



# WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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

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## MINUTES OF THE WPCA MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

7:00PM

ANSONIA CITY HALL

253 MAIN ST.

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  
C. Durante  
D. Ventre  
C. Stowe  
K. Plavnicky  
A. Geruntho

### ABSENT

M. D'Alessio

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Rita St. Jacques WPCA

Brian Capozzi WPCA

Rich Bshara

Bill Nimons

Attorney J. Marini (late)



MOTION to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was made by C. Durante and seconded by D. Ventre. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The chairman asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. Ms. Mirushe Gashi of 19 Woodbridge Avenue stated that she wished to address the Commission. Ms. Gashi bought the property at 19 Woodbridge Avenue in July of 2011 from the Bank of New York Mellon. At that time the sewer project bill was changed into her name but the sewer usage bill was not and the bill was sent to the Bank of New York Mellon. Consequently the sewer project bill was paid but the usage bill was not. There has been interest and fees applied to all of the usage bills since that time. Ms. Gashi would like to pay the usage bills that are due but would like the interest and fees waived. She had spoken to Rita several times and Rita explained that a State Statute prohibits the waiving of interest and fees. In addition, there is also a Statute that reads that the rendering of a bill is a courtesy and failure to receive a bill does not waive the responsibility of the property owner from paying the bill. Ms. Gashi said that she should not have to pay a bill if she doesn't know about it. Rita explained to the Commission that Ms. Gashi owns other property in Ansonia and was receiving bills for that property so she should have known that she was missing the usage bill for Woodbridge Av. Ms. Gashi claims that the WPCA office personnel sent her to New Haven to get her usage records. The Chairman said he found it highly unlikely that the office would have done that since Rita has all the usage details from the Water Company.

The Chairman concurred that the municipality does not have to send a bill and that Ms. Gashi is responsible for the bills including the fees and interest. The Chairman reiterated what Rita had explained to Ms. Gashi several times. Ms. Gashi said that she does not agree and that she will do what she needs to do. R. Bshara said that legal notices were placed in the newspaper stating that the bills have been sent out. Rich agreed to look into the matter as far as the liens are concerned and the Chairman stated that a letter would be sent to Ms. Gashi with the results.

The Chairman asked three more times if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak. No one answered and the public session was closed at 7:25PM.

William Nimons, Comptroller for the City of Ansonia, spoke about the yearly audit which is now underway. Bill explained that the audit covers all departments and includes the WPCA. The goal is for the audit to be finished by September 30<sup>th</sup>. R. Bshara said that the preliminary report would be done by September 30<sup>th</sup> but the final report would be a little later than that. The final audit report has to be filed with the State by December 31, 2014.

Bill stated that John Accavallo, from the auditing firm of Michaud and Accavallo, was very pleased with the information provided by the WPCA. He said that Rita always does a great job and the books are always in very good shape. Rich added that John said that all requests are fully complied with and that from the portion of the WPCA that has been completed, the WPCA is in good shape. Bill said that the audit this year is going further than previous years and the auditors are handling the audit with a critical eye.

There was mention made of a forensic audit being done in the future. Mr. Nimons said that a forensic audit is used to discover fraud or theft and should not be discussed in open session.

The chairman stressed that he does not believe anyone is stealing from the WPCA but is looking for information on collection policies. Bill explained that the audit should be called something other than a forensic audit and offered to assist in compiling any additional information the Commission might need. He said that since this audit has gone deeper than previous audits, the information wanted may already be answered.

The Chairman said that at this time no plans have been made for an additional audit, it hasn't been voted on and is not on any agenda for discussion. Bill again said that he would be willing to get more information or a price if an additional audit is needed. He also said that he would invite the auditor to address the Commission and give a readout of the audit done for this year.

The Chairman stated that he had spoken to Attorney Joseph Coppola concerning the position of WPCA attorney. He explained to Joe that if he was the WPCA attorney he would not be able to do other work for the City and that it would be possible that Joe would have to defend the WPCA against the City. Attorney Coppola declined the position.

C. Stowe took exception to the fact that N. Parente had this discussion with Attorney Coppola and felt that Nunzio should have talked to the Commission about the stipulations before presenting them to Attorney Coppola. A spirited discussion ensued.

Sewer Administrator's report. A copy of this report is on file in the Office of the Town and City Clerk.

The WPCA received a check from the State in the amount of \$79,572.00 for nitrogen Credits. Superintendent Capozzi mentioned that he thinks next year's check will be even more because of changes made at the plant. Member Durante asked what causes the nitrogen to be cut and Brian said that it is the way the plant is run. Brian also said that he received a letter from the State saying that they would no longer be subsidizing the nitrogen reimbursement program and that after next year the checks from the State will be much less. Brian will be attending a Forum in Hartford on September 17<sup>th</sup> and will get more information then.

Rita received a letter from ION Bank stating that a CD on file with the bank will mature on September 5, 2014 and requesting whether the CD should be rolled over. After discussion it was decided to pull out the money from the CD and put it into a savings account until R. Bshara can investigate another way to invest the money.

While going over the WPCA expenditure Summary Chairman Parente requested that Rich Bshara provide the Commission with income on an accumulated basis. He would like to see the revenue side as well as the expenditure side. Rich said that he would provide the information on a going forward basis.

\$430K was collected by Marshal Davies from the time period February 2013 to December 2013.

MOTION to accept the sewer administrator's report made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to take a 5 minute break made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed. The recess was called at 8:35PM.

**MOTION to return to regular meeting made by A. Geruntho and seconded by D. Ventre. All were in favor and the motion passed. The regular meeting continued at 8:40PM.**

**Receive and pay all bills. There are outstanding bills from PRIME AE. After discussing each bill it was decided that:**

**Invoice dated April 1, 2014 # 1164A-59 Job # 1164A in the amount of \$643.50 to be paid.**

**Invoice dated May 7, 2014 #1164A-60 Job #1164A in the amount of \$526.50 to be paid.**

**Invoice dated June 3, 2014 #62B Job #1164 in the amount of \$117.00 to be paid.**

**Invoice dated June 9, 2014 #62A Job #1164 in the amount of \$1,335.75 and**

**Invoice dated July 2, 2014 #63A Job # 1164 in the amount of \$541.13 not paid.**

**MOTION to pay \$643.50 made by C. Durante and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**MOTION to pay \$526.50 made by C. Stowe and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**MOTION to pay \$117.00 made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**MOTION to reject both the \$1,335.75 and \$541.13 bills and have conversation with PRIME about payment made by C. Durante and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed. Nunzio will discuss the invoices with Jay Jayanthan of Prime. These invoices deal with work done for Cumberland Farms and there are concerns about who the work was performed for.**

**Attorney Ramon Sous of Seymour sent a letter requesting that three outstanding invoices be reimbursed by the City of Ansonia to the Seymour WPCA. These properties are located in Ansonia but it was found that they flow into Seymour. There was piping done under the route 8 bridge to accommodate these properties and it is not understood why they are flowing into Seymour. A gentleman's agreement had been made with the previous sewer superintendent that since some Seymour people flowed into Ansonia and Ansonia people flowed into Seymour it was a wash and there would not be any billing to the other WPCA. Unfortunately nothing was put in writing so there now has to be a dialogue between the two towns. In addition, Attorney Sous is requesting reimbursement of more money than the property owners have paid and has added interest to the bills.**

**MOTION that since there is not a written agreement on either side, the Ansonia WPCA will not pay the bill until an agreement is ironed out with Seymour made by C. Durante and seconded by K. Plavnick. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**WPCA Superintendent's report. A copy of the report is on file in the Office of the Town and City Clerk.**

The Public Works new transfer station is being designed to run off the WPCA generator. Therefore the Public Works department should be responsible for half the upkeep and expenses associated with the generator.

MOTION to have the Public Works Department pay for half of the \$5,000.00 yearly maintenance agreement associated with the generator and any other costs associated with the running and upkeep of the generator made by C. Stowe and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Two bills were found in Brian's mailbox from Public Works in the amount of \$1,266.00 for frames and manhole covers used on Great Hill. No explanation was provided. More information is needed to determine if this is a WPCA bill before it is paid. Brian will investigate.

MOTION to accept Brian's report made by C. Durante and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Rich Bshara report.

All of the 2013 list year bills for sewer usage have been loaded and mailed.

Rich is still working on the yearly audit.

Rich is finalizing the 2013-2014 budget. There will be some money that will drop to the bottom line and Rich will have that information for the next meeting.

Rich will have Kim fix payroll distribution so the lines are correct.

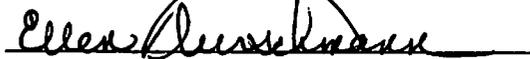
MOTION to accept Rich's report made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to go into executive session made by C. Durante and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed. In addition to the Commission members Attorney John Marini was asked to attend. The session began at 9:55PM.

MOTION to go back into regular session made by C. Durante and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed. Executive session ended at 10:34 PM.

MOTION to adjourn made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were on favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Turschmann/Secretary