



## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia  
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### MINUTES OF THE WPCA MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH 5, 2014

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  
A. Limauro  
C. Stowe  
K. Plavnicky  
A. Geruntho

#### ABSENT

M. D'Alessio

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Rita St. Jacques WPCA  
Brian Capozzi WPCA  
Joseph Maffeo Prime AE  
Jay Jayanthan: Prime AE  
Peter Georgetti: Prime AE  
Rich Bshara  
Attorney J. Marini (late)



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

CORRECTION to the February 19, 2014 minutes of the WPCA special meeting the bill from PRIME AE invoice # 1164A-meetings was stated as \$34,580.95 and should have been \$441.00.

The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak. Mr. Gene Digiovanni from St. Sebastian Club spoke about a manhole located in the parking lot of the club at 1 Fr. Saleme Dr. The manhole used to be located on Powe St., but with redevelopment it ended up in the parking lot. The City has a right of way but there is some confusion as to who is responsible for maintaining the manhole, which has been having issues for the past few years. There is no longer an invert in the bottom of the manhole and the manhole keeps getting filled. Public Works has been cleaning the manhole for the past few years but the cleaning is becoming more frequent. B. Capozzi has seen the manhole and there are two laterals in the manhole but the invert has eroded. B. Capozzi will follow up with F. D'Amico, City Engineer, and will have a resolution by the April 2, 2014 meeting as to what needs to be done and who is responsible.

The Charman asked two more times if there was anyone else in the audience who wished to speak. No one answered and the public session was closed at 7:15PM.

MOTION to close the public session made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Limauro. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Sewer Administrator's report: See copy attached.

There were several questions asked concerning the report.

C. Stowe asked if the reason for the delinquent report was to ensure that all delinquent accounts are treated the same. Rita explained that there are different circumstances that occur so all delinquent accounts cannot be treated equally. If a person is delinquent but is paying every month and trying to clear old balances, that account should not be sent to the Marshal for collection. Any account where there is no attempt to pay is sent to the Marshal.

C. Durante said that ethically city employees should be held to a higher standard and should not have delinquent bills.

N. Parente asked if either of the Androski's are still in the line item for insurance and they are not. J. Perrault, class 3 licensee at the plant, completed his waiting period for insurance and has been added to the line item.

The chairman asked about the refund column on the Grand Rate book page and Rita explained that there are times when bills have to be readjusted, such as when a home is razed, a ratepayer has a two family house but was being billed for a three family house or other such situations. When the bill is revised it appears as a refund.

#8. The chairman questioned why we can't collect the Birmingham nursing home's delinquent bills. Rita explained that there have been several name changes and it has been difficult finding the Company who

actually owns the nursing home. She also explained that we cannot lien Derby property, only Derby can. Nunzio asked about the 25% surcharge Derby enacted on the rate payers who flow into Ansonia and Rita explained that Ansonia knew nothing about it until the Derby rate payers affected began complaining to the Ansonia WPCA.

C. Stowe asked Attorney J. Marini if something can be done about the 25% surcharge and Attorney Marini said that it can be discussed.

Chairman Parente said that he had done some investigating and Longridge oversees the running of several successful nursing homes in the Stamford/Greenwich area. Rita explained that both the Birmingham and Meditrust nursing homes are run by Healthbridge out of Stamford and the principles are located in Sweden. Rita has been able to collect some money from the Stamford office but more needs to be paid.

C. Durante asked if we charge interest on delinquent bills and Rita explained that interest is 1 ½% per month and the State sets the rate.

Chairman Parente discussed the sludge budget and said that for the first 8 months of the budget an average of \$14,651.61 per month was spent on sludge removal. There is a balance of \$24,446 left for the remaining 4 months of the budget, so there should be an overage at the end of the year. B. Capozzi explained that there is less sludge removal in the winter because of the cold weather and that once the warm weather starts there will be an increase in the amount of sludge removed. This will impact the amount of money in the sludge line item. Nunzio requested that Brian provide him with a copy of the sludge amounts for March thru July 2013.

Nunzio asked R. Bshara how the budget had been determined for the sludge removal line item for this fiscal year. Rich explained and Nunzio said that if there is a shortfall the Board will meet and approve the money.

MOTION to accept the Sewer Administrator's report made by C. Stowe and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to deviate from the agenda made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Limauro. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Prime AE report. See copy attached

P. Georgetti of Prime AE spoke about the Ansonia-Derby Interconnect Project. The Mayors of both towns have jointly requested that a feasibility study be done to study the interconnection. The State will pay for the study. There is a meeting scheduled for March 12, 2014 between Prime, the Ansonia and Derby mayors, and the mayor of Middletown and Middletown's Director of the water and sewer department. Middletown is currently in the construction phase of a regionalization project with the City of Cromwell.

Chairman Parente asked if Superintendent Capozzi was invited to the meeting as he is so well versed in the operation of the waste plant. In addition, Brian formerly worked at the Derby waste plant and so is very knowledgeable about that plant. Peter explained that this is a high level meeting and if the project goes forward Brian will be very involved.

C. Durante said that it was his understanding that these studies have all been done before. Peter said that the State would not accept an application for the study unless it was requested by both mayors and that did not happen.

Rita asked if both Middletown and Cromwell flow into the same river. Peter said that they did. Rita said that Ansonia and Derby do not flow into the same river and asked how meeting with Middletown will be advantageous to Ansonia. Peter explained that it is a high level feasibility study and won't deal with the nitty gritty.

C. Stowe asked about the study and Peter explained that when the study is completed it will determine whether the two towns should interconnect. If the study shows that it is not feasible, the project will not go forward and there will still be two separate plants. Charlie asked about some of the problems Derby has and Brian was able to answer them.

**Rt. 8 Project.**

Chairman Parente asked how the Ansonia WPCA would go about getting reimbursed by the State for studies that have been done in the past. Peter explained that usually the City fills out a one page form and submits it to the State. Nunzio questioned why the Board had not been told in the past how to be compensated and Peter said that he will provide the form to the WPCA and explain how to fill it out.

Nunzio asked R. Bshara to summarize the reimbursable invoices for 2012, 2013, and 2014 so that they can be submitted to the State. In response to questions that arose at the February 19, 2014 Special Meeting, Peter prepared a summary of the invoices submitted to the WPCA for the year 2013.

Chairman Parente asked if Prime was working on any other projects for the WPCA and Peter said that the only other one was Benz Estates which is nearing completion. A written report was provided last month.

**MOTION to accept Prime AE's report made by A. Geruntho and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

R. Bshara spoke about a meeting he and N. Parente had with Mr. Robert Rose of ION bank (formerly Naugatuck Savings). They reviewed the WPCA accounts and discussed how the WPCA could maximize the return on investments. (See copy of report attached). Rich said that the ION on-line system works much better than the previous Naugatuck Savings Bank system, which was always a bone of contention. The new system is much more user friendly.

\$2m was moved into an interest bearing account and other money will be moved to save money on fees and provide interest.

**Rich Bshara update.**

Rich explained that there is a possibility of a shortfall on the 311 project. The WPCA borrowed \$5.2M which is being paid over 20 years. The Authority started collecting the money 5 years before starting to pay on the loan. Therefore, there will be no money collected in the last 5 years of the loan, although payments will still be due. When the payment schedule was set up the bank was paying much higher interest than they are now and the higher interest rate was used to figure the payments. This is something that will be watched on an ongoing basis.

Rich said that the City is actively pursuing ways to save money on electricity. Rich is working with Empower to broker a deal with Liberty Power. The City currently uses Liberty but the WPCA uses UI and is being charged 9-10 cents a kilowatt hour. Empower tried to get Liberty to add the WPCA and other accounts to the existing contract which charges 7.2 cents a kilowatt hour, but Liberty said they cannot add to the existing contract and would have a new contract for the new accounts probably at 7.5 cents per kilowatt hour. This should save the WPCA about \$1,000/mo.

Chairman Parente asked Rich if the discs from Regional Water give four quarters of data and Rich explained it does but on four discs. Nunzio wondered if the water company could provide 2 discs, one with three quarters and one with just the winter quarter. This should cut the price the Authority pays for the discs in half. Rich said that he would check with the water company. Nunzio asked Rich to provide 5 examples taking the highest quarter and lowest quarter of data and averaging them out, then checking to see if what we actually billed was close to what Rich got. If this method proves to be close to what was billed we may be able to get away with 2 discs. This would be a problem for commercial property which is billed at actual usage, however, there may be a way to work around it.

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

No bills were presented for payment.

Superintendents Report. See copy attached.

J. Perrault resigned as Class 3 Shift Supervisor. Chairman Parente said that Jeff needs to notify the Board since they are the people who hired him.

Brian asked if he could post the job opening for the Class 3 Shift Supervisor. The Board wanted to know if a Class 2 currently working at the plant could be promoted to the Class 3 position. Brian said that he would check with the State and see if they would provide a time period for the Class 2 to obtain the Class 3 license. Nunzio also said that when the job is posted a salary increase needs to be addressed.

C. Stowe asked Brian to check the new vac truck after each use to be sure that it is left in a clean condition.

MOTION to transfer \$1,500 from the contingency line item to the service contract line item to cover several problems that need to be rectified made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed. There was discussion about using H O Pen or another company and whether a warranty would be provided for the work done.

Charlie asked if the manhole in a sewer easement needed to be dug up and replaced, would the WPCA be able to do it. Brian said no because we don't have the right equipment or the necessary licenses.

Nunzio asked how this year's nitrogen credits compare to last year and Brian said that they are on par with last year.

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

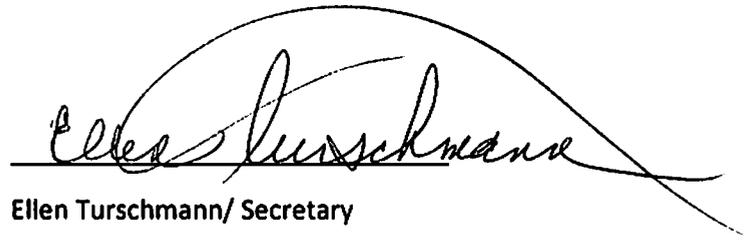
MOTION to go into executive session made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Limauro. All were in favor and the motion passed. Attending the executive session were all of the Board members present and Brian Capozzi. The session began at 9:45PM

MOTION to return to open session made by A. Limauro and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed. Executive session ended at 10:33PM.

MOTION to give Brian Capozzi a 3% raise retroactive to his start date made by C. Stowe and seconded by A. Limauro. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Turschmann/ Secretary