

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2009

The meeting opened @ 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The chairman asked the secretary to call the roll, there were five members present. The chairman declared a quorum.

PRESENT: H. Madigosky
S. Jordanides
G. Merlone
C. LaRovera
H. Boladz

ABSENT: K. Blake
N. Caruso

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Attorney John Androski
S. Blume: Pres. Bd. of aldermen
J. Maffeo
A. Narayana : UIC
W. Baethge: UIC
S. Seigal: CDM
J. Ryan: CDM: Project Manager
F. Michaud: CPA
Maureen Bennett: Sewer Administrator

The chairman asked the members if they would like to deviate from the agenda to go into Public Session so Meadow View Estates could be discussed because it was not officially on the agenda for the February meeting.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to deviate from the agenda for the purpose of opening the Public Session. All members were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Jim Swift: PE and Attorney Bellis (arrived late) were present to speak about the project. The project is named Meadow View Estates. There will be four homes in the sub-division and it is known as 109B Ford St. Rear (according to the assessor's information). Mr. Swift told the members that he has brought along copies of the plans for the purpose of reviewing the changes that were made at UIC's recommendations. He said "they have met the criteria / changes that were listed by UIC and they are shown on the new plans". Ashawatha told the members he just received the plans with the changes and hasn't had a chance to review the changes.

Member Gary Merlone said he doesn't see why the WPCA couldn't go ahead and give "CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL" for the project if they have met the criteria .

Ashawatha Narayana told the members he is sure they are asking for the Actual FINAL APPROVAL for the project. Mr. Swift asked the members if they had any questions for

him, he would be happy to answer any questions. The members said they would go by the recommendations of UIC. They would give a CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL for the time being and after UIC re-reviewed the plans to see that the changes have been met to their specifications then they would consider giving the FINAL APPROVAL.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to deviate and return to the regular portion of the meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

When the WPCA returned to the regular portion of the meeting and had a chance to discuss the project with the engineer they would make their decision / motion and they would be notified.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to go into Executive Session at the request of Maureen Bennett to discuss her Annual Review. All were in favor of the motion. 7:05 PM

At the request of the Chairman and Attorney Androski the following people were asked to stay for the discussion: Frank Michaud and Maureen Bennett.

Please note that Maureen Bennett left the Executive Session on her own accord at about 7:30 PM when the Session became upsetting to her.

At 7:40 PM the door was opened and the people that left the room for executive session were allowed to return to the Erlingheuser room.

When the secretary returned the chairman asked for a motion to return to the regular portion of the meeting and for the purpose of coming out of Executive Session.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz to return to the regular portion of the meeting. All were in favor of the motion. 7:40 PM

The chairman told the secretary for the record that the members discussed the Annual Review of Maureen Bennett. Attorney Androski will prepare a letter on behalf of the WPCA and send it to Maureen Bennett regarding her Performance Review.

Also for the record member Gary Merlone said he thought that Maureen is a valuable asset to the WPCA. She goes above and beyond her duties and does a great job. On a personal note he mentioned that any time he has asked for anything or needed clarification on anything Maureen is there and always willing to help in any way she can.

The chairman asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz to accept the minutes from the previous meeting if they are found to be true and correct. All were in favor of the motion and there were no corrections to be made.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Madigosky said he had a letter from Attorney Norman Chase, his clients are Yvonne and Robert Rovasio of 261 Division St. Apparently there was a sewer back up in the area of the property. The claim has already been denied by the Board of Alderman and Massamount Insurance Company. Chairman Madigosky said he wanted the members to be aware of the letter and he wanted it to be placed on file with the minutes.

There was some discussion about sewer back ups in general.

Member Spero Jordanides said he thought there were quite a few back ups and wanted to know the reason why. Former Supt. of Public Works Joe Maffeo told him and the members that were actually fewer back ups in 2008 than there were the year before. Spero also said he thinks there should be regular work done to prevent the back ups from happening. There isn't enough money in the budget or personnel to do this. Mr. Maffeo made the suggestion that the WPCA check into the nursing home located up the street from where the back up occurred. He isn't sure there is an oil separator on the premises. They are owned by the same company that owns the nursing home on Ford St. and they do not have an oil separator so it only stands to reason that the nursing home technically located in Derby up the street from the back up may have the same situation. There was question about the WPCA being able to go in and do an inspection and the people present seemed to think that as long as their sewage flows into Ansonia's sewer lines we should be able to do an inspection. They also pay sewer use fees to the city of Ansonia for accepting their sewage. Ashawatha was asked if he had ever done an inspection when they (the nursing home) were doing their addition and rehab project. Spero said to the members that this what he means by the members not being kept informed and he insisted that the members were kept in the dark. Spero also asked if Ashawatha was kept informed / up to date on the sewer back ups. Ashawatha told him he was notified via fax when there were back ups.

Attorney Androski told Spero and the members that there were only 2 claims for sewer back ups this year. Spero seemed to think there were more but he couldn't be sure.

Gary Merlone also said he didn't think there were very many back-ups this past year either.

Chairman Madigosky told the members there was a letter in last month's packet from Ralphine Ford 222 ½ N. State St. and Mr. Robertson of 228 ½ N. State St. that needed to be discussed. There were questions asked from the members. The members that serve on the commission now were not all members of the commission when Ralphine had come before the WPCA some years ago. After a brief explanation from Chairman Madigosky the members were all in agreement that since the street has not been accepted as a legal City Of Ansonia street then there is no legal recourse for Mrs. Ford.

MOTION was made by Spero Jordanides and was seconded by Gary Merlone to have a letter drafted and sent to Mrs. Ford by the WPCA attorney and explain the WPCA's position / decision. All were in favor of the motion.

Attorney Androski will send the letter on behalf of the WPCA notifying her of the ruling the members made.

In this months packet there is a letter from Mr. Robert Conway of 41 Elizabeth St.: After some discussion the members are all in agreement that in the past the WPCA has never refunded any interest to anyone.

Member Gary Merlone wanted it on record that he said" he feels very sorry for Mr. Conway and his situation" but unfortunately past practice doesn't allow the refunding of interest. We have to do what has been done in the past or the WPCA may end up having more problems down the road.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz not to return the interest that has been paid on his account. All were in favor of the motion.

Again member Gary Merlone wanted it noted that he didn't really agree with the decision but for continuity the decision had to be made. Gary feels sorry for property owners that are in situations like this but because of the way the Ct State Statute for collection of taxes and fees is written the commission really has no choice.

Maureen Bennett Sewer Administrator will draft the letter and send it to Mr. Conway notifying him of the WPCA's decision.

Maureen Bennett brought the picture of Michael Boguslawski, Jr. that he sent to her. She said she wanted the Commission to keep the pictures because she doesn't accept gifts from anyone. Michael Boguslawski came to City Hall and met with the Mayor, Howard Madigosky and Maureen Bennett to introduce the product the company he works for (Masterline) sells. He indicated the City Of Ansonia would be able to get a commission on the amount of contracts they sell. He told Maureen he would come to the next months meeting with his associate and explain the product and how the contracts work.

Member Spero Jordanides mentioned to the members again that there is a lack of communication and the members should have been notified of that meeting. He was told the Mayor called and invited Howard and Maureen to his office for their presentation and there was no time to call the members. The meeting was NOT set up by the Chairman or the Sewer Administrator.

Chairman Madigosky brought to the members attention the letter from William Hogan: DEP regarding the MBE & WBE guidelines that are changing for any future contracts. Member Spero Jordanides didn't understand the way Chairman Madigosky explained the content of the letter and accused the commission chairman and office personnel of keeping things from him and the other members. Finally after Ashawatha Narayana stood and came to the table to explain the letter content Spero understood that the letter had nothing to do with the current contract the city has for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to accept all the communications from January and February and place on file with the minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

Sewer Administrator's Report:

Maureen went over each page of her financial report that was submitted. She told the members the numbers for the Batch Reports: (collections) put the office @ 61% to date. She also reminded the members that we still haven't started the second installment collection / payments for the bills that were able to be paid in two parts. The office is happy with its collection rate to date.

Member Spero Jordanides said "the collection percentage wasn't very good".

At this time Frank Michaud said he thought it would be a good time for him to talk to members about some things he's worked on for the WPCA since they were receiving information about the financial status of the commission.

The members were in agreement that it would be a good time to hear from him. Frank went over the Expenditure Summary sheet and other spread sheets that Bruce (finance Dept.) and Maureen Bennett: Sewer Administrator has supplied him with. When he mentioned one of the totals and the time line for repayment of the Sewer Rehab Project:

Spero again said “he and the members were never notified of important things” and that’s why they never know what’s going on. Spero said that’s has been a problem in the past and continues to be a problem. He is never told anything about account balances and they never receive the information early enough to look it over before the meetings.

Frank told him and the members “that’s one of the reasons why he asked to possibly change the meeting nights to later in the month”. Spero told the members that was discussed at the last meeting down @ the public works Dept. and he thought it was a good idea too. Spero was reminded by the secretary that if the schedule was changed in the middle of the year each month the regularly scheduled meeting (1st Wed. of the month) would have to be cancelled and there would have to be a Special Meeting. The only items that could be discussed at those rescheduled special meetings would be ONLY items listed on the agenda and there can be no deviation from the items listed. Spero said that was wrong and anything can be changed. Both Joe Maffeo and Attorney Androski said they thought the secretary was right but if Spero wanted he could check with Corp. Counsel Kevin Blake to be sure. Frank Michaud said he could possibly get the information on the 15th of each month and work the reports from there.

Frank Michaud said WPCA needs to have a budget for REVENUES. That would include things like the Impact Fee collections: collections, bank interest and other various income items.

Frank spoke in length about other spread sheets he is developing /working on for the WPCA. He said that Bruce and Maureen have been very helpful to him. Everything he has asked for they have helped to find.

Frank Said he would come back again next month and probably be asked the same questions until the members finally come to understand everything he is putting together. He will be more than happy to continue to come and answer questions for the members. The members didn’t have any other questions and were satisfied with his presentation. Spero told him he should have come on board sooner and we wouldn’t be having this many problems with the financial aspects of running the sewer department office.

Attorney Androski mentioned the wonderful job that Frank ,Howard, Joe Maffeo and Maureen did on putting together the five year projected budget that needed to be done and in place for the CWF / and DEP so we could get the funding for the project. Spero said he and the other members of the commission were never given an opportunity to see the budget before it was submitted.

There was no other discussion and the chairman asked that Maureen finish her monthly report.

MOTION was made by Henry Boladz and was seconded by both Gary Merlone and Spero Jordanides. All were in favor of the motion.

Steve Seigal: CDM Update on the 554 Project

Steve introduced Jim Ryan Project Site Manager for CDM. He told the members that he is the “go to man” if there is a problem on the day to day operation of the rehabilitation project. Steve reminded the members the contract had been signed on the 8th of November and they are now at the 2 month point of the project.

*Excavation has started

*Contractor has been doing testing on the soil and it matches up with CDM’s testing

* They are keeping track of the material being taken off site

*A water leak was discovered and handled expeditiously by the contractor

*A leaky valve was discovered to be causing the problem apparently when the valve was installed it was installed improperly and the chalking / sealant finally let loose

*There should be a drop in the water usage when the next water bill comes in

The water leak caused the first change order to be made:

Change Order # 1// this should be eligible for Grant Money

Jim Ryan spoke briefly and went over the way things are running and how the daily routine is handled.

Henry Boladz asked Steve Seigal to answer a question on a bill that was presented: Steve wasn't sure of the answer so he said he would take the bill and have it checked before he said the wrong thing and there was a problem. Henry said he had help going over the bill and therefore that's how he was able to raise the question. Henry never said who helped him review the bill.

Steve and Jim reminded the members the next regular trailer meeting would be next Tuesday Feb 10, 2009 @ 1:00 PM at the public works complex. He said everyone was invited if they could clear their schedules. Spero said he wouldn't be able to make the meeting.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to accept Steve's Report. All were in favor of the motion.

Engineer's Report:

Ashawatha Narayana introduced Warren Baethge:PE of UIC to the members. He told everyone that Warren used to work for UIC and has returned. He will be giving the monthly reports at the meetings and be on board for the WPCA when he is needed. Warren told the members they did not prepare a report this month because there was only one item (Meadow View Estates): the project was discussed earlier in the meeting. He said they would re-review the new plans and see if they have met all the criteria from Ash's last comments. Ashawatha did say that normally the engineer's do these things by letter to be official. He said he will contact Jim Swift and tell him the normal procedure we like to follow here and they will then comment on the plans. UIC will give their recommendation for Final Approval after they review the plans.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to accept the engineer's report as presented. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz to pay all bills if they are found to be true and correct and there is enough money in each line item to pay the bill presented against it. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to have UIC/ Ashawatha write a letter to Jim Swift & Attorney Bellis giving a CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL for their project. All were in favor of the motion.

Attorney Androski monthly update:

He told the members he and his brother finally collected about \$21,000.00 from the Government (Hughes Circle) Maureen told the members the payment hasn't been applied to the system / property yet because she isn't sure how it is to be done. There is a problem with the billing system and how OLD bills should be applied.

Attorney Androski did say he has re submitted his OLD contract as it was in the past:

He would like to have it passed by the members and signed soon. He told the members he has spoken to the Mayor and the mayor has no problem with reverting back to the old contract. He will make \$10,400.00 per year and have his medical paid for. His brother Attorney Ed Androski and sister Attorney Mary Androski will both pay their own insurance. It will be a pass through for our budget.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Carl LaRovera to accept and have the Chairman and the Mayor sign Attorney Androski's contract. This is only as long as the mayor is in total agreement with the contract. All were in favor of the motion.

Attorney Androski will see the mayor and get the necessary signatures.

Attorney Androski said he had nothing else for the members. He asked the secretary what she wanted to discuss with the members.

The secretary told the members there seems to be a problem with her job. The problem isn't with the job itself but with the interpretation of the job description. Her title as she understood is a Clerk / Secretary (recording). Her job classification is an OT-6 the lowest paying position in City Hall. She collects money, answers the phone/questions and helps any way she can with the day to day operation of the office. It seems as though she has been asked recently to do secretarial duties that she is not comfortable with and doesn't feel it's in the scope of her job. She has been made to feel that she will be the go-between the Sewer Administrator and the members and the Sewer Rehabilitation Project. She is VERY uncomfortable with that and feels it may compromise her job. Spero Jordanides told her she was the secretary and that he was told that was her job. There was a HEATED discussion and nothing was solved. The secretary told the members she wasn't asking for a raise but if they insisted that she be the SECRETARY in the capacity of a regular secretary not a monthly recording secretary for the monthly meetings/minutes then maybe she needs to have her job reclassified.

The meeting was brought to an abrupt halt when the chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION was made by Henry Boladz and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to adjourn. All were in favor of the motion. The secretary told the chairman that she wasn't finished with what she had to say and thanked him for closing the meeting.

The meeting ended at 9:25 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Rita St.Jacques: Secretary (monthly meetings)

WPCA

February 5, 2009

