

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
APRIL 6, 2011

The Chairman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance @ 7:15 PM. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Chairman Merlone wanted to take a minute to introduce the new member of the WPCA to everyone and welcome him to the commission. The new member of the WPCA is Mr. Joe Fabrizio, the Mayor made the appointment at the last Board of Aldermen meeting.

PRESENT: G. Merlone
S. Jordanides
C. LaRovera
H. Boladz
V. Epifano
J. Fabrizio

ABSENT: K.Blake

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE
Attorney Edward Androski
S. Blume: Pres. Bd. of Aldermen
Rich Bshara
Sindhu Natarjan : UIC
Jay Jonathan: UIC
Jim Ryan: CDM

The chairman asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. MOTION was made by Carl LaRovera and was seconded by Vito Epifano to accept the minutes from the previous meeting if they are true and correct. All were in favor of the motion and there were no corrections to be made.

PUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Merlone asked three times if there was anyone present from the public that would like to speak. No one was present he declared the Public Session closed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Letter from G. Merlone to Naugatuck Savings Re: signature changes on WPCA accounts
- 2) Information about the car accident on Silver Hill Rd. involving the pump station
- 3) Letter & invoice from DEP for the Nitrogen Credit bill this year in the amount of

\$52,757.00: down significantly from last year, Chairman Merlone commented that it is “tremendous” news for the WPCA. Spero Jordanides asked when the WPCA will be able to sell Nitrogen credits to other communities. Hopefully next year the WPCA will meet the criteria that will allow the sale of Nitrogen credits.

4) Communication from Attorney Androski regarding the payment schedule for the 554 Project

5) Three sewer back up reports: 108 Platt St. // 31 Burke St. // 7 Jason Wright Dr. all handled by the Public Works Dept.

6) Communication from J. Ryan via E-mail regarding the reimbursement of \$16,194.60 for fuel for the generator from C H Nickerson// Check was deposited -554 Account

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

SEWER ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

The monthly account balances were presented to the members. There was a brief explanation regarding the transaction done for the C D that matured on March 30, 2011. The money from that C D was put in to an existing Money Market Account that was not being used and had a small balance in it.

The collections for the Sewer Project are still coming in and the office has collected over 2 million dollars. The annual Sewer Use Collection payments are also still trickling in. It is very evident that the rate payers need to be able to make “payments” rather than making large one time payments on their accounts. The people have been very appreciative that the office is willing to work with them rather than send them to collections. The collections for the Annual Use bill is about \$1,745,572.00 The office has sent out 2 delinquent notices. We will have to send another notice out soon, by law we need to notify the ratepayers that “lien notices” are being prepared.

Included in the monthly packets and on file is the communication regarding the “transfers” that need to be made to pay monthly bills.

\$45,000.00 will be transferred from the Nitrogen Credit line because the bill was only \$52,757.00 and we originally budgeted for \$100,000. The money will be used to cover utility bills ,overtime and fund a new Refund Account since we have had to give some refunds back to rate payers.

The Sewer Administrator told the members there have been some problems with billing the metered well homes. Apparently they haven’t been billed annually and the office has asked UIC to go do field visits to those homes to verify information. The office needs to know if the wells are being metered in gallons or Cubic Feet, readings need to be done and recorded so the bills can be calculated. There will be some properties that will be back billed but that will be decided when all the information is recorded and processed. The members all agreed that we need to move forward with this and get the billing back on track. Sindhu will make the field visits and compile the information for us then we will decide how to go about the billing.

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

The chairman asked for a motion to deviate from the agenda to allow Mr. Nesteriak from B & B Engineering to speak.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz and was seconded by Vito Epifano to deviate from the agenda. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Nesteriak told the members he has submitted a new set of plans to UIC for them to review as they had requested. A sewer analysis report was included.

Sindhu Natarajan of UIC told the members they had some comments after the review that will have to be addressed in regard to the 10 homes they intend to install the Grinder Pumps in. There is some concern that the City Of Ansonia will be responsible if there are back ups in the homes. Sindhu asked if the WPCA thinks the city can handle an additional 10 pump stations. The example she gave was, if there is a back in the middle of the night or after the normal working hours the public works department will more than likely be called, that will include handling the problem and the overtime that goes along with that. Mr. Nesteriak told the members they intend on have the pumps be the responsibility of the homeowners and there will some kind of documentation that speaks to that issue when the homes are sold. He also said the homeowners will have to be educated regarding their responsibility in maintaining the pumps and they will be responsible for back ups if they do occur. Mr. Nesteriak was asked if there is an alternative for these homes. He told the members they can run a main, drop 4 to 6 manholes and run many, many feet of line and then it will be the city's responsibility. If they are allowed to do it they way they have proposed it is a "win-win" situation for everyone in his opinion.

Spero asked what the pressure will be , Mr. Nesteriak told him he wasn't 100% sure but he thinks it would be somewhere around 10-15 P S I.

Vito asked who would be responsible to cover the cost of overtime if the public works dept. is called out if there is a back up. The sewer administrator also asked who would be responsible if there is a back up and public works has to call out an alternative company to do the clean up. Historically the public works dept. takes care of the situation especially if there is a back up. The mayor always wants public works to do whatever is necessary to make sure everything is taken care of properly and there are no health issues due to sewage backing up.

Rich Bshara had concerned regarding a closed system and how problems would be handled in a situation like that.

Steve Blume made comment that the problem will not be with the first buyer but down the road after the property changes hands and the language regarding the pumps gets lost along the way. No one will know whose' responsibility is what. This project will really need to be studied to insure all bases are covered before anything kind approvals are granted.

UIC has already made a request for more information on the project before it gives an opinion or any kind of recommendation.

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

Jim Ryan : CDM MONTHLY REPORT:

Jim reported to the members that the project is 98% complete and 94% of the time has been used. May 27, 2011 is the contract completion date.

The project is in the home stretch, most of the major items have been completed. The way the project looks it should come in under budget when it is complete.

Spero asked if there any problems have come up. He was told there hasn't been anything out of the ordinary. When a new piece is completed and it comes on line it is expected that there may be some minor issues but they are dealt with as they come up.

As of right now the project is at .9% for change orders and they expect it to finish when the project is complete at maybe 1% which is wonderful. They originally had a 5% contingency planned for any change orders; they are very pleased that things have been able to be kept to such a low percentage.

Spero asked if the plant is able to handle 3.5 million G PD what happens if we have big rain fall. Jim told him all the water gets treated even if we hit 10 million G P D. the plant will still be in compliance with the state guide lines. Spero also questioned the Nitrogen Credit formula and what happens if we have to handle larger than normal quantities of flow. Jim Ryan told him the city will actually end up getting more nitrogen credits because it is treating more water than usual.

Next month they will be finishing the landscaping, the card access system and many of the smaller labor items done when nearing the completion of a large project.

Jim gave the members the information on P C O # 122 in the amount of \$2,832.56

He asked that the members make a motion to approve it.

There was discussion about P C O # 120 and its cost \$50,263.55. The members were concerned that an item that big was missed in the planning. Steve Blume and the members asked to have the design engineer of the project be at the next meeting to give some kind of reason as to how this got by them.

Jim reminded the members that this was already discussed previously and the commission agreed to get the generator. Gary Merlone remembered that the approval was given and it was not to exceed \$56,000.00

The information on P C O # 120 has been forwarded to the DEP to see if it GRANT ELIGIBLE, they are still waiting to hear.

Spero asked how many gallons per minute would flow through the pump. Jim told him about 400 gallons per minute. Spero was concerned that it wasn't a large amount of flow. Jim told him it isn't the best pump but it's not the worst either. If you want a pump with more flow capacity you need to purchase a larger pump and that would cost more money. They are waiting for pricing for the other P C O and Jim is sure they will have it for the May meeting.

Jim told the members the pump was originally designed as an emergency tank only.

Sindhu asked Jim if the percentage of solids is going down with the near completion of the project. Jim said he was pretty sure it was.

Spero asked what the average repair would cost if anything happened to the generator. He was told it would be several thousand dollars.

How often do incidents happen, maybe every couple years?

Jim told the members that he is sure Joe Maffeo agrees with getting the generator and maybe Joe could come to the next meeting. The members all agree that it will be nice for Joe to come to the meeting but they still feel very strongly about having the original design engineer come.

Gary Merlone still asked why this wasn't put in the original plans if it is so important.

Carl LaRovera asked if the plant could operate without this generator because as he understood Jim to say it would “enhance” the plant. In his opinion if something will enhance it, it will give help in the running of the plant but again is it necessary to have it to run the plant.

Jim told the members the plant could survive without it but down the road it will certainly be an asset to have. There are times that the WWTP employees will have to drain the ditches for regular maintenance and if there are problems it is necessary at times to drain them. It would make that process much easier if they had the pump.

Jim reminded the members that even with an item that costs as much as this one will and it is under the \$56,000.00 limit as previously discussed the project will still come in at about 1% which is very good.

Henry asked if they could plan another walk through of the plant. Jim said he is available anytime for the members. They set a date of Friday April 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz to approve P C O # 122 in the amount of \$2,832.56. The motion was seconded by Spero Jordanides. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Vito Epifano and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to accept Jim Ryan’s report as presented. All were in favor of the motion.

UIC: Monthly Report:

Sindhu told the members her report mainly involved the previously discussed project on Castle Lane. The members thanked her for her information.

Sindhu will report back on the Well user’s information as requested.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to approve UIC’s report. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Spero Jordanides and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to pay all bills if they are found to be true, correct and have enough money to pay the bills. All were in favor of the motion.

1) Attorney John Androski Services through March 31, 2011 \$2,325.00

Rich Bshara told the members he has prepared the transfers that need to be made with the approval of the commission.

According to the reports he has seen the WPCA is doing well in regard to the budgeted amount of money from last year’s budget. He gave a copy of the expenditures to date to all the members for their review (a copy is attached to the minutes)

Rich did tell the members there were some problems at the plant with the purchase orders that were written. The person writing the purchase orders was taking the money from all different line items rather than where they should have come from. Those problems have been taken care of. The purchase orders are being written by Johnny Tomasella if he has any questions he asks Rich and / or Rita and one way or another it gets sorted out. Having everyone working together makes it much easier to get things done especially when everyone is on the same page. There are some residual problems from the temporary supervisor but things are getting sorted out.

Rich asked about the billing for the Sewer Project. The members would like to have a Public Hearing to set the rate so the billing can be done in two payments (as the mayor requested) The date the members set for the Public Hearing is Tuesday April 26,2011 @ 6:00 PM in the Erlingheuser Room.

MOTION was made by Spero Jordanides and was seconded by Vito Epifano to approve the transfer of money as requested by Rich Bshara. All were in favor of the motion. There was more discussion about the billing. Rich said he is sure it can be set up and ready for June 1, 2011 collection. The members want to be sure they follow through with the Mayor's request to allow the rate payers to pay the bill in two parts. The second half will be December 1, 2011.

MOTION was made by Henry Boldaz and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to have a Public Hearing Tuesday April 26, 2011 @ 6:00 PM in the Erlingheuser Room to discuss the proposed rate for payment # 2 of the Sewer Project. The proposed rate is \$270.00 per unit decreased from last year's rate of \$285.00 per unit. The multipliers will also be used as they were last year. All were in favor of the motion.

There will be a Special Meeting immediately following the Public Hearing to approve and set the rate for the second payment of the Sewer Project.

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

The meeting ended at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Rita St.Jacques:
Sewer Administrator

