

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2011

The meeting was opened by Chairman Gary Merlone with the Pledge of Allegiance @ 7:00 PM. He asked for the roll call to be taken, there were four members present. The chairman declared a quorum.

PRESENT: G. Merlone  
C. LaRovera  
S. Jordanides  
H. Boladz

ABSENT: V. Epifano  
K. Blake

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor DellaVolpe  
Attorney Androski  
J. Jayanthan: UIC  
R. Bashara

S. Blume  
J. Ryan: CDM  
P. Georgetti: UIC

MOTION was made by Henry Boladz and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to accept the minutes from the previous meeting if they are found to be true and correct. All members were in favor of the motion and there were no corrections to be made.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The chairman opened the floor for Public Session.

Bartholomew Flaherty// 28 Pinecrest Ave. asked the members to please revisit the payment process currently in place for the Sewer Project 2010. He also thanked the members for all their hard work in getting the building and rehabilitation of the plant off the ground and for all the time and effort the members have put in on the project. Mr. Flaherty stressed the fact that he knows how burdensome the paying of the plant has been for the City Of Ansonia and for the members to work out a plan to do it. He briefly explained to the members and all present that he was the President of the Board of Aldermen when the WPCA was created. He made many trips to Boston on behalf of the WPCA when the ground work was being laid for the early collections of the Sewer Use Fee. There were many proposals put before the people at the state and they refused to allow the City Of Ansonia to make ad-valorem collections (flat rate collections). The WPCA collections were done by consumption then and have continued to be done that way. The way the collection method that has been set up for the Sewer Project is the ad-valorem system and according to the state back then they did not want it done that way, the way to go is consumption. Mr. Flaherty urged the members to reconsider the way the

billing for the project has been set up and try to restructure the billing before a final decision is made. The bottom line, it is a fair and equitable way for everyone to pay for what they are using.

Chairman Merlone told Mr. Flaherty that the members have been looking at how the project can be billed differently. There have been many discussions about it and they keep going back & forth on how to do it. The members are working diligently on coming up with a solution.

Mr. Flaherty thanked the members for listening to him and for their time.

Chairman Merlone asked if there was anyone else from the public to speak three times. No one else was present, he declared the public session closed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

The acting recording secretary went through the communications for the members. There were four sewer back ups and they were all taken care of by the public works dept. Member Spero Jordanides wanted to know why there are so many back ups. He said there is documentation that over \$200,000.00 has been spent on back ups. That is quite a bit of money. The members were all in agreement that the public works department has to go out and assess the back up and do what can be done for the people, after all they are all tax payers.

There was a letter from Mayor Dellavolpe asking the WPCA to consider allowing the payments for the Sewer Project to be made in 2 or more installments. Taking into consideration the economy and the added burden of another payment he thought the installment payments would be much easier for the rate payers to pay.

Chairman Merlone assured the mayor the members agreed that anyway possible to make things easier for the rate payers was surely the way to go. The members support the idea of installment payments.

Included in the communications was a request from B & B Engineering of Seymour. They requested that they be placed on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

There was a price quote from QDS (Quality Data Service) for the upcoming billing for the WPCA. Rich Bshara was asked if there were any other companies that do billing and are their rates comparable to QDS. Rich told the members it has been awhile since he has actively gone out there for prices and to be honest he really isn't sure of going rates. The fact that they have already done our billing and know what we are looking for in our billing it may be reasonable to think they are the way to go. We would have to buy the new program, install the information and basically recreate the whole billing process. The members were also told that Bridget (Tax Collector) has been looking for other billing options and she will keep the WPCA informed as to anything she may come up with.

Included in the communication packet was the good news regarding the Nitrogen Credits for this year. Last years Nitrogen Credit Bill was about \$150,000.00. When the budget was prepared \$100,000.00 was budgeted for the Nitrogen Credit Bill and as of right now the estimated bill is about \$52,500.00. The members were very pleased with that news.

Member Spero Jordanides told the members he was very impressed with plant. The computer room is state of the art. The quiet of the computer room is amazing he said they have done a great job. Spero said he would like to have a letter of commendation sent to the computer room person at the plant. The guy that runs the computers does a good job and the guys that work with him do too. Spero asked Jim Ryan if the guys at the plant are trained in all areas of running the plant. Jim told the members that as each piece comes on line the guys are trained.

MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to accept the communications and place them on file. All were in favor of the motion.

#### SEWER ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

The members were reminded that one of the C D's the WPCA has is coming due and it needs to be addressed.

The collections for the project are still coming in. We are just under the 2 million dollar mark. Taking into consideration the economy and the dire straights that people are in we should be very pleased with the amount that has come in. the office is working with any rate payer that comes in to help them make the payment process as easy as possible. We have had people come in with rolled coin and also people making regular weekly payments. They are very grateful that the office is willing to work with them. The annual Sewer Use Collection is coming along a little slower than the Project Collection but money is coming in everyday.

The Sewer Administrator told the members that the copy machine was broken; therefore she wasn't able to make copies for them on the bank balances and monthly expenditures. The information was available for the members to look at if they chose to.

MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to accept the report as presented. All were in favor of the motion.

#### BUSINESS:

##### B & B Engineering:

Brian Nesteriak had information for the members on the 23 Lot 1 family sub – division located @ 26 Gardners Lane. This property will also connect to Castle Lane.

He gave a brief description of the proposed plan. One of the members asked if it will be gravity fed as far as the flow. Mr. Nesteriak said there is a possibility that they may install low flow low pressure flow systems in a few. He said it depends on the engineers and what they will require. Mr. Nesteriak has been in touch with UIC. Peter Georgetti told the members the plans were just received and there hasn't been enough time for any review to make comment.

The sub division will all have wells as there are no water lines in the area. They have a letter from the water company stating that they will not be able to have service to the sub division. Mr. Nesteriak asked if there were any other questions. Attorney Androski asked if they were aware of the fees that were involved. There will be an Impact Fee, an application fee and a review fee for each lot and the project. Mr. Nesteriak said he was aware of the fees. Nothing has been paid yet.

In-Law Apartment for Elizabeth Baird of 7 High Acres Rd.: Attorney Androski updated the members on the reason for the application. Mr. Bartholomew Flaherty Chairman of P & Z was present and verified that that commission gave its approval for the In-Law Apartment. They also gave the WPCA a copy of the approval for file.

Jim Ryan: Update on the 554 Project:

- they are @ 98.5 % completion and they are in to the 27 month of construction
- 90 % of the contract time has been expended
- they should still come in ahead of schedule
- They will continue to do the finishing work
- Nitrogen is under control and coming in lower than in the past: declining steadily

Jim was asked if the plant is prepared for the phosphorus removal that will have to be done. He told the members the plant is set up for it, the plant operator needs to order the chemical necessary for it to be done.

- Jim said basically everything at the plant right now is getting the labor done on certain areas of the project
- The last 1% of any project is like “pulling teeth”
- The project should be finished by May and a few things may run into June
- The legal completion date is May 27,2011 it will be done
- When asked what the plant can handle daily: his answer was 3.5 million gallons per day// with its peak flow being 12 million and that would be for a major rain event

Jim asked if there were any other questions, he moved on to the PCO's

There were 2 PCO's presented in the report:

#118 @ \$695.69 and # 119 not to exceed \$8,365.12 =totaling \$9060.81

MOTION was made by Henry Boladz and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to approve the PCO's presented. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to accept the report given by Jim Ryan as presented. All were in favor of the motion.

Jim Ryan told the members he believes that the project should come in under 1% when all is said and done.

UIC: Monthly Report: There was no report presented by UIC to the WPCA.

MOTION was made by Spero Jordanides and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to pay all bills if they are found to be correct and there is money to pay them.

All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to go in to Executive Session. Henry asked that only the members, Attorney Androski, Mayor DellaVolpe and Steve Blume stay for the session.

MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Henry Boladz to go back in to regular session. All were in favor of the motion.

Chairman Merlone said they needed to act on some issues.

MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Henry Boladz to approve the refunds that were explained and requested by the sewer administrator for 2 rate payers. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to approve the application for the In Law Apartment for Elizabeth Baird of High Acres Rd. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to have Rich Bshara make contact with the bank regarding the CD that is about to mature. All were in favor of the motion.

Rich was instructed to get some information and see if there are any other options that may bear more interest.

There was discussion regarding the collection for the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of the 554 Sewer Project for 2011. The members want to produce a bill that will contain both (Annual sewer use & sewer project) and then allow the rate payers to pay them in installments. The mayor had asked in the letter that he presented to the members to allow this to happen. There was a lengthy discussion as to how this can be achieved. The Sewer Administrator asked the members if they thought about lowering the amount of the Flat Rate bill for the rate payers. The members asked it could be done without hindering the amount of money that needs to be collected and ready for the 1<sup>st</sup> installment due to the state in May of 2012. Rich Bshara and Rita St.Jacques both agreed that it should be able to be done. The Sewer Administrator said it would be a show of good faith to the rate payers if we tried to lower the bill. Any amount would be nice for the citizens of Ansonia as we are all in the same boat.

Henry Boldaz told Rita St.Jacques that the commission had made a decision and that was what was going to happen. The Sewer Administrators job is to follow through on the motions approved by the commission. There was heated discussion between the Sewer Administrator / Rita St.Jacques and Henry Boldaz regarding this issue.

Attorney Androski asked Rich Bshara where he was with planning the upcoming budget. Rich said he & Rita are preparing to get to work on the budget but before that can be done there are some issues with the current budget line items that need to be taken care of. Money will need to be transferred from one line to another to allow for the paying of invoices that need to be paid.

Currently John Tomasella WWTP employee took over writing the P O's again and is trying to get some things straightened out.

Attorney Androski said the goal of the WPCA members is to have the Public Hearing in April or May to set the rate for the Sewer Use Bill and the Sewer Project Bill for the upcoming billing. This will cover the 2010 List Year for the Sewer Use bill and Payment # 2 for the Sewer Project Bill.

Rich told the members that he and Rita will start getting the process moving along.

MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to adjourn. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended @ 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted:

Rita St.Jacques  
Sewer Administrator