

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY The City of Ansonia RECEIVED FOR FILE

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TOWN AND DAY CLERK

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2014

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

PRESENT: N. Parente (Chairman)

C. Stowe

C. Durante

K. Plavnicky

A. Limauro

A. Geruntho

M. D'Alessio

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Rita St. Jacques WPCA

Brian Capozzi WPCA

Joseph Maffeo Prime AE

Jay Jayanthan: Prime AE

Jeff Perrault WPCA

Rich Bshara (late)

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

The Chairman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak. No one answered and the Chairman asked two more times if there was anyone who wished to speak. Again, no one answered and the public session was closed at 7:02PM.



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

Sewer Administrators Report. (See attached)

#4. 222 1/2 N. State St (aka Quarry Rd.)

Mrs. Ford provided a letter from Ted Witek, an engineer with Clark and Pearson, to Attorney Jack Androski saying that Clark and Pearson consider Quarry Rd. to be an accepted city road. C. Stowe said that Land Trust is going to deal with this issue at their 2-20-14 meeting. It has been going on for many years.

N. Parente stated that the fact that the road is accepted or not has no bearing. The property has sewer service and the bills must be paid. Nunzio requested that R. St. Jacques make a copy of all bills and return uncashed checks with Mrs. Ford's notes to Mrs. Ford so that she can go to the Board of Alderman with her dispute. If the WPCA bills are not paid the accounts will be referred to Marshal Davies for collection.

MOTION to send letter and copies of bill and return checks to Mrs. Ford made by Mike D'Alessio and seconded by C. Durante. The vote was 5 yes and 1 no(Stowe) and the motion passed.

202 Beaver St. In February 2002 Mr. Barlow, owner of the property, sent a letter to the City stating that he was going to split up the property and at that time would change from a septic service to a sewer system.

C. Stowe asked if there was a caveat added to the deed which would require the property to tie in to the sewer system upon the splitting of the property. Rita has a copy of a draft caveat but it appears it was never finalized, therefore, the property can remain on septic service. N. Parente stated he will have Attorney Marini draw up a caveat and file it on the deed. Mr. Stowe said that he had asked Attorney Marini to attend the WPCA meeting but he was not available.

42 Finney St. is on a septic system and when the house was sold the new owners were not told that they had to hook up to the sewer system. In the meantime the home owners have gotten divorced and the wife is now living in the house. Attorney Androski sent a letter to the home owner stating that the property needs to be hooked into the sewer system. The home owner replied that she cannot afford to hook up and has not done so at this time.

80-82 Clifton Ave. The landowner has a problem with the City concerning damage done to her property by a private contractor. Ms. Diaz is blaming the City for the problem saying the City should have seen the problem and done something about it, although the City had nothing to do with the work. Ms. Diaz sued the private contractor and two other property owners and received compensation. Although sewer service is provided she has refused to pay her sewer bills because she is angry at the City.

MOTION to send 80-82 Clifton Ave. to Marshal Davies for collection made by C. Durante and seconded by K. Plavnicky. The vote was 5 yes and 1 abstention (Parente) and the motion passed.

K. Plavnicky asked why we pay a state marshal to collect WPCA bills when there are city marshals who would do it for free? R. St. Jacques explained that the WPCA does not pay the State Marshal, his 15% fees are added to the rate payer's bill and the rate payer pays him. In addition, city marshals are not free, they collect a fee and don't want to collect money. The WPCA has used them in the past and the results were very poor.

75 Liberty St. and Riverside Dr. Ansonia Specialty Wire (formerly American Brass). The accounts are currently in collection with Marshal Davies. This has been an ongoing problem and no money has been paid on the accounts. R. St. Jacques has tried to contact the company to discuss payment but her attempts have not been fruitful. Attempts to access the property to inspect their water pollution plant have been unsuccessful. W. Nimmons has become involved and is trying to obtain payment for all of the money owed the City for property taxes and sewer fees but nothing has been received.

M. D'Alessio stated that the WPCA should make collection decisions, no one else. N. Parente stated that he had spoken to the Mayor and the city attorney and the property is now owned by a hedge fund located in Stamford. The hedge fund owners said that they can pay something on the bills and make arrangements on the balances.

The chairman requested a letter be sent to W. Nimmons stating that if no payment is received 30 days from 2-19-14, Marshal Davies will be instructed to actively pursue collections, including taking over their water pollution plant.

C. Stowe asked if the WPCA has tried to collect the bills. R. St. Jacques said that the property is heavily leined and that all collection avenues open to the WPCA have been exhausted. Mr. Nimmons received all documentation and said that the City was going to make a deal. So far no progress has been reported. C. Stowe requested that this item be included in executive session. Again Mr Stowe mentioned that he had asked Atty. Marini to attend the WPCA meeting but he was not available.

MOTION to send a letter to W. Nimmons, with copies to Mayor Cassetti and Attorney Marini, stating that if no resolution has been made on this property within thirty days of this meeting, March 21, 2014, the WPCA will actively persue collection.

Cook Industrial (Beaver St.) When the sewer project began in 2009 Cook complained that their 17K bill was too high. The board looked at the way the property was sub-divided and billed according to how the property was being used. This brought the bill down to about \$4,500. Cook has never paid anything on the sewer bills. The accounts were subsequently sent to Marshal Davies for collection.

MOTION to go into executive session to discuss Cook and Liberty St. properties made by K. Plavnicky and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed. Executive session began at 8:15 PM and included all of the WPCA board members.

MOTION to return to open meeting made by C. Durante and seconded by K.Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed. Open meeting continued at 8:25PM.

MOTION to extend the resolution of these properties until April 2, 2014 in letter to W. Nimmons, Mayor Cassetti and Attorney Marini made by C. Durante and seconded by C. Stowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

70 Great Hill Rd. currently on septic system. Has been paying bill off and on but is not on sewer system. C. Stowe asked if we can force property owners to connect to the sewer system and he was told that it has been done in the past.

MOTION requiring the owners of property located at 202 Beaver St., 42 Finney St. and 70 Great Hill Rd. to have their septic system inspected by a licensed professional and submit the results to the WPCA board within 60 days of this meeting made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A. Geruntho asked if the property owner could fix the problem rather than hook up to the sewer system and the Board agreed that whatever was cheaper was allowed.

There was discussion on the meaning of the City charter which reads that the "owners(s) of all houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes situated within the city and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sanitary or combined sewer of the city may, at the option of the city and at the owner(s) expense, be required to install a building sewer to connect their building drain to the public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, within ninety (90) days after date of official notice to do so, provided that said sewer is within one hundred (100) feet from the property line." The prior board interpreted the charter to mean that it is the option of the City to require the home owner to hook up to the sewer line, while the chairman of the present board interprets the meaning to be that the property owner has the option of whether to hook up. No agreement was reached.

#5. N. Parente had some questions on the medical insurance and R. St. Jacques answered.

N. Parente questioned the difference in the transfers from the number he had. Upon review, Nunzio had discussions with R. Bshara concerning transferring money from the sludge line item to the contingency line item and the information had not been passed on to Rita.

MOTION to approve the Sewer Administrator's Report made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Prime AE (formerly UIC) Prime AE is a civil engineering firm that has acquired UIC, which has been doing engineering for the City for many years.

Chairman Parente questioned the bill presented to the WPCA for payment and inquired line by line what the charge was for. Both Jay Jayanthan and Joe Maffeo answered the questions presented.

Engineer's report: (See attached)

N. Parente asked if it would be possible to incorporate Ansonia Copper's waste water plant into the interconnect plan should the WPCA acquire it? Prime answered that it would but there would need to be some investigation since no one is sure what is there due to the fact that the City has not been allowed access to the property.

On the Rt. 8 project the State has been asked to pay for having the lines checked by a camera both before and after the work is done. The Rt. 8 project has been ongoing for 25 years. J. Maffeo of PRIME was questioned about reviews that PRIME has done for the Rt. 8 project and Joe explained that the City and State entered into an agreement that the State would reimburse the City for the cost of the reviews.

MOTION to send a letter to Planning and Zoning stating that the WPCA will no longer be responsible for any pump stations that are needed for new construction. It will be the property owner's responsibility to supply and maintain the pump stations. The motion was made by K. Plavnicky and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

MOTION to approve transfers from line items to the contingency fund made by C. Stowe and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

R. St. Jacques and B. Capozzi both expressed concern about the money being transferred out of the sludge line item. N. Parente stated that he is aware of their concerns. C. Stowe explained that this is a new Board and it is going to be run more strictly but transfers will be made as needed. J Perrault stated that if sludge removal affects the running of the plant, both he and Brian could lose their State licenses. R. Bshara stated that in order to write a PO the money must be in the line item. Again, Nunzio assured everyone that the money would be available when needed.

MOTION to receive and pay all bills made by C. Stowe and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#1 PRIME AE invoice #59 \$1,881.75

#2 PRIME AE invoice #1164A-meetings \$34,580.95

Superentendent's report (see attached)

There is currently an ongoing problem with the SCADA alarms at the Bartolomew Av. and Coe La. pump stations. Arron Associates tried to fix the problem and it is their belief that the alarm programming through SCADA for the stations was not completed. Brian would like to forego SCADA and reinstall the chatterboxes that were there before the SCADA alarms were installed. Brian needs a firm to reprogram the Bartholomew and Coe locations to the chatterboxes which all of the other pump stations use. With the chatterboxes the computer calls the first person programmed (Brian) and if he is not available it calls the second person (Jeff). A computer voice gives the location of the problem.

MOTION to have Brian get estimate for chatterbox made by C. Stowe and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed. Brian will get an estimate and bring the info back to the Board.

N. Parente questioned Brian about the location of the WPCA laptop. Brian said that he has it. Nunzio asked if J. Tomasella has the laptop and Brian replied no, he himself has it. Nunzio then asked Brian to check with John about whether he has a WPCA laptop. Brian agreed to question John and report back to Nunzio.

Brian has procured several new quotes concerning chemicals and there was a discussion. He will meet with Nunzio to discuss.

Brian requested money to purchase a pump that fits several of the small pump stations to have as a spare should one of the pumps fail.

MOTION to buy a Homa pump made by C. Stowe and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

There is presently an issue at the plant because the draft tubes to clarifier #1 clogged up, making the sludge blanket very thick because no solids were leaving the tank. The power washer that is normally used is not working and cannot be fixed. A new power washer is needed, as well as new brush sets for the algae sweep arms on the final clarifiers. The clarifier will be cleaned every three months once the power washer and brush sets are received. Brian was told to order the brush sets.

Motion to approve power washer with warranty made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Rich Bshara update:

The vacuum truck was underfunded and an additional \$36k is needed. He asked the Board to transfer money from the contingency fund to the vacuum truck line item.

Motion to fund the \$36K for the vacuum truck from the contingency line item to the vac truck line item made by C. Stowe and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Brian and someone from Public Works needs to go before the Board of Alderman and request them to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract to purchase the vacuum truck.

Nunzio and Rich have been provided with some dates to meet with a representative of ION bank next week to investigate whether some of the WPCA money held at the bank can be moved around to increase the rate of interest. They will decide which date is best and coordinate with the bank.

Currently Trans Canada is our electric supplier for the pump stations at Bartholomew Av. and Coe La. The rest of the pump stations and the administrative building are with U.I. There is a need to switch from U.I to another distributor such as Liberty Power. Rich has contacted U.I. and requested usage and consumption for the whole city which has Liberty Power. Rich had requested a summary bill from Liberty Power and instead they sent 69 separate bills all over the city. The City is contemplating changing from Liberty Power and requested that the WPCA wait until the City makes a decision before switching from U.I.

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

MOTION to terminate Mary. Androski's relationship with the WPCA for medical insurance effective January 9, 2014 made by K. Plavnicky and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

C. Durante asked if there is a requirement that someone who works for the City cannot be delinquent on taxes and sewer fees. C. Stowe said that it was discussed in charter revision but nothing was decided. Carmine asked Rita to provide a list of delinquent employees, board members and alderman to the board at the next meeting (March 5, 2014).

MOTION to go into executive session made by C. Durante and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed. In addition to the board members B. Capozzi and J. Perrault were included in the executive session which began at 11:05PM.

MOTION to return to open session made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and executive session ended at 11:50PM.

MOTION to adjourn made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Turschmann, WPCA Secretary