



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia
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Regular Meeting

December 2, 2015

Present: Nunzio Parente, Chairman
Andrew Geruntho
Ken Plavnicky
Charles Stowe
Dan Ventre

Absent: Michael D'Alessio
Carmine Durante

Others in Attendance: Rita St. Jacques
Richard Bshara
Brian Capozzi
Keith Murray, Attorney
Joan Radin, Alderwoman (5th Ward)
Randy Carroll, Alderman (1st Ward)

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by 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.

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Approval of Minutes

Mr. Plavnicky made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the November 4, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public Session

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

Executive Session – WPCA Supt. Anniversary

Mr. Geruntho made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. Attorney Keith Murray and staff were invited to stay. Mr. Plavnicky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Geruntho made a motion to close Executive session at 7:25 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to go back into regular session at 7:25 p. m. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to approve a three (3) percent cost of living increase for Supt. Capozzi retro to October 2015. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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

Rita St. Jacques, Sewer Administrator was present.

Ms. St. Jacques reviewed her report with the Commissioners. She explained the bankruptcy collection report and the update of collections.

Chairman Parente asked about item #4 on the bankruptcy collection report. His concern is the amount paid versus the balance and if the balance will be collected during the process.

Ms. St. Jacques explained the balance figure for the list year stating the oldest bill is paid first as is the interest. There are times that the amount changes due to updates and directives from the courts.

Ms. St. Jacques said she has Attorney Murray's invoice in the amount of \$581.00.

Chairman Parente asked Attorney Murray to explain the “in person” meeting with Attorney Androski.

Mr. Murray explained that this meeting was discussed with the Chairman and it refers to Attorney Androski recusing himself from the case. He said this should be the final bill unless there is a problem with the contract.

Mr. Plavnicky made a motion to pay Attorney Murray’s invoice in the amount of \$581.00 Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Ms. St. Jacques said the financials from WPCA report and the bank balances are included in the packet. Marshall Davies collection is \$80, 200 which is up from last November. He said he is close to that amount for December. Collections began this month. Reminder cards were sent out and people are paying.

Mr. Plavnicky asked if the Marshall goes after these people, do the people pay the entire amount that is owed to him and is his fee paid in that amount.

Ms. St. Jacques said the money collected is applied to the oldest bill until that bill is paid off and then the money is applied to the next bill and so forth. All interest and fees are collected from the money paid. She gave an example: a person owes \$800 plus \$1300 interest on one bill he must pay interest and then principal. The interest continues to accrue on the balance.

Mr. Ventre made a motion to approve Ms. St. Jacques report as presented. Mr. Geruntho seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Parente thanked Ms. St. Jacques for her report.

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)

Supt. Brian Capozzi was present.

Supt. Capozzi reviewed his report with the Commissioners. He said there was no unscheduled over time in November. The average sludge trucks for November was 6.5 trucks a week. The last bill was under \$10,000 and the bill before was under \$15,000.

Supt. Capozzi reported that the Jackson Station is almost complete and the power needs to be switched from the old panel to the new panel. He is trying to coordinate this with UI, the electrician and staff. He said they will need to run the portable pump if the power switch takes longer or an issue arises. The area has been paved and the station looks good. He explained that in the spring he will be looking to rebuild the wet well pumps and piping.

Supt. Capozzi said the effluent valve control is being shipped out for repair. He explained why they had to wait to send the valve out and that once the control is off there is no way to work the valves. Derby WPCA borrowed the Godwin trailer pump. They returned it filled with gas and clean. The DEEP reports were sent out today. Kevin Cegelka and Carmen Pitney prepared the reports for DEEP.

Supt. Capozzi said he received a quote to repair the plant generator. The quote is \$4,956.00. He said he checked the water pump every day since HO Pen found the pump leaking. There is a decrease in leakage.

Chairman Parente said there was an obvious problem when they found anti-freeze and coolant all over. They repaired the water pump.

Supt. Capozzi said the head gaskets were also replaced at that time.

There was discussion on other issues and problems with the generator. Mr. Stowe said this is not the cause of the last failure. The Caterpillar had bracket failure 2 years ago and they didn't fix it and it broke and ground up.

Chairman Parente told Supt. Capozzi to go into the cabinet and get the past repair bills so we can see what was done.

Supt. Capozzi asked if he should hold off on the repair.

Chairman Parente said no, tell them you are investigating to see if they should have fixed it before.

Supt. Capozzi explained that the soda ash line was clogged with scale. They were able to clean it with a descaling solution. It is now functioning. He explained the solution that was used. They cut it in half and it worked fine. The phosphorous increased this season and he learned from the alum supplier that it is not just the Valley plants but all of New England had higher phosphorous this year.

Chairman Parente asked him when he noticed this.

Supt. Capozzi said he noticed it when he began using more alum. He then called the supplier and found that the drier summer made the phosphorus more concentrated which required more alum to take care of it.

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

New Business

Mr. Plavnicky made a motion to purchase a new digital recorder not to exceed \$200.

Chairman Parente said before the Commission moves to purchase a new recorder we should have Mr. Bshara get some specifications on an equal or upgrade machine before the next meeting.

Mr. Bshara said he would get the information for the commission.

Mr. Plavnicky said he would like to have the Organizational Meeting at 6:45 p.m. prior to the Regular meeting in January 2016. He would like the Mayor invited so he can chair the Organizational meeting.

Ms. St. Jacques said that WPCA usually holds their Organizational Meeting in February.

There was discussion on the Organizational meeting. Mr. Carroll stated that the first meeting of the commission in January is usually the Organizational Meeting and the Mayor is invited to attend.

Chairman Parente said the Organizational Meeting will be held at 6:45 p.m. and the Regular meeting will be at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Turschmann stated that if a meeting is recorded the tape needs to be filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Richard Bshara Report

Mr. Richard Bshara was present.

Mr. Bshara said that Collections are on track and ahead of last year. He contacted ION Bank regarding the credit card and they don't offer credit cards. He is looking into other banks that will provide the service WPCA is looking for. He said he has been to Lowe's regarding a credit card for their store. He said he is trying to set up a meeting with the manager to go in and sit down and talk to her about setting up a business account. Lowe's is on a 25 day pay cycle which means there is 25% interest charge if not paid.

Supt. Capozzi said if it is not auto-pay, he would like the bill sent directly to Ms. St. Jacques.

Mr. Bshara said if you go to Lowe's, you come in and do a Purchase Order right away and don't wait for the bill. You have the receipt, the P.O. can be processed from the receipt.

Mr. Bshara explained that the sales tax is the problem. If we get the card in City of Ansonia's name the account will be tax exempt.

Discussion on paying the bill before the invoice is generated. Mr. Bshara said he has been calling the Corporate Office trying to set up the credit card. He said there are cash back cards that the City can use to pay down the bill such as American Express. He said he doesn't know if the Lowe's card has this benefit.

Mr. Stowe said a few months ago there was discussion of paying down the 311 project. He asked if it looks like WPCA can do that.

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

Mr. Stowe asked if it is possible to put money into Project 311 to decrease it.

Mr. Bshara said there is about nine years left. He discussed the collection and the interest and how it affects the Project.

Mr. Stowe said if we keep doing what we are doing we will be short.

Mr. Bshara said he is waiting for the audit and he will have a better idea of the Project status. He will roll it forward and then come to the Board to see what direction they wish to take.

Chairman Parente asked when the audit will be finished.

Mr. Bshara said it should be done within a few days. He said he will have the numbers from the audit that will enable him to figure the Project 311 status. He said he should have something for the Board in February.

Discussion continued on the assessed rate and the possibility of a shortage and the cause and effect on the rate. Mr. Bshara explained the interest monies and how they should be applied. He said at year end – June 30th he will roll it forward and set the numbers as of that date.

Chairman Parente asked if anyone had anything else for the commission.

Ms. Turschmann said that in February 2016, she will be transferring to a new position. She will be working with Sheila O'Malley as the Grant Specialist.

Ms. St. Jacques said WPCA will post for a replacement in the beginning of the year. There are collections in December and she has vacation. She said someone should be in place by the end of January or sooner.

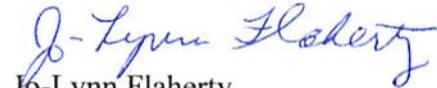
January Meeting

The January Regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and the Organizational meeting will be held at 6:45 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Stowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Ventre seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Secretary