

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
JUNE 3, 2009

The meeting opened late @ 7:10 PM because the Police Commissioners Meeting ran over. The chairman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, he asked the secretary to call the roll. There were six members present, he declared a quorum.

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

ABSENT: K. Blake

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Attorney John Androski  
Ashawatha Narayana: UIC  
Warren Baethge: UIC  
Steve Seigal: CDM  
Jim Ryan: CDM  
M. Bennett: Sewer Administrator

Chairman Madigosky asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Vito Epifano to accept the minutes from the May 6, 2009 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.

Public Session:

Chairman Madigosky opened the floor to the public.

Eileen Krugel: City Of Ansonia employee explained that she has volunteered to work with Rich Bshara to update the City Of Ansonia website. She asked the commission to give Maureen Bennett: Sewer Administrator permission to supply her and Rich with updated information about the WPCA so it can be put on the website. She explained that they were looking for basic information and any other items that the commission might like to share about the WPCA. Eileen offered to stay for a few minutes to answer any questions the members might have for her. The members didn't have any questions for her, she thanked them for their time and left.

Maureen has started to DRAFT the highlights of the WPCA and had a copy for each of the members to peruse. She said she would work on it and get it to Eileen for the website as long as the members gave her permission to do it. The members were all in agreement

that Maureen should give the information to Eileen and Rich so it can be put on the website.

MOTION was made by Spero Jordanides and was seconded by Gary Merlone to allow Maureen Bennett: Sewer Administrator to give Eileen and Rich the information about the WPCA so it can be put on the website. All were in favor of the motion.

Spero Jordanides asked Maureen Bennett how the WPCA is coming along with getting any money from the state for the WPCA 554 Project.

Maureen told Spero and the members that she thought Attorney Androski should take a few of the members to Washington to “beg for money from the feds to put towards the project” If the money has to be “earmarked money” or otherwise!

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

The secretary went through the communications that were submitted this month. The chairman didn't think it was necessary to read the communications since all the members received them in their packets.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to deviate from the agenda to present a late communication provided by Spero Jordanides in regard to the operation of the Sewage Treatment Plant and the cost of running it. All were in favor of the motion.

There was some discussion about the document Spero Presented to the members. He told the members he asked the representatives from CDM two years ago for this information. Spero said he was never given the information, he then asked Ashawatha: UIC to get the information and give it to him. Spero also mentioned that he gave a copy of the document to the secretary and he doesn't know what she did with it. The secretary told him and the members that she never saw the document nor did she ever receive a copy for file. If a copy was received it would have been given to the members in their packets as all other communications are. Member Gary Merlone asked when the commission asked Ashawatha to compile the information and if there was a motion to do it. He didn't recall that happening.

Spero told the members he asked Ashawatha to get the information for him and the members of the WPCA a few months ago. He said he presented it at the March 2009 meeting and he doesn't know what happened to it.

Maureen reminded the members that when this item / topic was brought up there was never a motion made and seconded asking UIC to compile the information for the members of the WPCA Commission.

MOTION was made by Henry Boladz and was seconded by Vito Epifano to return to the regular portion of the meeting. All were in favor of the motion.

The secretary asked member Spero Jordanides to clarify what he wanted done with this document. She asked him if he wanted this item placed on file with the other communications and he said “YES”.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz to place all communications on file. All were in favor of the motion.

### Sewer Administrator's Report:

Maureen Bennett gave a brief rundown of the monthly financial documents that were submitted. She said the collections were @ about 79% which in light of the economy is pretty good. We have almost double the amount of outstanding accounts as we did last year. Although the property owners seemed to really make an effort to come in and make payments as they could we still are down. She told the members the office has been pretty accommodating with the homeowners that were making an effort to pay. We have people that come in bi-weekly to make payments and others that come in monthly. We gladly accommodate all of them. The office has been making "courtesy calls" too many of the outstanding account holders because many of them "FORGOT" about the second half of their WPCA payments. Many of them were very grateful we took the time to call them and give them a "friendly reminder" that the payments were due and we knew that they didn't want to have a lien placed on their property for the small balances that were due.

There was discussion about the unemployment in the City Of Ansonia. We are above the average and the surrounding communities. This has had an impact on our collections as well as the many foreclosures in the city.

Maureen brought to the attention of the members that the overall water consumption is down according to the Regional Water Authority records that were forwarded to the office for next years billing. This will be an issue when we set the rate whether it is because of residents being more conservative or because of the empty properties we're not sure. It will certainly have an impact on the RATE because the consumption numbers are down. Last years billable water units were about 16 million cubic feet and this years billing is about 14million cubic feet.

Maureen mentioned that she has been working on a "worksheet" and has started the "budget process" for next year. The worksheet packet has been enclosed in the member's packets to review at their leisure.

The fact that the WPCA is "barely breaking even" between the collections and its obligations it makes it necessary to raise the rate. By raising the rate the WPCA should be able to run the plant and the office efficiently as it has in the past. We are at bare bones. Chairman Madigosky and Maureen have been communicating regularly about the "budget" and what needs to be done so the WPCA is prepared when things need to be finalized. The issue of the "monthly utilities" and their substantial increase is an issue. The day to day running of the plant is very expensive along with contractual obligations for the people who work for the authority. It is definitely a reason for there to be an increase in the Sewer use rate. Right now they are looking at about a .48 (forty-eight cent) increase per every 100 cubic feet of water.

There was also discussion about the collection for the 554 Project: the numbers will have to be revisited for the amount of properties that can actually be collected on. We had hoped there would be about 8000 collectible units but the numbers are looking more like 6000 or so now. The collection program for the project has to be revisited again to get things in the forward motion. The WPCA has missed its 3 year phase in of the collection for the project. Therefore we're probably looking at about \$300.00 for each collectible/billable unit when the collections begin. We are not sure what the payments will be for each consecutive year right now because the numbers have changed considerably.

Spero mentioned that he was speaking to Maureen before the meeting started and he was very pleased that Attorney Androski had collected about \$66,000.00 in owed / back "Sewer Use Fees". Spero thought he would like to give Atty. Androski a letter of recommendation for his efforts.

Member Spero Jordanides said he was very pleased with all the information Maureen gave to the members. He said it was very informative and he was pleased.

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

Steve Seigal / Jim Ryan: CDM// update on the 554 Project:

Jim Ryan reported:

\* as of 2 weeks ago they were 26.7% complete and he thinks they should be at 30% as of today ( June 2,2009)

\* he has seen no significant problems

\* gas lines have to be relocated that will be done by the Gas Co. and the contractor

\* there are about 42 to 45 workers on site and that number will grow as the project moves along

Howard asked when they would be pouring the bottom of the clarifier.

Jim told him that was being done Thursday June 3,2009

They would be using about 1500 cubic yards of concrete

- they are still working on the Oxidation ditches
- Steve Seigal explained that Oxidation ditches are another form of Aeration tanks

Member Gary Merlone said he is pleased that everything is running smoothly and moving forward efficiently.

Gary asked; when he thought the project might be finished.

Jim Ryan told him the last 5% of the project usually seems to take the longest and that is still a way off.

Steve Seigal mentioned that he thought the members would like to have a tour of the project / plant. He said he would be more than happy to set something up either on a weekend or an early evening while it's still light out. He told the members to think it over and get back to him or Jim Ryan and they would set something up.

Steve Seigal told the members he was asked by the Mayor, Steve Blume and Gary Hale to put a proposal together regarding the changes that may / could be implemented to construct a Cogeneration Facility at the Sewage Treatment Plant site.

Steve presented a proposal / worksheet to all the members to look over. He will also be sure that the Mayor, Steve Blume & Gary Hale see the worksheet. The cost for the project /task will be about \$26,500.00. If they are given the approval to proceed the project will take about 12 weeks to complete the report and submit it.

Gary Merlone asked if this request will cause a problem because it was brought about after the project design had been completed. Steve told him that it would have been easier if it had been brought up earlier but it still can be done.

Steve Seigal mentioned that it is a positive move and it can be considered Phase II of the project.

UIC: Engineer's Report:

Warren Baethege said they didn't a report to present because they hadn't actually had anything to report on. Other than the sewer back up that was talked about earlier in the

meeting that was all they had. Spero asked what caused the back up and h e was told it was “Grease”.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz to accept both the CDM update / report and the UIC report as presented. All were in favor of the motion.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to pay all bills if they are found to be true and correct. This motion also includes the approval of the Purchase Order for the annual fee for the Post Office box and the back pay owed to Attorney Androski. All were in favor of the motion.

- 1) Post Office Box: \$72.00
- 2) Attorney Androski (regular / monthly invoice) \$1,849.50
- 3) Attorney Androski 12 months of back pay @ \$792.13

Attorney Androski asked the members to give him a minute so he could explain the payroll situation he has been encountering.

He hasn't been paid for the last 12 months. His annual salary is \$10,400.00 which breaks down to \$792.13 per month and he is asking that he be paid for the last 12 months that he hasn't been paid. Although he realizes there was a problem because of insurance it was decided that he would remain at his old contract status of the \$10,400.00 annually.

Therefore he is asking to be paid the amount owed to him. The members were all in agreement that he should be paid and that was to be included in the above motion.

Attorney Androski asked that the members set up a date for the Public hearing that is by law necessary to set the rate for next years collection.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Spero Jordanides to set the date for July 1, 2009 @ 7:00 PM in the Erlingheuser Room for the Public Hearing to set the Rate. The proposed rate is \$3.25 per 100 cubic feet of water plus the \$50.00 capital fee for consumption users and the proposed rate for flat rate / well users will be \$275.00 plus \$50.00 for the capital fee. All were in favor of the motion.

The regular meeting will follow to adopt the rate. The information on the meeting will be posted.

Attorney Androski had another item for discussion . He presented and read a letter from UIC in regard to last months discussion and money that UIC says is owed to them. He asked the members for their input.

MOTION:

Member Gary Merlone made a motion that before any motions are made to pay any back bills or any money is paid for any back bills to UIC the Mayor has to give his approval and / or authorization. The WPCA needs to have his (the Mayors) approval.

The motion was seconded by Vito Epifano.

All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Madigosky asked if there was any other business. He asked for someone to make a motion to adjourn.

Ashawatha Narayana asked that he be allowed to tell the members something. Chairman Madigosky asked him if we could adjourn the meeting or did they need to stay in session. Ashawatha told him the adjournment was fine.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Vito Epifano to adjourn. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended @ 8:35 PM.

At this time Ashawatha told the members that he has sold / merged his company. He will no longer be part of UIC. He is retiring after many years of working and after all he is 74 years old He will miss his affiliation with the City Of Ansonia.

He told the members that Warren Baethge will still be on board with the company and the name will remain the same. If the WPCA needs anything done they will need to contact Warren. He will still serve the city as UIC has done in the past.

The chairman asked the name of the concern that bought the business. Ashawatha told him they have four other offices and gave the names of the cities but he didn't name the name of the company that bought the stock in UIC.

Ashawatha asked the members if they minded if he went to see the mayor and ask him if would approve the amount he adjusted amount he proposed in his letter he presented to Attorney Androski. The members told him they had no problem with that and as a matter of fact it would be a good thing for him to see the Mayor and then he could let the WPCA know what his decision is.

All the members told him they were very happy for him and wished him well in his retirement. They all told him to be happy and stay healthy.

The members all wished him well and everyone left the Erlingheuser Room @ 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Rita St.Jacques: Recording Secretary WPCA

June 3, 2009