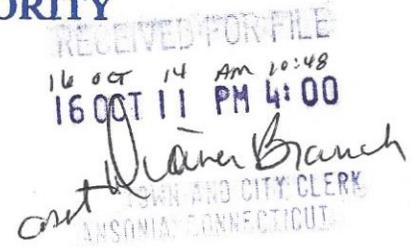




WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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



Regular Meeting

October 5, 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
Joan Radin, 5th Ward Alderwoman

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:06 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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Chairman Parente requested the secretary give him a summary of the attendance for the last ten meetings.

Alderwoman Radin stated protocol is you miss three meetings without an excuse it is an automatic resignation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Durante made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the September 7, 2016 Regular meeting. Mr. Plavnick 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.

Nunzio Parente
29 Chester St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Parente stated he is speaking during public session as a resident of Ansonia. He said there are two aldermen present and he has a question for them. He asked if the financing for the Police Dept. is for 40 years.

Alderwoman Radin stated it is for 40 years. It is similar to a mortgage.

Mr. Parente asked why normal bonding is for 20 years.

There was discussion on bonding for 20 years and the proposal for the new Police Station for 40 years. Alderwoman Radin said the payments would be lower if you borrow for 40 years. The Police Station is a loan from the Federal Government. It is not part of the Referendum bonding. Alderman Stowe said the interest rate is so low the City will be saving money with a 40 year loan.

Mr. Parente said the City is borrowing \$12 million dollars for 40 years. He asked how much the high school – Ansonia 2001 project cost.

Mr. Bshara stated \$50 million dollars for 20 years.

Mr. Parente said the WPCA plant was \$50 million dollars for 20 years.

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.

WPCA Counsel/Attorney reviews

Chairman Parente said there are four different proposals from four different firms. They are Andrew W. Lord, Murtha Cullina, Halloran & Sage and Shipman & Goodwin. He said these are big firms.

Mr. Durante asked if they charge for travel.

Chairman Parente said he has narrowed the choice down to Andrew W. Lord and Murtha Cullina. These firms are from the Hartford area and they have represented WPCA Boards in the past. He has the proposals from these firms if anyone wants to review them.

Ms. St. Jacques stated that Murtha Cullina did work for the WPCA in the past.

There was discussion on the four firms and inviting them down for a question and answer session. Chairman Parente stated he has the four proposals and invited anyone on the Board to take them and review them. The Board members can ask the Firm any question they want an answer to. Alderman Stowe said WPCA is fortunate the last few months because there hasn't been any backups. He would like to get someone hired as soon as possible.

Chairman Parente stated he would like to have the opportunity to ask questions and get answers before the WPCA hires a firm. He said the WPCA can pick a couple of dates and invite them down to Ansonia for an interview.

Ms. St. Jacques said she would like to have the security of being able to talk to someone on an issue and get an answer. She works with WPCA problems all the time and she would like to be able to pick up the phone and call the attorney without going through four people to get an answer.

Chairman Parente said he had a good experience with both Murtha Cullina and Andrew W. Lord. He was able to speak with them without a hassle, they got back to him in a timely manner and both were very well versed in WPCA issues.

Mr. Durante suggested that WPCA invite both of these firms down to make a presentation to WPCA.

Alderman Stowe discussed hiring Murtha Cullina to handle the Charter question and backups.

Mr. Durante said that Ms. St. Jacques should be involved in the hiring process, she has to work with them closely.

Alderman Stowe said he is confident the Chairman has done due diligence in reviewing the proposals and suggesting a firm. He asked if the Board wanted to hire someone tonight. Ms. St. Jacques has already worked with one of the companies and she takes care of these matters.

Mr. Durante said you had questions, do you want to vote without having them come down and talk to us?

Alderman Stowe said he is confident in Chairman Parente's decision to choose one of the two that Chairman Parente picked.

Mr. Durante made a motion to invite Murtha Cullina firm and Andrew W. Lord firm to Ansonia for a meeting. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion on the date for the meeting with the two firms. City Hall is closed Monday due to Columbus Day, The Board of Aldermen meeting is Tuesday. Alderman Radin asked to be included in the interview process for selection of the attorney. Chairman Parente invited her to attend.

Chairman Parente suggested Wednesday October 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Erlingheusser Room, City Hall. He said he will be at the Board of Aldermen's meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Turschmann reminded the Chair if there is a quorum you have to call the meeting and file in the Town Clerk's office.

Chairman Parente said there will not be a quorum for this meeting.

Alderman Stowe discussed the need to hire an attorney so he can report to the Board of Aldermen that WPCA is in the process of getting answers to their questions. He said he feels a moral issue when sewage backs up into someone's house and WPCA can't take care of it.

A discussion on sewer backups and who is responsible to pay the bill for the cleanup – WPCA or Public Works. Chairman Parente stated if the Board of Aldermen feel they should intervene they should get in touch with WPCA. Alderman Stowe said Corporation Counsel threatened WPCA with an Ordinance. Alderman Stowe stated it is a moral issue for him that the cleanups are not getting done. Chairman Parente explained there is protocol in place with regard to who responds, who pays the bill so if our Attorney says we are responsible we will work it out.

Mr. Turschmann asked Mr. Capozzi if there has been any backups since this started that have not been cleaned up in a timely manner.

Supt. Capozzi said no. The last backup the cleanup was done to remove the sewage but the restoration was not done quickly because there was a question as to payment for the work.

Pay down on 311 Loan Confirmation

Mr. Richard Bshara was present. He explained he applied \$320,000 of the WPCA tax Lien payment to the 311 Loan principal. There is a savings of about \$65,000 in interest by pre-paying. With the pay down the loan will be paid 2 years early. The future revenue collections

will be what we need in the next six collections to pay the loan. There will not be a shortfall at the end.

Mr. Bshara said the last four pages of the report he presented are the 554 Project.

Chairman Parente said WPCA asked Mr. Bshara to send a letter to Derby WPCA regarding their agreement and fees. He asked if Mr. Bshara has received any information from Derby WPCA.

Mr. Bshara said he received the return card back from the certified mailing but he hasn't heard from them. He said he is watching for the minutes of their last meeting to see if it was discussed. Derby WPCA is in collection at this time and he will wait a week or two and call Marcy.

RWA/Tom Clifford re: Thank You

Chairman Parente stated that Mr. Clifford responded to WPCA's request for assistance in getting our data from Regional Water Authority.

Ms. St. Jacques read the letter to the Board.

There was discussion on Mr. Clifford's letter to WPCA. Ms. St. Jacques stated that RWA responded and would like to meet with WPCA to discuss the rates and different options. Mr. Bshara explained what the Regional Water Authority does for Ansonia with regard to collection of data. He also explained their billing and how it is computed. Mr. Bshara stated RWA can provide the data to WPCA without all of the four quarters. WPCA uses the winter quarter and the total for year to do their comparison. WPCA always had the historical data, the winter quarter for the average and the total bill. If the data is provided to WPCA for the winter quarter and total only, this will save WPCA half the cost of the RWA bill however we will not have the data history.

Deviate from the Agenda

Alderman Stowe made a motion to deviate from the agenda and take up item #8. Executive Session to discuss: WPCA Superintendent's Contract to later in the meeting. Mr. Durante 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 discussed the e-mail she received from Tom Clifford and Regional Water Authority. She and Mr. Bshara have discussed the issues with the billing and data and they may set up a meeting with RWA. The property owner of 548 Wakelee Avenue came to WPCA

stating they have been paying for a sewer hookup since 2009 list year and they are not hooked up to the sewer.

Supt. Capozzi stated he issued a permit to dig and see if the house was connected to the sewer.

Ms. St. Jacques said they have paid since 2009 list year and they asked for a refund because they are not connected to the sewer. She said we had them pay a \$75 permit and Supt. Capozzi never charged him an impact fee or a hook up fee. It was a little less than what they would have to pay WPCA to connect so it could be considered a “wash”.

There was discussion on the property and that it was never connected to the sewer. Supt. Capozzi said they were hooked up to a septic system. Ms. St. Jacques suggested she send a letter to him that it makes sense to consider this a wash instead of going through the refund and then charging him for the permit and the connection to the sewer – it is about the same amount of money.

Alderman Stowe said the property owner should come to the WPCA meeting and tell the Board what happened when he purchased the home.

Chairman Parente said they purchased house and they thought it had city sewers.

Alderman Stowe stated they would have to sign off on an agreement that it is a wash and they agree to release WPCA.

Mr. Durante said the property owner could go to the WPCA office and sign off on the agreement that it is a wash and also that there will be no further legal action against the WPCA.

Mr. Durante made a motion to invite the property owner of 548 Wakelee Avenue to the WPCA office to sign an agreement that it is a wash on the sewer connection issue and that there will be a fresh start with regard to the billing. In the agreement it will be written that WPCA will not pursue them for any payment of fees and they will not pursue WPCA for any over payment of fees. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. St. Jacques read the letter from the property owner of 28 Hodge Avenue stated he had a water leak. He is asking WPCA for some relief on his sewer usage bill. The bill doubled from last year to this year.

The commissioners discussed how RWA handles a water leak, where they give a one time exemption for a leak. Mr. Bshara has averaged out bills that were affected by a large water leak. Supt. Capozzi stated the WPCA plant has treated that water at the same expense even though it wasn't sewage. The property owner decided to ask WPCA for relief rather than take the one time exemption from the water company. Ms. St. Jacques can adjust the bill and show how many CF were relieved. Chairman Parente said the WPCA refunds are based on the amount of water the RWA refunds. It is only fair that WPCA mirror the RWA policy. Ms. St. Jacques stated she did advise him of that.

Ms. St. Jacques read Marshall Davies letter to the Board. The September collection is \$25,377.44 and the October collections to date are \$26,500. She said she gave Marshall Davies the bounced checks she received and she hasn't heard yet of their disposition.

Alderman Stowe asked if Ansonia Copper & Brass has paid.

Ms. St. Jacques stated they are not allowed to touch that account.

Ms. St. Jacques said 44.42% was collected for Sewer Use and 52.5% was collected for the Project. She said she had a conversation with Corp. Counsel Marini this evening concerning the lien sale. He said they may be willing to come back and purchase the pieces at a little less money that they didn't buy at the last sale. She said if they are willing to take a look at them, Corp. Counsel will contact the Chairman to discuss it.

Discussion on having the Caz Creek group take the remaining past due accounts that have been difficult to collect continued. The Board will take a look at it when they present their proposal. Mr. Turschmann suggested that if they don't go with the tax lien sale WPCA should look at taking the properties.

Ms. St. Jacques discussed the Delinquent Report. There is no big difference. She explained the lien fee is still showing on the report.

Mr. Durante made a motion to accept Ms. St. Jacques Report as presented. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

New Business

Ansonia Derby Agreement and Derby Fee Schedule

Mr. Bshara stated he hasn't heard from Derby WPCA yet.

The commissioners discussed the Derby Agreement and possibly meeting with them. Mr. Durante said he spoke with Carmen DiCenso to see if he could have the Derby WPCA get back to us. Chairman Parente said he met with Mayor Dugatto.

Old Business

Payment of Bills

None

Unfinished Business

Chairman Parente said he was at the WPCA plant and he saw the truck that was rebuilt. He said that Jason St. Jacques went through the entire truck. It looks like a new body on the truck. This F350 truck we have does well with regard to safety and protecting our men. Jason keeps the truck spotless, the cabinets are in the bed, all the tools are there and the truck looks like new.

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 7 trucks are more than he likes for sludge removal. He explained to the members the problem with the sludge in the hot weather and how he tried to address it. The FOG inspections all passed with one follow up. He said that he and John Tomasella are handling the FOG inspections. They had to purchase new batteries for the Bart & Coe pump stations. He said he and Jason St. Jacques installed new rails at the White Oak pump station. The cost for the rails was \$2000 each plus labor. They did the installation themselves and saved a tremendous amount of money.

Chairman Parente discussed the bills that were paid for the repair of the generator. He said it was \$72,000 a few years ago.

Supt. Capozzi said that didn't include the water pump. It was allowed to drip. The amount that is dripping out is not that much. It would cost close to \$5,000 to \$6,000 to replace the water pump.

Discussion on the amount of water that is leaking from the generator water pump continued. Chairman Parente asked Supt. Capozzi to contact the vendor and get an estimate to fix it. He is concerned that the generator go down during a power outage.

Supt. Capozzi said he will top off the fuel in the main generator. He said the sub-contractors for the gas company broke the UI meter at the Sheasby Station. Jason was there and UI replaced the meter that day at their cost.

Supt. Capozzi said that there is an employee take the OSHA 40 Class at ARMS. He has purchased WPCA shirts for the employees and commission members.

Supt. Capozzi said that a Beacon Falls employee came to Ansonia WPCA to shadow him. He was there for six hours. He said it is beneficial to the employees to see how another treatment plant does things. He said he would like to have some of our employees shadow other treatment plants.

Chairman Parente said that Branford has lagoons that the treatment plant have to deal with. It would be beneficial to have Jason St. Jacques and John Tomasella shadow Branford employees there to see how they handle that type of plant. Not many plants in our area have lagoons. Questions concerning lagoons appear on the tests. He instructed Supt. Capozzi to arrange for their visit.

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

Financial Report

Mr. Richard Bshara was present.

Mr. Bshara gave everyone a copy of the WPCA Collections and the Loan Amortization Schedule. He said the WPCA collections are 130% over last year because of the lien sale. Without the lien sale he is not sure but around 90% to 95%. On page 2, the difference between the sewer liens reflects the reimbursement to Cass Creek. Page 3 and 4 is the expenditure report. This shows the \$5,000 that was refunded for the lien sale.

Mr. Bshara explained the accumulated benefits expense line item. He said the \$9,000 was to be paid before June 30th by contract. WPCA will need another \$9,000/\$10,000 for benefits that by contract must be paid out before the end of June 2017. He said WPCA wants to pay the benefit in the Fiscal Year that was worked, for example 2016 – 2017 accumulated benefit would be paid out before the end of June 2017.

There was discussion on the union contract and how the benefit is to be paid to the employees. Currently, the employees are paid at the last year rate for accumulated benefits. The contract states they are paid on the new rate. The line item may need extra funding at year end.

Mr. Bshara explained the Due to Due from line item and the health insurance benefit and the employees' contribution/share.

Mr. Bshara explained the Trial Balance charts to the commissioners. He said the \$320,000 from the lien sale has been applied.

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

Executive Session to discuss WPCA Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Durante made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss the WPCA Superintendent's Contract. Supt. Capozzi was invited to remain in the meeting. Mr. Plavnicky seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Durante made a motion to go back into regular session at 9:15 p.m. There were no motions or votes taken during Executive Session. Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Durante made a motion to authorize a 3% general raise to Brian Capozzi with a new structured performance program for incentives. Effective date is October 9, 2016 (10/9/16). Mr. Turschmann seconded. All in favor, so carried.

November Meeting

The November Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Durante made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Alderman Stowe seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary