



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia
253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401
(203) 736-5908

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Regular Meeting

March 2, 2016

Present: Nunzio Parente, Chairman
Carmine Durante
Andrew Geruntho
William Nimons – arrived 7:40 p.m.
Ken Plavnicky
Charles Stowe, 1st Ward Alderman
Robert Turschmann

Others in Attendance: Rita St. Jacques
Richard Bshara
Brian Capozzi
John Tomasella, Shift Operator
Jason St. Jacques
Philip Tripp, President BoA
Randolph Carroll, 1st Ward Alderman
Arthur Davies, Marshall

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:00 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.

WPCA030216

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Approval of Minutes

Alderman Stowe made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the February 3, 2016 Regular meeting. Mr. Turschmann seconded.

Mr. Plavnicky said he wanted to explain why he voted no on the following motion:

“Mr. Nimons made a motion to pay the bills for 108 Platt Street this one time to foster the spirit of cooperation between the two departments. Public Works will submit to WPCA the identity of all the hot spots with a Plan to vacuum or jet all those areas to eliminate those spots. Alderman Stowe seconded. All in favor, with one no vote (K. Plavnicky – No). The motion carried 5 yes votes and 1 no vote (Plavnicky).”

He said he doesn't believe it should be a one-time thing.

Chairman Parente said the Commission is voting whether the minutes are correct. He called for a vote. All in favor, the motion carried.

Alderman Stowe said they have to talk about what Mr. Plavnicky mentioned because there was another back-up.

Mr. Capozzi said the back-up was in one of the hot spots.

Public Session

Chairman Parente asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

Michael & Lisa Brandstattr
108 Platt Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Brandstattr said he would like to resolve the issue of getting the reimbursement check and the Contractor check for the balance of the cost of the sewer back up at his home.

Chairman Parente said he is aware of the problem and last month he spoke to the Public Works Supervisor. Public Works stated they would waive the disposal fee because WPCA was paying some of the bill. He asked if Mr. Brandstattr had a copy of the invoice from the Contractor.

Mr. Brandstattr said no it was between the City of Ansonia and the Contractor.

Mrs. Brandstattr said they don't know the agreed upon amount. The City was paying the contractor directly. The contractor is Ventezzo Builders of West Haven.

There was discussion on sending out a check for the amount due. Chairman Parente said there is \$3884.0 due and Mr. Capozzi can pay half when the work is half done and the last check when the work is finished.

Mr. Brandstattr said that the work will be done in three to four days.

Chairman Parente asked Mr. Brandstattr how much money he has personally paid to the Contractor.

Mr. Brandstattr said a couple of grand (\$2000).

Chairman Parente said Mr. Capozzi will call the contractor and work out an agreement on the payment schedule. He said to Mr. Brandstattr when he receives the \$2000 from the contractor Mr. Brandstattr will take care of any WPCA fees that are past due. Chairman Parente said that Mr. Capozzi will negotiate with the contractor for the payment.

Mr. Brandstattr said that he would pay any balances that he has with the WPCA once he receives his reimbursement from the Contractor.

Chairman Parente said to Mr. Brandstattr “does he have his word that he will take care of any balances due to WPCA”.

Mr. Brandstattr said “Chairman Parente has his word that he would take care of any balances due to the WPCA”.

Mr. Capozzi said that he needs to have an invoice from the contractor.

Mr. Brandstattr said he will ask the contractor to provide an invoice to WPCA.

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.

Deviate from the agenda – Marshall Art Davies

Alderman Stowe made a motion to deviate from the agenda to hear Marshall Davies report. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Marshall Arthur Davies was present.

Marshall Davies said he is happy to answer any questions that the Board may have with regard to collections.

Chairman Parente said the Board has questions about different accounts that are past due and if you were present they would be able to ask those questions. The Board doesn't know what accounts you are collecting from and how much they are paying, etc.

Marshall Davies said that Ansonia Copper & Brass is the major delinquency. He said he has made efforts to collect.

There was a lengthy discussion on Ansonia Copper & Brass and on collections from other delinquent accounts.

Chairman Parente said the Board doesn't have a problem with Marshall Davies' collections. The WPCA didn't know what was going on with the collections.

Marshall Davies said he provides a print out of the disposition of the top 50 delinquents each month. He focuses his efforts on them. He has gotten the high numbers down to under \$10,000. He said he communicates with the delinquent payers regarding the collection of their past due accounts. He said he works with them.

Chairman Parente asked Marshall Davies to give WPCA the top 10 delinquent accounts on a monthly basis and advise the Board what accounts he is collecting.

Ms. St. Jacques said basically that is what she gives the Board each month in her report.

There was discussion on what is in the report regarding the collections from Marshall Davies. Chairman Parente said he wants the top 10 in the report. He said it may take a few months for the Board to be able to see that they are the same names.

Ms. St. Jacques asked Chairman Parente how he wanted to handle the two accounts that she gave him.

Chairman Parente said he wants the top 10 so he can begin to chart them. He knows nothing about Cook's.

Marshall Davies said Cook's had a tax abatement program as a new person coming into town. They violated this agreement. He had a tax warrant and it went up for auction and then it was pulled from auction.

Alderman Stowe said we need to be proactive.

There was discussion on Cook's account, on WPCA being proactive, on listing the past due accounts every month and engaging in conversation concerning these activities. Chairman Parente said WPCA would be able to operate on their budget if they had the list of top 10 delinquent accounts and their payment schedule.

Ms. St. Jacques said that Marshall Davies collected \$122,000 this month.

Discussion continued on the collection procedure. Marshall Davies said that he is collecting from Spectrum/Birmingham. They agreed to make monthly payments. Chairman Parente said all he wants is the top 10 monthly and for the Marshall to get proactive with those accounts.

Chairman Parente said that Marshall Davies is doing a good job collecting the delinquent accounts. He suggested Marshall Davies contact Ms. St. Jacques to get the list. He also stated if there is an enforcement issue WPCA will react.

Ms. St. Jacques said that Mr. Plavnicky asked a question regarding the Marshall's abilities as a Marshall in collecting.

Marshall Davies said he can execute against bank accounts except he cannot sell property for sewer fees. They can collect sewer fees in conjunction with the taxes. He said we have people who are paying monthly. He is focusing on the big accounts.

Chairman Parente asked if there were any questions for Marshall Davies. There were none. He thanked Marshall Davies for attending the meeting this evening.

Deviate from the agenda – 12 West Brookside Avenue

Mr. Turschmann made a motion to deviate from the agenda to hear Ms. Baker. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Paula Baker
12 West Brookside Ave.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Baker said she is here this evening as a follow up to last month regarding the damage to her driveway.

Chairman Parente said he called their contractor last week and left a message. He didn't hear from him so he called again and is waiting on that call. He said he will call the contractor again. The WPCA only meets once a month. He said he has a question – when a driveway is done and the curb cut done there is a 1 ½ inch lip that is left – he said the Baker driveway doesn't have that. He asked why there is no lip.

Ms. Baker said she didn't know.

There was discussion on how a driveway is prepared and installed with the driveway lip. Ms. Baker said she did not know why there was no lip but she will ask. Chairman Parente said he will call them. They should have done it or told her they didn't do it. Ms. Baker said she didn't know why it wasn't done but she does understand what Chairman Parente is talking about.

Mr. Plavnicky asked the total cost of the driveway.

Alderman Stowe asked “did we drive our truck on her driveway?” If the driveway was made as stated it could not handle a 22 ton vehicle but could handle a lighter vehicle. Did we drive on the driveway?

Mr. Capozzi said the VAC Truck did not go on the driveway.

Chairman Parente said the proposal is for 4” of asphalt compact to 3” with 6” of process.

Discussion on the material used for the driveway and what it could handle in terms of vehicle weight. Alderman Stowe questioned the oil marks in front of the driveway garage door. Chairman Parente said the VAC Truck is 2 years old and should not be leaking oil. The homeowner was upset that he could not pull into the driveway. Not one truck drove on the driveway. WPCA backed over the Belgium Block. Half the driveway entrance was blocked and they could not move the truck because the crane was broken and hanging in the air. They asked the homeowner to please park on the street. Chairman Parente said WPCA is not at a point to make a decision on Ms. Baker’s driveway.

Mr. Durante made a motion to go back to the agenda. Alderman Stowe seconded. All in favor, so 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 said she attached an informational pamphlet that the Town of Stratford sends out to their rate payers.

There was discussion on the pamphlet from Stratford. Mr. Plavnicky said that Mr. Dziekan is changing it for next month’s meeting. He will have a copy for everyone.

Ms. St. Jacques advised the Board that the new person working in the WPCA office was selected by the Mayor. She had no input into the decision.

Alderman Stowe asked if the person is working and doing her job.

Ms. St. Jacques said she is working out very well. She said she is upset with the way it was handled and the animosity that it caused. It was a waste of everyone’s time when the decision was already made.

Chairman Parente said WPCA welcomes her and we wish her good luck and good fortune. He said that WPCA needs to hire an attorney and not a local attorney to represent them. There is a lot of inequity and other issues that will be coming before WPCA.

Chairman Parente said the end of this year's budget is getting close and we need to watch the Departments and the line items.

Ms. St. Jacques stated that Ms. Turschmann has been removed from the medical insurance as requested. She said the bank balances are in the report.

Ms. St. Jacques showed the Board members the two Rate Books. She said these are the final posted Rate Books for past years. The cost is \$450 each. She is thrilled to receive them. She has asked that they go back as far as they can to prepare the Rate Books that WPCA did not receive. WPCA previously received Rate Books every year and a previous Administrator stopped purchasing them. She said it is very important to the office to have these books as you can go back and look at the account history.

Ms. St. Jacques said the WPCA has to set a public hearing for next month for the Special Project rate.

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

New Business

Discussion on pre-payment for loan/project

Chairman Parente asked Mr. Bshara if he was able to prepare the information for the pre-payment for the loan/project that was discussed last month.

Mr. Bshara said that he was extremely busy this month due to the preparation of the 2016-2017 Budget and did not get the information together. He will work on it.

There was discussion on using the Nitrogen funds to pay down on the loan. The nitrogen payment is \$88,605 this year. Chairman Parente said there was an unexpected cost of \$16,000 to Public Works this year. He suggested WPCA budget a payment on the loan in the next budget beginning 7/1/2016. WPCA should establish an amount. Mr. Capozzi said the nitrogen program ended and the payments will be sliding down. Alderman Stowe said on the due date we will be behind in payments because of the income interest rate decrease.

Mr. Nimons asked Mr. Bshara how much we will be short.

Mr. Bshara said about \$250,000 to \$300,000. We'll stop billing and we will have to continue to pay. He discussed some of the initiatives that could be implemented to make up the short fall for the 311 Project.

The commissioners discussed the sewer use bills, the \$50 capital improvement fund and the 311 project funds and how they are accounted for in the budget lines. There is a concern that there is money in the accounts that is not earning any interest.

Old Business

Pay Bills

Mr. Plavnicky asked if there are any bills to be paid.

Mr. Bshara asked if the WPCA is authorizing payment for the Brandstattr's as long as there is an invoice.

Mr. Capozzi said that there has to be an invoice for payment.

Chairman Parente said Mr. Capozzi will negotiate the payment – either a 3 payment or a 2 payment. He said to tell the Brandstattr's that the agreement to be negotiated will be for half the bill for half the work to the contractor, or second half to the contractor and the contractor will give the homeowner \$2000.

There was a discussion on who is responsible for the payment of sewer back-ups – WPCA or Public Works Dept. Alderman Stowe said based on the Charter all repairs to the sewer/storm is the Public Works Dept. until it gets to the Plant. The commissioners discussed how surrounding towns handle sewer back- up charges. It was agreed that the sewer back- up at a residence needs to be cleaned.

Mr. Plavnicky said the WPCA should be responsible to pay when there is a back up into a house.

Mr. Durante said this Board doesn't participate in the Public Works meeting and Mr. Plavnicky has advised us of the problem and the Supt. of Public Works can come to WPCA and tell us what is happening. We don't have to make a decision.

Alderman Stowe said the people should not have to wait six months to get their home cleaned up. He said according to the Charter Public Works is responsible. They will have to get a fund for this purpose.

Chairman Parente stated the WPCA has to have their own attorney. The Charter states Public Works is responsible for the lines. He said we helped Public Works out last month because they were short funds.

Discussion continued on the responsibility for the clean- ups and what the Charter states regarding WPCA and Public Works. Ms. St. Jacques gave a brief history of what happened in the past. Former Supt. Maffeo oversaw Public Works and WPCA together. There was never a

split and never a fight. He would go out and take care of it on behalf of WPCA and PWD. That was before they were separated.

Alderman Stowe asked if the money came from the same budget even though there were two departments.

Ms. St. Jacques said the DEEP mandated that WPCA and Public Works separate. There were separate accounts for each of them once they separated. She said every single thing was separate. She said she was just telling them how it used to work.

Alderman Stowe said he doesn't want to see people waiting six months to get their houses cleaned. He said there were bills that former Supt. Novak had regarding the sewer back-ups that were not paid. WPCA was asked to help Public Works out because of this but we are not responsible.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to vote on payment this evening on whether we believe it is WPCA's responsibility or not our responsibility or wait until we get legal counsel.

Discussion on the motion.

Alderman Stowe withdrew his motion.

The Board discussed hiring an attorney to work with them on legal issues. Alderman Stowe stated the Charter says WPCA is not responsible for sewer clean-ups. He said until we do more research at this time we believe Public Works is responsible. He said are not going to pay until it is proven otherwise.

There was discussion on sewer back-ups in residential homes and the clean-up process. There was a question of the homeowners insurance covering the clean-up. Chairman Parente said usually when there is a back-up the resident calls the City of Ansonia. If there is a problem they call Roto Router and no one gives them direction to call their insurance company. He said this needs to be clarified legally as to who is responsible. The line from the house to the road is the homeowner's responsibility.

Alderman Stowe stated WPCA had a discussion on repairing of private property due to sewer back-ups and more information is needed from the Supt. of Public Works.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to table the issue of repairing of private property due to sewer back-up because Michael D'Alessio, Supt. of Public Works was not present at the WPCA meeting. The secretary will send a letter requesting Supt. D'Alessio's presence at the next WPCA meeting. Mr. Durante seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Durante made a motion to hire an attorney to look into all WPCA issues and there will be a RFQ posted. Alderman Stowe seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Nimons said with an RFQ there will be four or five competent firms responding.

Ms. St. Jacques said the previous attorney dealt with the legal ads, bankruptcies, liens, etc. After he left, Ms. Turschmann was familiar with these legal issues and handled them in the office but she is no longer with the WPCA. She said that she is not familiar with legal ads, bankruptcies and liens, etc. and she would request that these duties be included in the specifications for the RFQ.

New Business

Board of Aldermen – Resolution

Chairman Parente said there is a Resolution for the Board of Aldermen’s March 8, 2016 meeting regarding a regionalization study. Copies were given to the members. A copy is attached to the minutes.

Chairman Parente said last year VCOG had a \$271,000 grant to do a feasibility study to interconnect Ansonia and Derby. Ansonia WPCA engineer was Prime and Derby WPCA engineer was Weston Samson. Each submitted a proposal. He said the results of the study was Prime stated we can start immediately and Weston said it was 20 years away. He continued to explain the events of that study stating that grant was never approved. He said Naugatuck Valley COG has a 1.3 million dollar grant. He said they spoke with the Mayors and Grant Writer but no one ever spoke to the WPCA in the towns or to bring it to the WPCA Boards for discussion. He said it is not for the Mayor to decide but for the WPCA Board to decide. The Resolution is asking the Board of Aldermen/Mayor to be the agent. He said he is asking the WPCA to send a letter to the Mayor stating that WPCA doesn’t authorize him to be a binding agent for the WPCA.

There was a lengthy discussion on the proposed Resolution and the position of the WPCA in this matter. The commissioners discussed the surrounding town’s locations and feasibility of joining with Ansonia. The Seymour WPCA is operated by a private firm. There was discussion on the Derby plant and the capacity of the Ansonia plant.

Alderman Stowe made a motion that the WPCA reviewed the Resolution of Endorsement and Authorization and the consensus of the Board was without further information WPCA would request that the Board of Aldermen table this at the present time. A letter to be sent to the Board of Aldermen for their March 8, 2016 meeting. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to send a letter to Mayor Cassetti stating that in the future if there are any issues affecting the WPCA which is an autonomous body, the WPCA would appreciate it if Mayor Cassetti would inform them before trying to be the binding agent on their behalf. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Nimons left the meeting at this time (9:05 p.m.)

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

Supt. Brian Capozzi, John Tomasella and Jason St. Jacques were present.

Supt. Capozzi said there may be a few more Sludge trucks in the Spring.

Mr. Tomasella explained the restaurant inspections that they have been working on this month. He has a sheet that he prepared listing all of the food establishments that have to be inspected. He briefly reviewed the sheet with the Board stating the program needs a policy in place.

There was discussion on the inspection process and what is needed in the program. Mr. Tomasella said the Health Dept. will provide updated lists. Supt. Capozzi said that they inspect the business, give them time to do what is needed (three months) and if no work is done another three months to get a quote for a total of six months to comply. Mr. Durante said he doesn't want to put anyone out of business.

Chairman Parente said to put a plan in place as to how Mr. Tomasella will handle the restaurant inspection process and present it to the WPCA.

Mr. Tomasella said he would put a plan together. A plan that includes the following items: noting the certification letters, teaching the permittee how to do the process and an outline of the time line.

Chairman Parente said that the last time he spoke to Supt. D'Alessio there was supposed to be a comprehensive plan of the Hot Spots in the City and what we are going to do with regard to maintenance, etc.

Supt. Capozzi said he gave a list of the Hot Spots to Kevin Cegelka three weeks ago.

Mr. Plavnicky said the VAC Truck went out and did three of them.

Chairman Parente said he doesn't have the Hot Spot Plan yet and it should include the number of times the VAC truck went out and where it went because this is preventative maintenance on the Hot Spots.

Supt. Capozzi asked about the \$3000 to cover the clean-up bills for Platt Street and Brookside Ave. He said the claims line needs \$3000 for these bills.

Supt. Capozzi said that Jason St. Jacques put a lot of work into the crane specifications. There are four quotes. The \$27,000 crane quote is the best one for WPCA.

Chairman Parente asked about the maintenance on the generator.

Supt. Capozzi said that they ran the CAT generator for 3 hours and the water leak was about a half drop that was hanging on the water pump. There were no spots on the floor. At the end of the 3 hours there were no drops or spots on the floor. He said the flow meters are good and the carbon unit and odor control is good. Public Works Dept. vacuumed out the old stuff and installed the new stuff and there are no odors.

Mr. Turschmann asked Mr. St. Jacques if the \$27,000 included installation.

Mr. St. Jacques said it includes installation. He said WPCA can remove the body ourselves and it will save us a little bit of money. It is an auto crane with a nap hide body. The truck has 1600 pounds lift gate and is fully hydraulic. It is a net star lif, a safe system. The bed has in cab lights, plow on truck and tow back up pump de-lockers, slide out drawers. He said to get the thicker rubber we have to add \$1000 and for the Inverter we have to add \$2500 and then the

truck becomes a generator. The truck will do 3500 pounds at six feet out. The cable is certified every year. We have a chain fall that is certified. DeJana will do the certification on site. He said it was needed and when it failed it was scary for everyone. The low bid was not a good body.

Mr. Durante said it failed, is it covered under insurance?

There was a lengthy discussion on the capability of the lift on the truck and the cost of a new truck and the insurance. The consensus of the Board was to have the crane company (DeJana) remove the body.

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

Mr. Durante made a motion based on Mr. St. Jacques' and Supt. Capozzi's research the WPCA purchase the new crane for \$27,000 with the addition of \$3000 for the Inverter and ancillary expenses – Total \$30,000. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Parente said the WPCA will need \$30,000 for the purchase of the crane and \$3000 for the clean-up of Platt and Brookside.

Mr. Durante made a motion to transfer \$33,000 from the legal line item to the appropriate line items. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Richard Bshara was present.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to defer the Financial Report to next month. Mr. Durante seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Executive Session

None

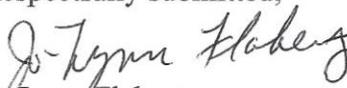
April Meeting

The April Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Stowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Mr. Durante seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary