



## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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

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*James A. Turschmann*  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting

July 6, 2016

Present: Nunzio Parente, Chairman  
Andrew Geruntho  
Ken Plavnicky  
Charles Stowe, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman  
Robert Turschmann

Absent: Carmine Durante  
William Nimons

Others in Attendance: Rita St. Jacques  
Richard Bshara  
Brian Capozzi  
Joan Radin, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:02 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.

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## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Turschmann made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the May 4, 2016 Regular meeting. Mr. Plavicky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

## **Public Session**

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

Ms. St. Jacques stated she will speak on behalf of Mr. Tecci who is a property owner. She said he e-mailed her and stated he would not be able to attend the meeting this evening because he was having heart surgery today. She said he contacted her office regarding the in-law apartments and the increase in his bill. She said he advised her he is asking for a single family status. His bill went from \$270 to \$405 which is the in-law fee. His home was inspected by the City of Ansonia and there is an in-law apartment. He was told he had to remove the kitchen to qualify as a single family dwelling. He is asking WPCA if he could be billed as a single family dwelling. He said he is having heart surgery today and has not been able to do this work. Ms. St. Jacques said that she will continue to bill him as an in-law apartment because he has a legal in-law apartment.

Chairman Parente said Mr. Tecci would like a waiver of the in-law fee however he is not here this evening. He said Ms. St. Jacques will continue to bill him for the in-law apartment.

Mr. Plavnicky agreed that Mr. Tecci is not here this evening to discuss this with the commission. Everyone else with an in-law apartment is paying that rate.

Ms. St. Jacques said Mr. Tecci has not been billed for the in-law apartment from 2009 through 2014. He was billed as a single family. She said this was in response to the letters sent out by the Assessor for in-law apartments and the WPCA sent out letters also regarding the billing for in-law apartments.

Chairman Parente asked Ms. St. Jacques to send Mr. Tecci a letter to let him know when the next WPCA meeting will be held.

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.

## **Decision: Sewer Use Rate**

Chairman Parente reviewed the sewer rates as follows:

Sewer Use rate: from \$2.65 per 100 c.f. to \$2.45 per 100 c.f.  
Well rate: from \$244 per unit to \$207 per unit  
Capital Improvement fee: from \$50 to \$60

He said the net result is a 2 ½ % rate reduction in billing.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to approve the rates for the GL 2015 billing as follows:

Sewer Use: **\$2.45** per 100 c.f. from \$2.65  
Well: **\$207** per unit from \$244  
Capital Fee: **\$ 60** per bill from \$50

**with a 2 ½ % net reduction in billing.**

Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Robert Haddad re: Easement on his property to eliminate Silver Hill Pump Stations**

Chairman Parente said no one is present this evening to represent this application.

Supt. Capozzi said that Mr. D'Amico has drawn the plans.

Chairman Parente asked Mr. Capozzi to send Mr. Haddad a letter to let him know when the next meeting will be held.

Alderman Stowe asked what the plan is for the property.

Chairman Parente explained that Mr. Haddad may grant WPCA an easement through his property that will enable WPCA to eliminate two pump stations. In exchange for this easement WPCA will install his sewer lateral.

### **Budget Housekeeping**

Chairman Parente said he originally planned to make individual budget transfers for the end of year but in speaking with Mr. Bshara it was decided to have all of the monies not expended transferred into the Capital Account.

Mr. Bshara said he will get WPCA the amount to be transferred to the Capital Account.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to transfer into the Capital Improvement line all of the excess funds that drop to the bottom line at the end of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to transfer \$1882.00 as follows:

<u>Amount IN</u>		<u>Amount OUT</u>	
		Contingency	
		1-108-0999-21-860-0003:	\$1882.00
Wages PT Finance			
1-108-0999-21-111-0001:	\$ 40.00		
Utilities/Water:			
1-108-0999-21-410-0001;	\$1842.00		
Total:	\$1882.00	Total:	\$1882.00

Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **New Budget 2016-2017**

Chairman Parente said that the new budget represents a 2 ½ % rate reduction and it was approved.

Mr. Bshara stated that the WPCA has to vote on the FY 2016-2017 Budget which is attached to the Rate Calculation sheet. He said the Revenue is \$2,391,960 and the Expendures is \$2,391,960 which is a balanced budget. The budget should be approved as part of the approval for the rates.

Supt. Capozzi stated the Accumulated line should be \$9,000.

There was discussion on the Accumulated line item. Chairman Parente suggested the Accumulated line be increased to \$9,000 and the Legal line be decreased to \$47,000.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Budget with the following changes:

1-108-0999-21-246-0000 ACCUMULATED is increased to \$9,000 and  
1-108-0999-21-321-0000 LEGAL is decreased to \$47,000

Mr. Turschmann 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 thanked Michelle Bradshaw, Finance Dept. for pulling all the lien data and putting it into a spreadsheet.

Alderman Stowe asked why WPCA changed their minds with regard to the lien sale.

Chairman Parente said after careful reflection on the lien sale and the old WPCA accounts that will drop off after 15 years and WPCA has not been successful in collecting these accounts, he thought WPCA could piggyback on the lien sale as a one shot deal. He said he spoke to Mr. Bshara on this approach and it may be successful and WPCA can get these old accounts off the books and move forward. The other accounts that are old will continue to go to Marshall Davies for collection.

Alderman Stowe said WPCA will have a windfall this year but next year WPCA will not have that interest income.

There was discussion on the collection of the past due old accounts that are still on the books and are nearing 15 years old. Mr. Bshara explained the reason why WPCA decided to participate in the lien sale. He said WPCA asked to add the WPCA group that had collection problems in the past (nearing 15 years). Included in the group were the real old accounts that WPCA was not able to collect. The theory was to get rid of the real old ones that are close to suspension and WPCA would still get their money.

Chairman Parente explained that the person purchasing the liens would have to buy all of them or none of them. They can't pick and choose which ones they want to buy. He said by August 1<sup>st</sup> the City would have selected a company.

Mr. Bshara said the bids are out and will be opened August 1, 2016.

Ms. St. Jacques said she is not completely sold on the lien sale. She said there are homeowners that are making payments monthly and there will be pressure from this company who buys the liens. They say the lien sale enables the homeowner to stay in their home but the same homeowner is forced to come up with the money by this company who bought the liens.

Alderman Stowe said there are moral issues and devaluation of property if the homeowner is not able to pay the company. He said he feels there are issues with the lien sale. He said WPCA is comfortable with the decision but he feels sorry for the people. Next year we will have the same individuals that are delinquent in their payments. He asked if Ansonia Copper & Brass is on the list.

Ms. St. Jacques stated they were taken off the list.

Mr. Bshara explained there is brownfields on the Ansonia Copper & Brass site and they cannot be on the list.

Discussion on the lien sale process. The lien purchaser usually purchases all of the liens for the same property so that the liens will remain together.

Ms. St. Jacques said that she doesn't have the monthly financials from Finance as they have been very busy with the year end process. She said WPCA hit the million dollar mark for the Special Project collections. The Grand Rate book is available for the commissioners to look at.

Mr. Bshara stated there was a computer cut-over and it caused the report totals to be different. He said there is \$150,000 more collected than what was on his report.

Ms. St. Jacques noted that Marshall Davies report is in the packet. He removed the paid in full accounts and these accounts are off the lien list.

Ms. St. Jacques said the delinquent notice of intent to lien statements were sent out last week. She said she and Tracey prepared and mailed them. The liens have to be placed by August 1<sup>st</sup> because of the lien sale. The bankruptcy collections are in the packet.

Mr. Plavnicky asked if the brochure will be in the September bills.

Supt. Capozzi said that he has the brochures.

There was discussion on the cost for the brochures. Every Ready Press charged \$400 to print the brochures. Q.D.S. cost would have been \$2400 plus a \$75 fee to stuff the envelopes. The fee to stuff the envelopes is now \$1000 and we will have someone bring the brochures to Waterbury.

There was a discussion on the multiplier rates for the Special Project Billing. Ms. St. Jacques stated there is a rate chart which she will bring to the next meeting.

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

## **New Business**

### Ansonia Derby Agreement and Derby Fee Schedule

Mr. Bshara stated he sent a letter to Derby WPCA and a letter to Tom Clifford, Regional Water Authority. He hasn't heard back from them as yet but it has only been a short time.

Discussion on the Agreement and Fee Schedule and that these agreements are about 22 years old and should be reviewed. Ansonia WPCA and Derby WPCA should sit down together and go over the agreements and contracts.

Luca Petracca & John Gibson re: Earth Core Energy Services Presentation

Supt. Capozzi said they are not here this evening. He said there is no new information from Earth Core Energy. They are working on a final proposal to present to the WPCA.

Chairman Parente asked Supt. Capozzi to notify them to come to the September meeting of the Board.

Supt. Capozzi said that they visited the WPCA plant and looked through everything there, the lighting and the HVAC system and the pump stations.

Alderman Stowe asked if Earth Core is working with City of Ansonia or WPCA.

Chairman Parente explained he saw that they did work with Fairfield and he asked Supt. Capozzi to have them come down here to WPCA to see how they can help Ansonia. They have to present a proposal that will save WPCA money. They are not working with the City of Ansonia.

Mr. Bshara said the City of Ansonia just did this energy efficiency study.

There was discussion on the City of Ansonia's energy study and rates. Alderman Stowe asked to have the rates for WPCA put on a sheet for everyone to review.

There was discussion on the billings for municipal buildings and other large buildings in the City. Alderman Stowe questioned how the amount billed is arrived at. He said the Fire Museum bill is \$1600. Ms. St. Jacques said the billing is done by square footage not by bathrooms. Mr. Bshara said the billing is done by the business.

The Commissioners continued the discussion on the multipliers for the Project Fee and the different rates for the municipal buildings. Mr. Bshara said WPCA voted on all of the multipliers for the Project. Ms. St. Jacques will provide a list of the multipliers for the buildings.

Discussion continued on the WPCA billing. Public Works Dept. is responsible for all the municipal buildings in Ansonia for the Project fee. Mr. Bshara stated that WPCA should review this and make changes if that is what they want to do.

**Old Business**

Payment of Bills

None

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Alderman Stowe asked if it has been determined who is responsible for sewer back ups. He said WPCA discussed hiring an attorney who is familiar with sewer rates, etc.

Mr. Bshara said that Sheila O'Malley just went out for proposals for an attorney.

Alderman Stowe discussed the issues where residents have back ups into their homes and there is a questions as to who is responsibility for cleaning it up. He said the charter says PWD is responsible for the pipes. He said WPCA needs an attorney to review the Charter and resolve this issue.

Chairman Parente said that Ms. O'Malley drafted the RFQ for the attorney at his request.

### **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. There was no overtime in June. There was an average of seven sludge trucks a week in June . The average flow for June was 1.39 million gallons a day. He said they were able to do nine (9) FOG inspections in June. He said Molto Bene will be completed in 60 days to comply with FOG and Stop & Shop's GARUnit needs to be repaired. He will follow up on these. The fence at the Bart Pump Station has been fixed.

Supt Capozzi discussed the Reichelt Terrace/Silver Hill Road pump stations with the Commissioners. He said Reichelt Terrace pump station stopped working and he and Jason St. Jacques pulled the pump out and found it was stopped up with grit. They brought it to Homa Pump for an estimate. A new pump is \$3000 plus and to repair the pump it was \$900. They had the pump repaired. Both rails at the Jackson St. pump station were replaced with new stainless steel rails and brackets. He said it took himself and Jason one full day to replace them.

Alderwoman Radin asked Supt. Capozzi to look at the drains at the bottom of Jackson St. There is a circular pipe sticking up into the road with an orange cone near the storm drain.

Supt. Capozzi said he will take a look at it tomorrow.

A copy of his report is attached to the minutes.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to accept Supt. Capozzi's report. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Financial Report**

Mr. Richard Bshara was present.

Mr. Bshara explained the WPCA Collections stating there was a computer issue and over \$150,000 will be posed in July of this year. He said the Rate Book for the 554 project and the Sewer Use year end June 30, 2016 sheets are in the packet. The expenditure summary shows \$2,023,946 out of the budget and the revenue summary shows \$4.7 million collected which is very good. He reviewed the Wages/Accrual and the Adjustment for benefit sheets with the commission.

Mr. Turschmann made a motion to accept Mr. Bshara's report as presented this evening. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Executive Session**

None

## **August Meeting**

The August Regular meeting has been cancelled due to the summer vacation schedules.

## **Adjourn**

Alderman Stowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary