



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Regular Meeting

October 7, 2015

Present: Nunzio Parente, Chairman
Michael D'Alessio
Carmine Durante (left meeting at 8:30 p.m.)
Andrew Geruntho
Ken Plavnicky
Charles Stowe
Dan Ventre

Others in Attendance: Rita St. Jacques
Richard Bshara
Brian Capozzi
Joan Radin, Alderwoman (5th Ward)

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Chairman Parente.

All present rose and pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

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.

WPCA100715

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Durante made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the September 2, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. D'Alessio seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public Session

Chairman Parente asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

Lisa Benfanti
19-21 William Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Ms. Benfanti discussed the billing for her home stating she is being overcharged. She states it was a two family and has just been converted to a three family however the past bills she received from WPCA are billing her for a three family.

Chairman Parente asked is it a two family or three family?

Ms. Benfanti said it just turned into a three family.

The discussion continued on how the WPCA can determine when this house was converted to a three family. Chairman Parente asked Ms. Benfanti to provide some proof that it was not a three family for all of the past years. Ms. Benfanti said the field card dated 2004 has the house listed as a two family. He said the burden of proof as to whether it was a two or three family house is on Ms. Benfanti. Mr. Stowe asked about the people who lived there, could they verify whether it was two family or three family.

Joe Branch
56 Locke St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Branch said the City Records show it was a two family.

Mr. Stowe said there is no record of payment that may show it was listed as a two family. It looks like a three family dwelling. Ms. Benfanti said it looks like a four family. Mr. Parente asked if there were three meters. Ms. Benfanti said there were two meters. Chairman Parente said that Ms. Benfanti would have to provide proof that this house was a two family.

Mr. Branch stated the City of Ansonia records say it was a two family house. The bill was coming to 56 Locke Street. Do we have a reason for that?

Ms. St. Jacques said you received the bills and didn't say anything.

Ms. Benfanti said we did, we spoke to you and Ellen.

Chairman Parente said the Board will look into it further.

Mr. Branch said the City of Ansonia records say it was a two family.

Chairman Parente asked that Ms. Benfanti and Mr. Branch bring in all of the information regarding the property showing the two family status and the three family status. He said it was determined that the house is a three family and it is up to the property owner to prove otherwise.

Ms. Benfanti said that she has been receiving bills for a four family while it was a two family.

Discussion continued on the status of the house and when it was a two family, when it was a three family and when it was billed as a four family. Ms. Benfanti said that the house is not a four family dwelling.

Discussion on the billing of the dwelling continued. There was discussion on the bill for sewer usage and for the Sewer Project at \$280 per unit. The Chair asked if Ms. Benfanti received the bills and if she saw the bills. Ms. Benfanti said that she did see the bills but she did not pay them.

Discussion continued on the dwelling being a two, three or four unit dwelling and Mr. Branch stated that there are two account numbers. They discussed the account numbers located on the bills. Ms. St. Jacques said that in the upper left corner of the bill it states the number of units.

Mr. Branch said he has a Project bill.

Ms. St. Jacques said they both say quantity is two (2).

Mr. Branch asked WPCA doesn't have to prove that the City of Ansonia records are incorrect?

Chairman Parente said you could come in and look at the records. We don't know what was in that house. How does the WPCA know what was in there. We are not saying it isn't a two family or three family but we don't know what is there.

Mr. Branch said it is listed as a two family.

Chairman Parente said you never said it's a two family house not a three family house for all these years.

Mr. Branch said it is the same account number for the two family.

Ms. St. Jacques said it is 19-21.

Chairman Parente said two separate bills for 2 two family houses.

Ms. St. Jacques said they brought in the billing in 2008. In 2009 WPCA had CDM and UIC prepare the records for the project billing. We paid \$50,000 for both companies to do the work and they gave us the information on how to bill. That is how the original billing was done. This was all done before I became Sewer Administrator.

Mr. Branch asked how the file is updated.

Ms. St. Jacques said she received the updates from the Town Clerk's office when there are changes to be made.

Mr. Branch said there is double billing for this property. It is being billed as a four family and it is a two family.

Chairman Parente said you were billed for two family and this year we billed you for three family. We will look back and see what we can find.

Mr. Branch said we didn't pay the bills because they were too high. We couldn't pay it. The sheriff's fees were paid and the interest was paid. We are asking that you refund back the sheriff's fees and interest.

Chairman Parente said you had an opportunity to look at your bill and you didn't say you didn't have the money to pay.

Ms. St. Jacques said by law you only have 30 days to dispute the bill.

Chairman Parente said you prove it's a two family and there is no problem refunding the money. We don't know what was there in 2011.

Mr. Branch said you said the records are updated on a yearly basis.

Chairman Parente said no I didn't say that. I don't think we went out to look.

Mr. Branch said someone came out and looked.

Chairman Parente asked was there bare walls or was it complete.

Mr. Branch said it was complete and they updated their records.

Chairman Parente asked when was the work done.

Ms. Benfanti said recently.

Chairman Parente said that is part of the information that you should bring in to WPCA.

Ms. Benfanti said the records say two family and you changed it to a four family.

Mr. Bshara asked what the house was in 1983.

Mr. Branch said ZBA gave permission to make it into a three family in 1983.

Mr. Bshara asked when was it officially a three family?

Mr. Stowe said the building permit would say when the construction was done and it should say two family or three family.

Mr. Branch said the contractor pulled the permit, they never saw it. They participated in the Lisa Lowe project.

Ms. St. Jacques said the Lisa Lowe permits say it was a three family house. That was in January.

Mr. Stowe suggested they get the permit and see what it says.

Mr. Branch said they are willing to take care of these last couple of months.

Mr. Stowe said the bill is \$6000.

Discussion on looking at the bills when they are received from the WPCA and they are considered incorrect by the home owner continued. Ms. Benfanti said this conversation has been repeated a 100 times. Chairman Parente said the conversation is over, in the meantime WPCA will wait for your information.

Ms. St. Jacques said there are two bills with account numbers. Two bills for 2 two family dwellings. She said she eliminated one bill and made the other bill a three family dwelling bill.

The Chairman asked three (3) times if there was anyone else from the public who wished to address the Commission. There being no one, he closed the public session.

Septic Inspection Cycle – Charles Stowe

Mr. Stowe read his report to the commission regarding the septic inspection cycle. He said it was recommended that the septic inspection cycle be on a three to five year inspection cycle. He is recommending inspection of these septic systems every three years. He said being in the business himself he feels there is a need for inspections every three years.

Chairman Parente asked Sewer Administrator St. Jacques the number of people on the septic system that is required to have inspections.

Ms. St. Jacques said there are three – Great Hill Road, Finney Street and 202 Beaver Street. She said the reason why we are checking these is that they have the ability and footage to tie into the sewers. The former Boards made them inspect annually.

There was discussion that the Board in 2014 voted to have the inspections and all three property owners were aware that they had to do the inspection. In March 2015 reminder letters were sent out and two property owners had the inspection done and one property owner did not. Mr. Stowe explained the importance of doing the inspection every three years instead of five years. He said if you pump the tank and the system is not good WPCA will know that. He said he is making the recommendation that they have standard procedure that they pump the tank every three years to find out if there is a failure.

Chairman Parente called for a motion to have the inspection of these septic systems every three years.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to extend the inspection of these septic systems to three (3) years because it is a State recommendation. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor with one (1) abstention (C. Durante abstained). The motion carried.

Chairman Parente said the inspections will be every three years. There are two people who are diligent and their next inspection is due in 2018 and they are expected to inspect the system every three years. There is one person whose next inspection will be 2017 and will be required to inspect every three years.

Executive Session – WPCA Supt. Anniversary and Class 3 hiring

Mr. Durante made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Brian Capozzi was invited to stay. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Durante made a motion to close Executive session at 8:15 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Durante made a motion to go back into regular session at 8:15 p. m. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Sewer Administrator's Report (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Rita St. Jacques, Sewer Administrator was present.

43 Cottage Ave.: The owner is requesting a refund for past sewer use fees that were paid by him for a three family home when he states his home is a two family home.

Chairman Parente said that there were minutes on this house several years ago and someone went to this house and they were refused entry for an inspection to verify the number of families.

Mr. Durante made a motion to have the Assessor go to the home and verify whether it is a two family or a three family home. Mr. D'Alessio seconded. All in favor, so carried.

19-21 William St.: Chairman Parente said that this was discussed during the Public Session.

Chairman Parente asked Ms. St. Jacques if WPCA could have a letter written from the WPCA Attorney requesting that Ms. Benno, Assessor go to 43 Cottage Ave.

Ms. St. Jacques said she will write a letter to the WPCA Attorney requesting he send a letter to Ms. Benno requesting that she go to the property for an inspection.

Financial Report: Mr. Durante asked if WPCA transferred the funds from the last month's meeting. Chairman Parente said yes, it was the month before and it was done. Ms. St. Jacques said the Balance Sheets with the Expenditures summary, Employee Medical Insurance, Deductions, due from the WPCA to the City and the Monthly Bank balances & Grand Rate Book balance sheets are attached to her report.

Marshall Davies Collections: Ms. St. Jacques said that Marshall Davies collection report is attached to her report.

Reminder Cards: Ms. St. Jacques said that the reminders are going out for the 2nd installment of the Special Project Bill and the Delinquent notices for the 1st installment of the Sewer Usage Bill will be sent out.

Ms. St. Jacques asked what the Commission wished her to do with regard to 19-21 Williams Street.

Chairman Parente said it is incumbent on them to provide the information requested on this property. They are making the claim it was a two family dwelling and just recently became a three family dwelling. They should provide all of the information to WPCA so it can be reviewed.

There was discussion on the contractor bills and when the permits were given for this conversion. The home owners also stated they were granted permission in 1983 to convert to a three family and they didn't convert until recently. The commission feels there are a lot of unanswered questions as to when this house was converted to a three family dwelling. In January there was a Lisa Lowe project that came back stating they did work on a three family house.

Mr. Durante made a motion to accept Rita St. Jacques report as presented. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Chairman Parente asked about the generator for the Transfer Station.

Mr. Stowe said that Public Works Dept. told him they are not using the generator. He said Mr. Novak is out of town and he asked for someone under Mr. Novak to come to the meeting this evening.

Chairman Parente said there are two Aldermen here this evening and he asked if they had any knowledge of what the status was for Oak Lane. He said WPCA sent a letter to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen last month inquiring as to whether Oak Lane was recognized as a City street.

Alderwoman Radin said she hasn't seen anything in her mail box for Oak Lane.

Alderman Stowe said he hasn't received anything either.

There was discussion on the status of Oak Lane and whether it is a City accepted street. Chief Hale was also asking for clarification as to whether Oak Lane is a City street. Should there be a problem on the street who is responsible for repairs and maintenance?

Bills

There were no bills presented for payment.

Old Business

There is no old business.

Superintendent's Report (copy on file in the Town Clerk's office)

Mr. Brian Capozzi was present.

Mr. Capozzi said there was 3 hours of overtime on September 19th for a Scada burb and 3 hours of overtime on September 28th for pump clog and overheating.

Mr. Plavnicky asked Mr. Capozzi if he painted the shed.

Mr. Capozzi said no, the trim needs to be painted. He said the DEEP did a thorough compliance inspection on Sept. 18th. He said the Inspector went through everything. When he receives the report he will send a copy to everyone. He said the electrician has run the new electric lines on Jackson Street and the pump station is now on their own and off of the Police Dept. line. He said that he and John cut down the trees that were over growing the station.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to accept Superintendent Capozzi's report as presented. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Richard Bshara Report

Mr. Richard Bshara was present.

Mr. Bshara said that collection is 117% higher year to date from last year. The 15-16 expenditure summary is included in his packet with the 14-15 revenue and expense list. They are currently working on the Audit and hopefully it will be finished shortly.

He said WPCA asked him to look into another auditor for WPCA. He said he has done that and WPCA doesn't have to have the same Auditor as the City but WPCA will have to be included in the City of Ansonia audit. They would have to hire someone to put it in the City Audit. He said for \$5000 WPCA will not get someone to do their audit. The work load is the same and the current Auditor has done a good job but WPCA is welcome to look further. He said he is working diligently on the 6/30/15 Audit and they hope to have it done earlier before the Mayor's State of the City address.

There was a brief discussion on the nitrogen credit and Mr. Bshara explained it.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to accept Mr. Bshara's report as presented. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Parente said the Commission is probably wondering why Jo-Lynn is here this evening.

Ms. St. Jacques said Ms. Turschmann did not want to take the minutes and through a discussion with the Union, they removed the minutes from her job description and put other duties in to offset the minutes being removed.

Chairman Parente said one thing Ms. Turschmann will be monitoring is the bankruptcies. He said the WPCA would like a monthly "blurb" on the bankruptcies, i.e. this month we received \$74.27.

Chairman Parente thanked Ms. Turschmann stating she did a great job and welcomed Ms. Flaherty.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to hire Jo-Lynn Flaherty at \$200 per month to do the minutes. Special meetings will be paid in addition to the monthly salary. Mr. D'Alessio seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Geruntho made a motion to transfer \$1400 from the Plant Wages to the Board Secretary line. Mr. Plavnick seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was discussion on litigation in the WPCA and the Chairman instructed the secretary to invite Attorney Keith Murray to the next WPCA meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. D'Alessio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary