WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia
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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting

September 7, 2016

Present: Nunzio Parente, Chairman
Carmine Durante
Ken Plavnicky
Charles Stowe, 1st Ward Alderman
Robert Turschmann

Absent: Andrew Geruntho
William Nimons

Others in Attendance: Rita St. Jacques
Richard Bshara
Brian Capozzi
Randolph Carroll, 1st Ward Alderman
Joan Radin, 5th 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. Plavnicky made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the July 6, 2016 Regular meeting and July 6, 2016 Public Hearing. Mr. Turschmann 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.

Joan Radin, 5th Ward Alderwoman
198 Wakelee Ave.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Alderwoman Radin discussed the Model Home that was recently constructed on Hull St. She stated it doesn't have a cellar or attic and they must blast for city water and sewers. She said she is upset with the proposed housing that is planned on the site. The model home is no larger than a garage. She took a picture of the building. The contractor got permits to construct the house. She said it hasn't gone before P&Z and there is a need for a public hearing on the proposal. There are a lot of questions that are not answered.

Mr. Durante asked Alderwoman Radin how she found out about this development.

Alderwoman Radin stated she had a problem on Webb Terrace and went up there to see the homeowner and she saw the cement slab with the model house on it. She said there was a permit issued and Mr. Hoinsky is the contractor.

Supt. Capozzi stated the contractor came in for a permit and told him he was replacing the home that was there.

Chairman Parente said that he and Supt. Capozzi went up to the site to look at the house. It is priced at $175,000 and is 680 s.f. They will be diligent to monitor the sewer system there.

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.

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

Mr. Michael Horbal and Mr. Robert Haddad were present.

Mr. Horbal explained to the commissioners that Mr. Haddad is the owner of the land on Silver Hill Road down to the turnaround. He said his goal is to build a single family home on the turnaround (Reichelt Terrace). Mr. Fred D'Amico spoke to them regarding the WPCA's desire

to eliminate the pump station and invest in a gravity fed system. Mr. Horbal presented a preliminary plan showing the sewer easement through the Haddad property that was approved by Mr. D'Amico. He gave three (3) copies of the preliminary plan to the members. The plan shows the proposed sewer line terminating at Reichelt Terrace with the pumping station. There is a 25 foot wide easement. They will have a 20 foot temporary easement for construction. There is no room to provide a temporary easement near Osborndale State Park and the McDermott property.

Alderman Stowe asked the minimum width of an easement.

Mr. Horbal said there is an intermittent watercourse and catch basin from Silver Hill Road through the Haddad property.

Alderman Stowe asked the depth of the sewer.

Mr. Horbal said Mr. D'Amico prepared the preliminary sewer line profile. Construction is minimum 4 feet to cover over the pipe, there is steep terrain and a couple of drop manholes.

Alderman Stowe asked if there is going to be concrete there.

Mr. Horbal said he has a copy of the plan for the proposed house showing the sewer easement, storm water easement for the brook, the piece to be conveyed to the City of Ansonia. The water flows to Mr. Haddad's property and to the State of CT property. He said Inland Wetlands is aware of the issues with the land. They are in the process of speaking with the owner (Mr. Gomez) of the property located there to resolve the storm water issues.

Mr. Horbal said with the gravity method to Reichelt Terrace the house will not interfere with the flow because it is too far away. He said if Mr. Haddad built the house there is still room to put the sewer in. He said they need WPCA approval of the easement. He said IWC approved the plan with the condition they received WPCA approval of the easement.

Alderman Stowe said WPCA should ask their engineer if the swale doesn't need to be encased in concrete.

Chairman Parente asked when they planned to begin the project.

Mr. Haddad said as soon as he receives all of the approvals.

Mr. Horbal said this year. Once they have final approval from IWC they will go to the Building Dept. The lot has been in existence.

Supt. Capozzi asked if the house will feed into the gravity system.

Mr. Horbal said the connection depends on what is first. The house will go into the pump station if the easement and gravity line are not built. He will connect to the gravity line once it is completed.

Chairman Parente said he recommends WPCA grant approval.

Mr. Durante made a motion to grant permission for the easement for the sewer gravity line. Mr. Turschmann seconded.

Alderman Stowe stated he wants to add to the motion that prior to construction of said sewer, the sewer swale is to be inspected by the City Engineer to see if it requires concrete encasement.

All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Horbal said he will go to IWC and he will finalize the easements through the City of Ansonia's attorney and Mr. Haddad's attorney.

A letter will be sent to IWC stating WPCA approved the sewer easement. A copy of the map presented to the WPCA this evening is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Update on Tax Lien Sale

Chairman Parente stated WPCA was looking for $720,000 in liens to be purchased. They received $640,000. He said WPCA did well and it cleaned the balance sheet of the old "stuff". He said $640,000 has to be added to the budget.

Mr. Bshara stated WPCA budgeted some of this money.

There was discussion on the budgeted funds received from the tax lien sale and the income. Mr. Bshara explained how the funds were incorporated into the budget as income. There is $350,000 as prior year taxes being collected. Chairman Parente asked where did the income come from last year. Mr. Bshara stated collections.

The discussion continued on the tax lien sale and how the funds were applied to the budget. Mr. Bshara explained in detail how it was applied. He increased it some because he was not sure what WPCA would get.

Chairman Parente asked for the back collection rate to date and Mr. Davies collection to date.

Mr. Bshara reviewed the monthly collection report from Mr. Davies with the commission members. He said the collection is lower for July and August 2016 than last year. He discussed the amount of money that is the principal collected and the interest collected. He said there will be a surplus this year. The $640,000 is not posted and the Nitrogen Credits are not posted. The funds are in the bank but they haven't closed the books yet. It will show in September. There was $603,767 and they gave us $37,000 over the rate payers as a bonus. So we collected principal, interest and bonus.

Beth Lynch asked where the surplus funds will be posted.

Mr. Bshara stated in revenue it will be a new line item– "Lien Sale Premium Revenue". He said they did not budget for these funds in the budget.

Chairman Parente discussed the interest rate that the banks are giving on funds deposited. He suggested that $320,000 be used to pay down the 311 project loan and $320,000 put into the Capital Improvement Projects.

Alderman Stowe suggested WPCA wait to the end of the year to see what is really there.

There was discussion on how much interest is being paid on the WPCA loans and how much interest would be gained if the funds were deposited into the bank account.

Mr. Durante made a motion to take $320,000 and pay down the 311 project loan and take $320,000 and put it into the Capital Improvement Project. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Bshara discussed the budget line items that will be used to segregate the funds for accountability. He explained that $640,000 will be on the Revenue side and $640,000 will be on the Expense side. The Expense side will be broken down into two line items: 1. Pay down the 311 loan and 2. Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Bshara explained the nitrogen credit will be in the revenue stream.

Alderman Stowe stated he is concerned with who will be responsible for the sewer back up cleaning. He said some funds should be set aside to cover these expenses if our attorney says WPCA is responsible.

Chairman Parente discussed the funds that were paid to Public Works this year.

Mr. Bshara said take half the funds to pay down the 311 project and half of the funds should be appropriated to the C.I.P. line item. There should be funds to cover the expenses.

Chairman Parente asked Mr. Bshara what the total amount owed is for the 311 project.

Mr. Bshara will get that figure for the Board.

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

Rita St. Jacques, Sewer Administrator was present.

Ms. St. Jacques said there is no Sewer Administrator report this month. She said they had the Tax Lien Sale this month and she is currently having dialogue with Mr. Davies regarding foreclosure sales on some of the past due accounts not included in the sale. She asked the Commissioners what they wanted her to do – continue to collect these accounts or look into foreclosure sales.

Discussion on the above continued and on the list Mr. Bshara submitted. Chairman Parente asked why some of the past due sewer accounts weren't on the tax sale list he received from Mr. Bshara. Ms. St. Jacques stated they were supposed to be on the list but somehow they were overlooked. Mr. Durante asked whose decision it was to by-pass them. Ms. St. Jacques said no one it just happened. They discussed Mr. Bshara's list of the properties that were not purchased in the tax sale.

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 said he received the signed Certified Mail card back from Tom Clifford that he received the letter but he hasn't received the card back from Derby WPCA.

Ms. St. Jacques said WPCA sent a few accounts to Mr. Davies for collection. He collected on a few of the Derby WPCA accounts that are delinquent. She said that Derby WPCA contacted her requesting information on the usage side.

Mr. Bshara said that according to the agreement Derby is supposed to pay Ansonia 90% of the bill even if they don't collect the accounts.

Mr. Bshara stated the total owed for the 311 project is $2.789 million dollars. We are paying per month $20,000 in principal and $5,000 in interest. If we reduce the principal, the interest will go down.

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

Mr. Luca Petracca and Mr. John Gibson were present.

Mr. Gibson explained the project and what Earth Core looked at to reduce energy costs for WPCA, i.e. lighting – replace with LED lighting interior and exterior. To reduce electric usage they are offering a $125,000 incentive pay back under four (4) years. WPCA will be saving $50,000 after four years and the loan is paid back.

Mr. Turschmann asked if the cost included generation and power.

Mr. Petracca explained the Utility Company will pay them and the loan is 0% financed by the Utility Co. There is nothing out of pocket. WPCA is using energy savings. He said they go out and get the funds and pay it back to the Towns.

Chairman Parente discussed the utility company asking for a rate increase and the effect the increase would have on our electric bills. Earth Core will be putting back into the project to save electricity. He said Earth Core looks for places within the plant to save WPCA money.

Mr. Gibson said WPCA saves on energy and demand.

There was a lengthy discussion on the size of Earth Core and how they operate the project with regard to saving electricity and saving money for WPCA. Mr. Petracca explained they are a smaller company and their pay back is about four years.

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.

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 they were approached by other departments in Ansonia.

Mr. Bshara said we just did City Hall building.

Chairman Parente said they are never involved with the City.

Mr. Plavnicky asked about the LED lights and how much would be saved.

Discussion on LED lighting and the different types of lights i.e. LED and sodium and the savings for them. Mr. Petracca said that LED lights surpassed the others the last few years. The drives in the LED lights are replaced every 5 years. Mr. Turschmann asked about the installation of the lighting and the maintenance. Mr. Petracca said they do the installation and the maintenance. They will give support and maintenance for these lights.

Mr. Gibson discussed the total incentive of $125, 215 including bonus that will be given to WPCA towards this project. With 0% financed the amount over four years is $195,797. The total project cost is $256,242. (Copy of this report: Energy Opportunity Contract is on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Discussion on the above figures and the financing continued. The commissioners discussed the generation rate and should there be a better rate will UI reduce the rate to the WPCA. Mr. Gibson said WPCA is making the payment and they take the payment to UI and then put it back.

They discussed different supplies for the rate.

Discussion between Earth Core and the Commissioners regarding the installation of the equipment, the leasing of the equipment, how long it will take to pay off the loan with a third party continued.

Mr. Turschmann asked if there is a listing of the VFD that they will use. He questioned breakdowns and spares for the WPCA during operating time.

Earth Core said there are two drives and two pumps. When one pump stops the other pump will take over. They are tied into a panel. If the VFD went down the WPCA will know it.

There was discussion on the checks and calculations sent to the Utility Company and the engineer's firm. Mr. Petracca said they want to be conservative to have enough money to make the payments. Chairman Parente said he spoke with Mr. Petracca this morning regarding the proposal. He said Fred Sciave from Oxford reviewed the plans and was confident. Alderman Stowe said Fred Sciave will not tell you it will work if it will not work.

Mr. Gibson said they want to lock into the incentives. He said WPCA should sign today so that they are locked in. WPCA is not bound to the signed contract if you don't get approval for the loan. This allows Fred to secure the $130,000 because there are other companies ahead of Ansonia. He said he put in the terms and conditions that if WPCA could not get financing the contract is null and void. If you get the funding we go forward at the end of the year.

Supt. Capozzi said WPCA should try to do something.

Mr. Bshara asked if WPCA paid cash would they still give us the incentive.

Mr. Petracca said yes.

Chairman Parente said it doesn't cost WPCA a dime so we go ahead and do it and four years from now the UI bill will go down.

Mr. Durante said is there is a guarantee WPCA will save money.

Mr. Bshara said that WPCA is talking a loan for this project.

Alderman Stowe made a motion to approve the agreement with Earth Core. Mr. Plavnicky seconded. Roll call vote:

C. Durante - No
C. Stowe - Yes
K. Plavnicky - Yes
R. Turschmann -Yes
N. Parente -Yes
A. Geruntho - Absent
W. Nimons - Absent

The Chair declared the motion passed: 4 yes, 1 no, 2 absent.

Old Business

Payment of Bills

None

Unfinished Business

Alderman Stowe asked if there was an RFQ for an attorney for the WPCA.

Chairman Parente said that Ms. O'Malley sent out an RFQ for attorneys for the WPCA. There were four responses from the larger firms in the State of CT. He said the firm that WPCA hires will represent WPCA in whatever matters that we have.

There was discussion on the back ups and whose responsibility it is to pay for the cleanup. Chairman Parente gave the commissioners a brief overview of how the WPCA was formed in Ansonia. He stated the Waterbury WPCA is part of their Public Works Dept. He discussed the different WPCA's in the State of CT and how they operate.

Mr. Durante asked what the rates are for the four firms that applied.

Chairman Parente said he will talk with them and see what the rates are. He said they will be on an as needed basis so he will have to discuss their rates with them. He said these firms have a lot of experience working with WPCA's and municipalities. He said he is about saving money and we will use them when we absolutely need to. He said he looked through their proposals and brochures and he wanted to call everyone to ask them questions on their experience. He said he will then invite them down to a WPCA meeting to talk with the Commissioners.

Mr. Turschmann said to have Chairman Parente call them and discuss everything with them and bring a recommendation for two (2) firms before the Board. He asked if there are any local firms in the proposals.

Chairman Parente said no, they are from Hartford, West Hartford and East Hampton. He said for the next meeting he will select two firms to make presentations to the Board.

Mr. Plavnicky said he will let Public Works know that WPCA is moving forward.

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

Supt. Brian Capozzi was present.

Chairman Parente said the Board will go over Supt. Capozzi's report and approve it at the next meeting.

A copy of his report is attached to the minutes.

Financial Report

Mr. Richard Bshara was present.

Mr. Bshara gave everyone a packet that had copies of the letter to Mr. Clifford and Derby WPCA, Due to-Due From account, Balance sheets and WPCA collection reports. He said he is currently working on the audit.

Mr. Turschmann asked if there has been any maintenance work done by the Public Works Dept. He said that they have to come up with a schedule for maintenance. The schedule should be given to Supt. Capozzi.

Supt. Capozzi said the report will include the FOB, etc. The regulation states there must be maintenance done and a log kept on the maintenance program. When the State of CT comes down and wants to see the maintenance log, he has a log for the maintenance that WPCA is currently doing.

Mr. Turschmann said WPCA is not doing maintenance.

Supt. Capozzi stated WPCA is doing maintenance.

Mr. Durante left the meeting at this time (9:10 p.m.).

There was discussion on the maintenance schedule that is currently being followed. Mr. Turschmann asked if there is a computer program for General Maintenance that can be filled in with the numbers. Supt. Capozzi said that he has a maintenance schedule program that includes the pump station, collection system and oil changes.

October Meeting

The October Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Alderman Stowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Plavnicky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty

Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary

Board Report September 2016

Prepared By Brian M Capozzi

Superintendent Ansonia WPCA

Over Time -2 hours OT on July 1st, Upper silver hill pump lost its prime.

3 hr call in on 8/6 for a Sunset pump station issue. The floats were hung up.

For the month of July there was an average of 7 sludge trucks a week.

For August there was an average of 7 sludge trucks a week.

Flow for July was 1.3 MGD and for August was 1.2 MGD.

There were 2 Fog inspections for July, and 7 in August.

The new UTV sensor system is up and running. Jason was able to do the programming and the entire install. The new system is "talking " to the SCADA system.

The repaired Riechelt pump was installed on July 13th.

Jackson St. station has its new phone dialer programmed and operating.

Both heating systems at the plant have been flushed and refilled with the glycol water mix.

The two main hoists have been inspected and have their certification sticker attached.

On August 2nd, Arron Associates was called to the plant. The SCADA system was not communicating with the sludge pump panel. They were able to fix the programming.

There is a new permit in the works at the CT DEEP. It will involve FOG regulations, pump station regulations and collection system regulations. I will tell you more as I learn more about it.

A pump that moves the sludge from holding tanks to trucks needed to be rebuilt. The intake side needed the rebuild, the discharge side was rebuild last year. Jason did the rebuild and the pump is pumping as it should.

We ordered new rails for the White Oak station. They are in need of replacement. Jason and I will do the install in the next week or two.

Along with the other valley treatment plants, and Milford, we will be using a courier service for the Stamford Regional lab nitrogen samples. Ansonia will be the drop off and pick up location for the samples. It will add an additional cost of $12.00 a week. We all find it very difficult send an operator to Stamford because of the time involved. Each trip takes about 2-3 hrs.

Both the Bart and Coe station had their scheduled maintenance done on the generators.

Bart station was washed down and new floater was added on 8/23.

The piping in the soda ash pumping system has been re-piped, with plastic pipe. Unions were installed to make future work easier.

We received $110,000.00 in Nitrogen credits for 2015.