originally all of the e-mails were with Ms. Sheila O'Malley.

Ms. St. Jacques said Ms. O'Malley deferred to Mr. John Marini.

Mr. Plavnicky said do you have e-mails or something written showing they were doing this.

Ms. St. Jacques said every e-mail sent to them Chairman Parente was copied. The only response was from Ms. O'Malley. We don't want the office understaffed. They wrote back they are not undermining WPCA office. She deferred the posting of the position to John Marini.

Mr. Plavnicky said hire a temporary employee.

Ms. St. Jacques said the protocol for emergency hires is we can hire someone temporary until we hire someone to fill the position permanently. The emergency hire can be part time or come in to fill in full time until the position is filled.

Mr. Stowe said Ms. Turschmann and Ms. St. Jacques are City of Ansonia employees just like the Public Works employees.

Chairman Parente said he asked Ms. St. Jacques today to hire someone. She said no they have to post the position because it is a Union position. He said we can hire someone under contract and put them in the office and that is the end of that.

Ms. St. Jacques said it's a City of Ansonia union position and she is President of the Union. Temporary help is only for 9 weeks.

Mr. Stowe said the Tax Collector is in the union and they can't arbitrarily put her in a job – there's seniority.

Chairman Parente said the job needs to be posted. Hire someone and put them under contract. This person can be hired by City of Ansonia until it's posted. Hire a temp, post it, someone applies for it and the temp is gone.

Mr. Stowe said do you need a temp.

Ms. St. Jacques said yes.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to hire a temporary person to help in the office because Ms. Turschmann has taken another position. Mr. Ventre seconded.

Ms. St. Jacques said that she had to close the door for a half hour which she has never done before to get lunch and go to the bank.

Mr. Ventre said get a temporary person under contract.

Mr. Ventre moved to post the position and hire a temporary person. The temporary person will have no benefits and no seniority. Mr. Stowe seconded.

Chairman Parente asked if there were any questions or discussions. There were none and he called for a voice vote. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Parente requested that a letter be sent to Mr. Marini, Corp. Counsel/Personnel Director advising him WPCA has authorized the hiring of a temporary employee and stating that it is mandatory on him to post the position as soon as possible.

Mr. Stowe said they know this.

Chairman Parente said Ms. St. Jacques was explicit in the e-mails. Their lack of urgency is explicit and so is their lack of concern.

Mr. Stowe asked why send a letter.

Chairman Parente said WPCA needs documentation that he is not doing his job.

Mr. Durante moved to send a letter to Corp. Counsel/Personnel Director Marini requesting that he post the position in WPCA stating WPCA would appreciate his prompt attention and cooperation in this matter in order to resolve this issue. Mr. Stowe seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion that the Administration would like to move Ms. St. Jacques upstairs to the Tax Office.

### **Bills**

There were no bills presented for payment.

Chairman Parente asked why there are no bills.

Ms. St. Jacques said that in the past there were monthly invoices from UIC and the attorney fees which we no longer have. The utility bills are paid at the plant.

Mr. Durante asked Chairman Parente about the progress in negotiating the utility bills.

Chairman Parente said the highest cost is United Illuminating. He said everything he could cut was cut through negotiating with the vendors but with the electricity it is difficult. He said he would be willing to go see U.I. and try to negotiate. He is free on Wednesdays if anyone wishes to go with him let him know.

There was discussion on the rate that was negotiated through Chris Tymniak. Chairman Parente said WPCA pays about \$330,000 a year and the generation rate may save some money.

Chairman Parente discussed the negotiations with the solar company and he said he had it ready to go and he received a call from Chris Tymniak stating WPCA had to go with the rest of the City with the solar company they had. The solar panels for the City were to be installed at the dump on the mound however they were never installed. Chairman Parente said he had negotiated a plan that would have given us more power and leverage and we would have saved money.

Mr. Durante said that one of his food distributors warehouse in Cheshire installed solar panels and their utility bills are cut in half. He offered to take the commissioners down to see the panels.

Chairman Parente said B.J.'s has solar panels and they have gone green. They are doing OK.

There was discussion on the solar panels that were installed at the High School. The Solar Company that Chairman Parente engaged looked at the High School design and advised him that these panels were designed to make money for the Solar Company and not save any money for the City. It was discussed that you have to negotiate for the cost of the electricity and what U.I. will pay you back. U.I. should be paying the City back for the unused electricity on the schools that have the solar panels with this company.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Plavnický said the new assistant, the Shift Supervisor would like to get out of the Union and wants a contract the same as Mr. Capozzi.

Mr. Capozzi said this has been taken care of, it is all set. WPCA authorized a contract and it has been signed.

Chairman Parente said that late last night he looked at his computer and there was an e-mail from Corp. Counsel Marini regarding Lisa Benfanti. She contacted him looking for an explanation as to why she has not received her refund. He asked if WPCA owes her an explanation. She said she is still waiting for her letter from WPCA. He said he will send her a letter why there is no refund. "This will be the last time because I won't even respond about this property. So to Lisa Benfanti, your request for refund has been denied. I have in my possession a letter from Lisa Lowe & Associates qualifying your address as a three family since January 2015. I have a letter in my possession from the Zoning Board of Appeals granting permission to go from two family to three family in May of 1985. I have a permit request from your contractor to install an electrical service as he states it is a three family dated 7/16/2015. I have a letter from the Fire Marshall in March 2015 stating the property is being used as a legal three family. I consider this matter closed and as Zoning says there are no three families that can be granted after 1991. Sincerely Nunzio Parente."

### **Superintendent's Report (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)**

Supt. Brian Capozzi was present.

Supt. Capozzi reviewed his report with the Commissioners. He said there was a three hour OT call in on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and the employees went in to assist the Fire Dept. for a gas leak. An employee went in to assist in finding the odor. Our carbon unit needed a media change and some of the smell could be from that. There was .5 OT hours on December 16<sup>th</sup>. An employee was finishing up the Jackson St. pump station power with U.I. and the electrician. On December 30<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> there was major OT – 35 hours.

The average sludge trucks for December were 6 trucks per week. The carbon in the odor control unit reached saturation point and the media has to be changed. The first quote was for \$9500. Supt. Capozzi got another quote for \$7200. He went with the lower quote and will install the new media when the product arrives. He said the media scrubs the air so the air is not offensive, it is a filter. As soon as it comes in he will need Public Works assistance to help suck the media out. It is not considered hazardous. The Bart station was cleaned and they added a degreasing floater. The Hotchkiss station was vacuumed out with the help of Public Works. Supt. Capozzi said he and one employee cleaned it out and added the degreasing floater.

Supt. Capozzi said he will be on vacation February 20<sup>th</sup> through February 29<sup>th</sup>. He will be back March 1<sup>st</sup>. He will be available by telephone during this time.

Supt. Capozzi said that the Saturday OT has been eliminated. The CT DEEP gave permission to end having a man come into the plant to check it. If there is a holiday on Friday or Monday someone will come in to check the plant on that day. He said the de-scaler has a ¾ inch line built up and they are doing a monthly dose of soda ash in the lines to keep them from clogging. The cost is about \$300 for 5 gallons.

He continued the Jackson St. panel is almost done. U.I. finished their part and we hired Billy Jarvis, a licensed electrician to finish up our work on the panels. The fuel company will deliver more fuel for the generator when we need it. The generator capacity is 5400 gallons of fuel and we have 5000 gallons of fuel in the tank. We are 92% full. They will deliver when we are at 85% full.

Supt. Capozzi said he is asking the Board to vote to eliminate the Chemist position because now we have a Class III employee who will continue to manage the lab. Any questions?

Ms. St. Jacques said that the Chemist position is a union position. How can you eliminate it without going through the Union?

Supt. Capozzi said the job description doesn't fit the job. There's no longer mixing of the chemicals.

Ms. St. Jacques asked if he brought this to the Union.

Supt. Capozzi said no.

Chairman Parente said if the Union has a problem they can bring it to us.

Supt. Capozzi said that Derby had the same problem.

Chairman Parente said to Ms. St. Jacques that he appreciates her concern and she may be right but he is going to seek tonight to have that position eliminated. The Union can do what they have to but in the meantime we will just keep operating the way we are operating.

Supt. Capozzi discussed the purchase of the nylon gear that is used for the primary scum trough. He said it is expensive and is sold only as a set. We would have to purchase the worm gear and the half circle gear for \$3200. He is getting a quote for a manual tipping handle kit. This would eliminate the actuators that are expensive to fix. He explained how the hand tipping handle would work and it would save money and be easier to control because we just want the grease.

Supt. Capozzi explained the Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> major clog up in the road on Colony St. When Public Works cleared the line the Sunset Station was overloaded with flow and rags that were clogging the pumps. The rags kept clogging the pumps. One of our employees was actually there for over 40 hours. They brought up the trailer pump because the houses were flooding. The trailer pump had to keep the houses from flooding. The older pump in the Station died. Fortunately there was a spare pump on hand and we installed that. During the lifting of the pumps to unclog them, the electric hoist broke. He said he is getting a quote on repairing it. He is also purchasing an electric chain hoist to keep as a back up. He will also purchase another back up pump for Sunset. He said the motor and the relay had a problem and PWD tried to jump them. He said Jason St. Jacques rigged an old chain fall with a come along winch to get the new pump installed and they did it by hand for quite a while to keep the pumps going.

Mr. D'Alessio said he sent some of his men over to help with the backup. He said that Jason did a great job working this pump and equipment to keep everything going.

There was discussion on how to discourage people from flushing wipes and rags down the toilets. This is the major cause of the clogs. Mr. Stowe said that we have to do something to let the people know what can and cannot be flushed down the toilets. Mr. D'Alessio said we can send a letter in the first mailing to educate the people on what can be flushed what cannot be flushed. It was suggested to put something in the mailing in June. Mr. Stowe suggested WPCA do a separate mailing. Mr. D'Alessio suggested put it on the Website. The main concern of the WPCA members is to educate the people on the problems that arise from flushing wipes, diapers, rags, etc. and the cost to the taxpayer because of the clogs that it creates.

Chairman Parente suggested that WPCA flush the line every two months.

Discussion on flushes and what is being flushed and how the WPCA can get the residents educated on the cost for these backups and what they can and cannot flush. There was also discussion on fines, however it would be difficult to fine homeowners for this type of situation.

There was discussion on the different type of pumps for these lines. Supt. Capozzi said he ordered a new pump for the Sunset Station. There are 14 pump stations in Ansonia. Mr. D'Alessio said they had this problem 40 years ago at this Sunset Station. Chairman Parente said we should get someone in there to look at that Station, maybe put in a culvert, so we can clean it out. Supt. Capozzi said the station is taking money and man hours so why don't we just eliminate the Station and put in a man hole so we can clean it out. Supt. Capozzi said the homeowner next to the Station claims there was driveway damage. Supt. Capozzi said he took pictures, and there are two hair line cracks and an oil mark. He asked that they be on the agenda for next month.

Mr. Durante made a motion to accept Superintendent Capozzi's report as presented. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Richard Bshara was not present.

Chairman Parente said Mr. Bshara is not present so we will forgo the Financial report this month.

Chairman Parente said he will look at the budget and if there is anything important...

Mr. Stowe said you can handle it.

Chairman Parente said I can handle it but I will let you guys know if I discover something that is way out of whack.

Ms. St. Jacques said that she did get the bill paid from Empire Paving on the water used for Route 8. The water they used was metered and they were billed and they paid.

Supt. Capozzi said they were pumping water into our system so they were metered. There was a flow meter that was put on and measured before and after. We have pictures before and after.

### **New Business**

Mr. Plavnicky congratulated Mr. D'Alessio for being appointed Interim Superintendent of Public Works and probably tonight will be his last meeting.

Supt. Capozzi thanked Public Works for their help with the back up at the Sunset Station.

Mr. Plavnicky asked if they want to wait until next month to report on the generator.

Mr. D'Alessio said he was working on the generator yesterday. They tied in a line to the building. He said he wants to see what happens. They tied into the PWD building. If they can still do it then we will split the cost. He said they will work together with WPCA.

Chairman Parente said we had absolutely no problem working with Public Works, we never did.

Mr. D'Alessio said he knows that, we're always working together. It's always been that way.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to eliminate the Chemist position at WPCA based on Supt. Capozzi's recommendation. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **February Meeting**

The February Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Plavnicky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary