



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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

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MINUTES OF THE WPCA MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 3, 2015

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. Stowe

K. Plavnicky

A. Geruntho

M. D'Alessio

D. Ventre

ABSENT

C. Durante

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Rita St. Jacques WPCA

Brian Capozzi WPCA

Rich Bshara

Attorney Keith Murray

Alderwomen Radin

DISCLAIMER: The minutes of the WPCA provided by the Secretary are not verbatim and are the best effort of the Secretary to capture all of the conversations taking place during the meeting.



C. Stowe thought that there might be a problem with the minutes from last month's meeting. He thought that the letters to the septic users said that the owners were delinquent in getting their tanks cleaned. However, the letters were only reminders that the tanks had to be cleaned. R. St. Jacques reminded the Commission that they had voted last year to have the tanks cleaned annually. Chairman Parente concurred with this. Member Stowe said that he will bring in documentation from the State that tanks only need to be cleaned every 3-5 years and this subject will be revisited at that time. Rita was told that she does not have to provide any additional information until the documentation is received.

MOTION to accept the minutes of the previous meeting made by C Stowe and seconded by M. D'Alessio. Five were in favor and member K.Plavnicky was opposed.

The chairman asked three times if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one answered and the public session closed at 7:10 PM.

MOTION to go into executive session made by D. Ventre and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed. In addition to the Commission members, the Secretary, R. Bshara, R. St. Jacques and B. Capozzi were part of the executive session in which Attorney Keith Murray discussed pending litigation.

MOTION to come out of executive session made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to go back to regular session made by A. Geruntho and seconded by D. Ventre. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to retain Attorney Keith Murray on a case by case basis beginning with the ongoing situation with the Housing Authority and funds which the WPCA is unable to collect. R. St. Jacques would like it stipulated that this is an action of the Commission and not the WPCA office. Motion made by C. Stowe and seconded by D. Ventre. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Sewer Administrator's Report: Copy on file in the Town and City Clerk's office.

1. Project bills mailed out with no problems.
2. Will be preparing and sending out Delinquent/Demand notices for the 2nd installment of the 2013 list year sewer bills which will be leined in August if not paid.
3. A public hearing needs to be set up for the next meeting (July 1, 2015) to set the rate for the 2014 list year usage bills. The Chairman asked if this is the reason for the crossover money since the fiscal year ends June 30th and we don't begin collecting on the bills until September. R. Bshara answered in the affirmative.

Rita told the Commission that she would prefer that the rate not get lowered again. Last year it went from \$3.05 per 100 cubic feet down to \$2.80 per 100 cubic feet. Well users went down from \$258/year to \$237/ year. The \$50 capital fee is in addition to the above rates. Rita has concerns that if the rate is lowered too much the WPCA will not be able to meet its' obligations.

When the Commission originally set the rate for the capital fee many years ago, they had set it figuring that the interest would accumulate help pay off the debt. Unfortunately, with the decline in the banking industry there is not much interest being paid on the account. There was some discussion on lowering the rates.

D. Ventre said that he was on the Credit Union Board and they had an allowance for loan loss. He asked if there was something like that for the WPCA and R. Bshara said that there is.

7. The situation with the former WPCA employee seems to be working out. A check has been received to pay COBRA for the month of June.

8. Marshal Davies brought in \$50,220.67 for the month of May and so far for June has brought in \$29,800. K. Plavnicky questioned how much of the \$50,000 the Marshal takes and the Chairman replied "nothing." The Marshal adds his fee to the debt.

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

Receive and pay all bills.

Attorney Marini had suggested that the outstanding bill for Attorney John Androski be settled, however, the Commission reiterated that they will pay the bill when the WPCA files in Attorney Androski's office are returned to the WPCA.

There were no other bills to be paid.

Superintendent's report: copy on file in the Town and City Clerk's office.

C. Stowe asked if anyone had contacted Nickerson about all of the problems at the plant and the Chairman said that he had talked to them and they were to get back to him. When Nickerson didn't call, the Chairman called them again and eventually left a voice mail saying that the WPCA will be fixing the problems and filing a lawsuit against their Company. If they would like to talk about a settlement they were to call him or Brian.

Brian is going to call to schedule the repair of the stairs. Other concrete work needs to be done and will begin shortly.

The A/C in the sludge holding room was repaired by Superior Mechanical Systems and while the mechanic was there he noted that the copper pipes are pitted. He said that whoever designed the building knew that the pipes should have been coated due to the sulphur in the air.

The A/C unit in the VFD room was repaired by Trane.

Several cost cutting measures were implemented.

A payment plan has been set up with Eversource to pay the \$7,200 they had failed to bill us.

A WPCA employee has been out ill for a few weeks and will probably be absent for a few more weeks, leaving the crew very short handed.

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

Finance Report.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning how much revenue is billed, how much is collected, nitrogen credits, budgeted expenses and obligations due for the sewer capital fee and the sewer project loan. This was done to determine the budget. The Chairman said that he would have the budget completed for the next (July) meeting.

The new payroll system has been implemented and there have been a few glitches. The problems are being worked out and hopefully by the next meeting all the data needed for reports will be available.

MOTION to approve the Finance Report made by C. Stowe and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Chairman asked if Rich Bshara's report can be renamed the Financial Report on the agenda and the secretary will gladly make the change.

MOTION to move \$20,000 out of the Capital Projects line item and transfer \$10,000 to the Motor Vehicle line item and \$10,000 to the Contingency line item made by C. Stowe and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to transfer \$330,000 out of the Contingency line item to the Capital Improvement line item at the end of the fiscal year for future capital improvements made by A. Geruntho and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed

MOTION to have a public hearing on July 1, 2015 at 6:45PM. in the Erlingheuser Room at City Hall to set the usage fee for the 2014 list year bills made by K. Plavnicky and seconded by D. Ventre. All were in favor and the motion passed. The regular meeting will follow the public hearing.

MOTION to adjourn made by D. Ventre and seconded by A. Geruntho. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellen Turschmann", written over a horizontal line.

Ellen Turschmann/Secretary