



# WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia  
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Ansonia, Connecticut 06401  
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## MINUTES OF THE WPCA MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 7 2014

7:00PM

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

N. DIVISION ST ANSONIA

The meeting opened at 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The chairman asked for the roll to be called. There were six members present, therefore there was a quorum.

### PRESENT

N. Parente  
M. D'Allesio  
A. Limauro  
C. Stowe  
K. Plavnicky  
A. Geruntho

### ABSENT

C. Durante

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Rita St. Jacques WPCA  
Brian Capozzi WPCA  
Tammy Blackwell Tax Collector  
Marshal Arthur Davies  
Rich Bshara (late)

MOTION to accept the minutes from the previous meetings with corrections made by C. Stowe and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.



**CORRECTION to the April 2, 2014 minutes of the WPCA monthly meeting on page 4 delete the words Route 8 from in front of interconnection in the PRIME report.**

**CORRECTION to the April 24, 2014 minutes of the Special Meeting. There was no public session held at the meeting because it was not included in the agenda and no one made a motion to deviate from the agenda. As a “courtesy” Chairman Parente allowed J. Izzo to make a presentation concerning collections. That presentation is an attachment to the minutes filed with the City Clerk on April 28, 2014.**

**The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak. Mr. R. Faroni of 56 and 58 Benz St. spoke about connecting the properties to the sewer line. Both properties are new construction and need the approval of the Board to connect. The Chairman asked if PRIME had signed off on the approval and Brian said he would check.**

**MOTION to approve connection subject to B. Capozzi contacting PRIME to be sure that they have signed off on the connection made by C. Stowe and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**Mr. J. Izzo of 12 Shortell Dr. asked if the Chairman had received a copy of his letter concerning the minutes of the April 24, 2014 Special meeting and the Chairman said that he had and he had spoken with the Secretary and the minutes would be corrected as agreed in that conversation.**

**Mr. Izzo also said that the Mayor supports the collection policy and wants to have a meeting with Department heads attending the Cost Cutting Commission Meeting. Chairman Parente and Sewer Administrator R. St. Jacques indicated that at this time it appears unlikely that they would be attending the meeting.**

**The Chairman asked three more times if there was anyone else who wished to speak and no one answered. Therefore the public session was closed at 7:09PM.**

**MOTION to deviate from the agenda made by A. Geruntho and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**The Chairman thanked Mrs. Blackwell for attending the meeting and asked her how long she has been the Tax Collector. Mrs. Blackwell replied that she has been in the tax office for 17 years, starting as a bookkeeper, than assistant tax collector and now three years as the tax collector.**

**The Chairman asked Mrs. Blackwell how she does her collections. She said that she has to follow State Statutes. The first half is due in July and if not paid in 30 days the bill is delinquent and a delinquent demand notice is sent. The second half is due January 1<sup>st</sup> and if not paid in 30 days it's delinquent. Again she will send out delinquent demand notices and if the bill is not paid, liens will be placed. The Chairman asked how long before an account is sent for collection and Tammy replied that it is up to her discretion. She said that on property taxes she will wait 1 year to 1 ½ years before she sends the accounts out for collection and again uses her discretion depending upon whether the tax payer has been making payments or has just ignored the bill.**

**All delinquent motor vehicle taxes are sent to a collection agency which charges 15% to the tax payer for collecting. A delinquent motor vehicle account is sent for collection when the list year of the bill is 2 years old. For example, when the 2013 list year bills come out in July, the 2011 list year bills will go to the collection agency. Tammy said that she uses the collection agency she does because they are also a law firm and people seem to pay more readily when the letterhead says Law Firm.**

Mrs. Blackwell stressed that the State Marshal does a great job collecting for her and she uses him for her property tax collections. She said that she had used local sheriffs in the past and found that they were not interested in collecting, were not bonded and were not sure about the procedure to collect so doesn't use them anymore.

The Chairman asked when Tammy sends accounts to the Marshal and she said that everyone is sent on the same schedule, she does not pick and choose. However, she does use her own discretion when it comes to which accounts go out for collection. If the tax payer is making payments she will hold it while someone not making payments will go to collections.

C. Stowe asked if Stan Gorzalini (interim tax collector) had made recommendations on property tax collections and Tammy said that he had and that she is following his recommendations. Charlie asked if someone owns 5 properties and owes lots of money, would Tammy lump all of the properties together and go after the person. Tammy said she would but went on to explain that if all of the properties are in different LLC names, she couldn't lump them together.

M. D'Alessio asked if the charges for collection agencies are the same as the Marshal's and Tammy said they are. Both charge 15% and the charge is borne by the tax payer.

K. Plavnicky asked what the tax office collection rate is and was told it is about 95%, however, most is paid through escrow accounts.

The Chairman thanked Marshal Arthur Davies for attending the meeting and asked him if he gets all of the warrants at the same time. Art explained that the tax and WPCA offices set the date that the warrants are sent.

The Chairman asked Art about the steps he takes when he receives a tax warrant. Art said that he immediately sends out a letter citing State Statutes. If there is not response within 10 days another letter is sent, a phone call is made if the number is available, Art tries to find out which bank holds the tax payers mortgage and will call the bank to see if they will pay the sewer bills and add the charge to the tax payer. He will also check the bank balance of the rate payer and see if there is enough money to cover the bills.

Art also said that he will go and knock on the rate payer's door to make a collection attempt. In addition, he will make recommendations to the rate payer, such as a reverse mortgage, to try and help the rate payer get on their feet.

C. Stowe asked R. St. Jacques if she has a list of bankruptcies and she said she gets the information from the City Clerk's office and does not have a list. If the property is in foreclosure she looks at the water company data for where they send the water bill and she will send the account to Art for collection with that information.

Mrs. St. Jacques asked Marshal Davies if it is possible to seize rent payments from delinquent landlords and he said yes, he can serve garnishments on the tenant but the tenant would have to agree to the garnishment. Art can issue a demand warrant in this case.

C. Stowe asked if a warrant is going to be put on the Hilltop Health accounts (building owned by Healthbridge) and Rita said that it would be done May 8, 2014.

Sewer Administrator's report (see attached).

1. 20 Beaver St (Spector Furniture warehouse) has no water and never will have. Wants the \$50 surcharge removed from their bill. Rita said that there are other properties in the city that have similar situations and pay the surcharge. She explained that all of these properties have the ability to have water and if in the

future decide to add water, the WPCA would not know. Therefore, the past practice has been to leave the surcharge on the bill. No action was taken.

2. 202 Beaver St. and 70 Great hill Rd. Both of these properties have septic tanks and are not going to hook up to the sewer system. Rita suggested a caveat be put on the deed stating that when the property is sold the new owner has to continue having the septic cleaned yearly.

C. Stowe said that the caveat should read that if there is a problem with the septic, if the cost to repair is lower than the sewer hook-up the septic can be repaired. However, if the repair would be more than the hook-up, the hook-up must be done.

MOTION to remove 202 Beaver St., 42 Finney St. and 70 Great Hill Rd. from the billing roles after the caveat is put on the deeds made by A. Geruntho and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Delinquent sewer project bills will be liened May 16, 2014 and the new project bills will be due June 1, 2014 and payable until July 1, 2014.

The Chairman said that he is more concerned about big businesses who owe a lot of money and just don't pay, than he is single family property owners who have fallen on bad times.

MOTION to accept the Sewer Administrator's report made by K. Plavnicky and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to adopt the rate of \$270 per unit for the 2013 list year Sewer Project bill made by C. Stowe and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Receive and pay all bills. A bill was received from H. O. Penn for the rental of the generator and is much higher than what was originally quoted. No action was taken at this time as the Chairman is going to contact the H. O. Penn Co.

MOTION to take a break made by A. Geruntho and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed. A break was taken at 8:38PM.

MOTION to go back into session made by A. Geruntho and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed. The session was resumed at 8:45PM.

MOTION to pay PRIME AE \$1628.25 for reimbursable expenses and to postpone payment of the \$643.50 bill until further information is received made by C. Stowe and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

There is an issue between the WPCA, PRIME AE and Cumberland Farms that needs to be addressed. The contractor working for Cumberland Farms capped the sewer lines and removed all three lines. Now he can't find a manhole he claims was on his plans. B. Capozzi, WPCA Superintendent, saw a plan with a 1% pitch and told the engineer that the pitch wasn't steep enough and that he would need 6" pipe to connect. Brian will go to P&Z to see what plans were filed with them. Cumberland Farms wants the WPCA to have an engineer figure out the problem and the WPCA says that Cumberland Farms needs to get their engineer to figure out the problem.

MOTION to submit bills to the State for reimbursement made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to keep permit fees the same made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Chairman said that the WPCA needs to advertise for a Class 1 and Class 2 operator. Currently there is a class 2 operator acting in the position of the Class 3. The two current class 2s will be taking the Class 3 test in July and if one or both pass one may be permanently made a Class 3. There is also the possibility of hiring a Class 3 from the outside. If one of the current Class 2 operators is promoted he will need to be replaced by a Class 2 or a Class 1 who can pass the test for the Class 2 operator within a year.

MOTION to advertise and interview for Class 1 and 2 licensed operators made by A. Geruntho and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Rich Bshara's report. (See attached)

MOTION to accept Rich's report made by C. Stowe and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Superintendent's Report. (See attached)

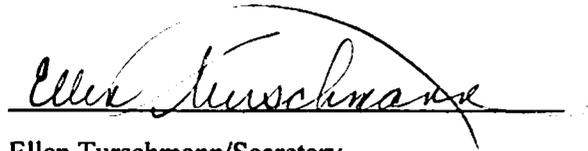
Department of Public Works employees cannot vacuum the sewer because they do not have HAZMAT certificates. The WPCA will have to do the vacuuming. Superintendent Capozzi stated that he would like to pump the Reichelt Terrace manhole because the UI is going to shut off the power and it would be a good time to get all of the junk off the bottom.

MOTION to purchase a new pump made by C. Stowe and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to adjourn made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by A. Limauro. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.

The next meeting, June 4, 2014, will be held in the Erlinghauser room.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen Turschmann", written over a horizontal line.

Ellen Turschmann/Secretary