



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

JULY 1, 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 five members present, therefore there was a quorum.

PRESENT

N. Parente
C. Stowe
K. Plavnicky
M. D'Alessio
C. Durante

ABSENT

A. Geruntho
D. Ventre

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Rita St. Jacques WPCA
Brian Capozzi WPCA
Rich Bshara

Attorney John Marini (Executive session only)

Aldерwoman Joan 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.

MOTION to accept the minutes of the previous meeting made by C. Stowe and seconded by C. Durante. The Chairman asked if there was any discussion on the previous month's minutes and



member K. Plavnicky said that he would like the minutes of January 8, 2014 corrected to show that he was present. The secretary stated that she did not think that Mr. Plavnicky was a member of the Board at that time but was assured that he was. As per the minutes of the January 14, 2014 Board of Alderman meeting, the secretary discovered that Mr. Plavnicky was appointed to the Board on that date and so was not a Member of the WPCA at the January 8, 2014 meeting. However, Mr. Plavnicky was a member of the audience. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CORRECTION to minutes of the June 3, 2014 meeting. Mrs. Josephine Palmieri of 4 W. Roosevelt Dr. Ansonia had a sewage back-up into her basement. Mrs. Palmieri asked that the WPCA pay for her plumbing bill, since she had called a plumber instead of calling the City. Superintendent Capozzi stated that the WPCA does not pay for plumbing. However, since Mrs. Palmieri cleaned the basement herself the Board felt that she should be reimbursed for her effort.

MOTION to pay \$140.00 dollars which is half of the plumber's bill to Mrs. Palmieri for cleaning the basement made by M. D'Alessio and seconded by D. Ventre. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The chairman asked three times if anyone from the public wished to speak. No one answered and the public session closed at 7:05PM.

The Chairman asked R. Bshara to give a quick overview of the rate calculation for the 2015-2016 usage rate. The rate is less than was originally proposed.

Rich's report is on file in the Town and City Clerk's office. The report details the WPCA income and expenses and shows how the rate was calculated.

MOTION to accept the rate of \$2.65 per 100 cubic feet and flat rate well use of \$224.00 with a \$50.00 capital fee on all bills for the 311 project made by C. Stowe and seconded by C. Durante. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The sewer use rate went from \$2.80 per 100 cubic feet to \$2.65 and this is a 5.35% reduction. The flat rate well rate went from \$237.00 to \$224.00 which is a 5.5% reduction. In addition, both consumption and well rates also have the \$50.00 capital fee.

Member Stowe thanked both Alderman Radin and Randy Carroll for their comments and congratulated the commission for their work to lower the rate and the work they've done.

Chairman Parente said that the budget was a good one.

Mr. Randy Carroll requested he and Alderwoman Radin be given a copy of the meeting agenda and handouts and the secretary said that she will gladly provide them.

The Chairman asked three times if anyone from the audience would like to speak. When no one answered the public session was closed at 7:12PM.

MOTION to go into executive session made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed. The executive session began at 7:13PM. and included all of the Board members plus the secretary, Rita St. Jacques, Richard Bshara, Attorney John Marini

and Brian Capozzi. Attorney Allison Pannoza of the Rose Kallor Law firm was also in attendance.

MOTION to go back into regular session made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed. The executive session ended at 7:51PM.

Sewer Administrator's report (Copy on file in the Town and City Clerk's Office).

As of 1:50PM on July 1, 2015 the WPCA office had collected over \$1M in sewer project fees.

Two of the three rate payers who were sent reminder notices to have their septic tanks cleaned have complied with the request.

Delinquent/lien notices will be mailed out on either July 8th or 9th for the 2013 list year usage bill by QDS, the WPCA billing company.

The data for the usage bill has been received from the Regional Water Authority and Rich has begun to work with QDS for the upcoming usage billing in September.

Rita reported on the bill collections of Marshal Arthur Davies and provided the monthly financial reports.

There was discussion concerning the medical insurance status of a former WPCA employee and that employee is now paying for his share of the insurance for he and his family.

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

There were no bills to be paid.

Superintendent's report. (Copy on file in the Town and City Clerk's Office).

There was overtime on 6-19 so that a WWTP employee could finish a report for the State and run lab tests.

The WWTP employee who has been on sick leave is scheduled to return to work the week of July 6th.

The upper Silver Hill station lost the prime in the air pressure tube. The mechanic was able to reset the prime without removing the pump.

One of the air dryers on one of the compressors for the raw sludge pumps went bad. A new one had to be ordered and the cost with shipping was \$1250.00. The mechanic will install it.

A new polymer is being used and it is working well. Less product is being used and is resulting in a thick sludge.

Between 6-8 gallons of Alum are being used each hour. Last year at this time 5-6 gallons were being used. The incoming phosphorus is much higher and the reason cannot be identified.

C Stowe said that he thinks the reason for the Alum problem has to do with something coming in from the outside. Chairman Parente suggested that Brian contact several plants north of the WWTP to see if they are experiencing the same problem.

The Pepe construction Company will begin work on the concrete stairs the week of July 8th. Chairman Parente said that he had contacted the Nickerson Engineering firm who was responsible for the construction of the new plant to talk to them about the concrete problems being incurred. Nunzio felt that the problems stem from a bad pour and problems with the concrete. The person at Nickerson said that there was only a one year warranty but he would talk to other people at the firm and get back to Nunzio. After a couple of weeks with no reply Nunzio contacted him and said that the WPCA will begin litigation against Nickerson.

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.

C. Stowe called the Valley Health Department and the City Engineer to see what the standard is for cleaning septic tanks. The City Engineer said that he thought it is 3-5 years. The VHD has not given an answer yet. Chairman Parente reminded the Board that they had voted to have the septic tanks cleaned every year and that to change the requirement would need another vote. C. Stowe suggested that no action be taken until Valley Health has replied. Chairman Parente agreed to wait until an answer is heard from Valley Health.

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

C. Stowe said that after meeting with Attorney Pannoza he feels that the meetings should be recorded. R. St. Jacques said that after speaking with Attorney Marini he had suggested that the meetings not be taped. K. Plavnicky said that he "demands" the meetings be recorded. Chairman Parente asked the secretary to begin taping the minutes again and at the next meeting to choose a seat which provides access for taping and not move for anyone.

MOTION that it is in the best interest to have the meetings recorded due to possible litigation made by C. Stowe and seconded by K. Plavnicky. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION to go back on agenda made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Financial report

Rich gave kudos to the WPCA collection office (Rita and Ellen) for hitting the \$1M mark in the June project collections.

Every meeting Nunzio gets a copy of what the WPCA is spending. Now he will be able to see the budget and aggregate collections.

C. Durante said that he would like to see all bills paid from two years ago compared to what was paid last year in a version similar to what Rita uses for Marshal collection's. Rich said that it is not possible to get the information from the general ledger so he would have to do it manually.

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

Rita said that as a courtesy she was notifying the Board that she will be contacting Attorney Marini in his position as Personnel Director that she would like to change the job description for the WPCA clerk to remove the requirement that the clerk is secretary to the WPCA board. Rita explained that when the job description was originally written it was written for her and she had been the WPCA secretary for many previous years. The Board wanted Rita to remain as the secretary so it was written into the job description. There is no other job description which requires being a Board secretary. K. Plavnicky said that Jen Lester works for the police department and is secretary for the police commission. Rita agreed but said that Jen is paid extra for being secretary while Ellen is not.

Rita said that the reason for the decision to remove the requirement is due to the treatment of the secretary from certain board members. No other secretary has to put up with "getting beaten up" at every meeting. She said that no one should have to put up with this.

C. Stowe asked if I would remain as secretary if I were paid and I replied I would rather not.

The Chairman asked K. Plavnicky and C. Stowe if they sit on the Public Works board. Ken replied yes and Charlie said that he is the liaison between the Board of Alderman and the Public Works board. Nunzio then asked if Oak Lane had become a city street. Neither person knew the answer. Nunzio noticed that the road had been paved and wondered if it had been paved by the City? Again, neither knew. The reason for the question is that Oak Lane was a private road and has a private lateral. If there is a problem with the sewer line the WPCA needs to know who to call. It makes a difference whether it is a private or city road. The Chairman asked the secretary to send a letter to the Mayor requesting information on whether Oak Lane is a private or city road.

The question was raised whether Quarry Road would be accepted as a city street if Oak Lane has become a city street. Mr. Randall Carroll said that the property his condo complex is on used to be a city street. If Quarry Road receives recognition as a city street, it is only right that his condo complex becomes a city street and the city becomes responsible for paving, snow removal etc.

MOTION to adjourn made by C. Durante and seconded by M. D'Alessio. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ellen Turschmann/Secretary