

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING  
JULY 1, 2009

The Public Hearing opened late @ 7:20 PM because the Police Commissioners meeting was in Executive Session in the Erlingheuser Room. The Police Commissioners were still in session when the Mayor offered to allow the WPCA to move the Public Hearing to the judge's chambers.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, the chairman asked the secretary to call the roll. There were four members present, the Chairman declared a quorum.

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

ABSENT: K. Blake  
S. Jordanides  
V. Epifano

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Attorney John Androski  
Jim Ryan: CDM  
Warren Bathaage: UIC  
Maureen Bennett: Sewer Administrator

The chairman asked for a motion to move the Public Hearing from the Erlingheuser Room to the Judges Chambers because the Police Commissioners Meeting was still in session.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded Carl LaRovera to move the meeting to the Judges Chambers. All the members were in favor of the motion. Chairman Madigosky asked the secretary to read the call of the meeting. (See exact copy attached to the minutes)

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET THE RATE FOR THE SEWER USE FEE:  
THE PROPOSED RATE IS: \$3.25 PER 100 CUBIC FEET OF WATER USAGE  
PLUS THE \$50.00 CAPITAL FEE AND  
THE PROPOSED RATE FOR WELL USERS IS: \$275.00 (FLAT RATE)  
PLUS THE \$50.00 CAPITAL FEE (PER FAMILY UNIT)

PUBLIC SESSION: The chairman asked three times if there was anyone present from the public that wanted to speak / address the WPCA in regard to the proposed rate increase for the 2008 List Year collection. There was no one present to speak Please note that Attorney Androski did leave the Judges Chambers to go out into the public area / hallway to check to make sure there wasn't anyone there from the Public Hearing and didn't know the meeting was moved to another room. He also wanted it noted for the record that Eileen Kruegel ( building custodian) was present /accompanied (him) Attorney Androski to see if there was any public to speak at the meeting.

Chairman Madigosky then closed the Public Session.

At this time Maureen Bennett passed a hand out to the members giving a detailed explanation of how the budget was prepared by the Finance Committee.

There was discussion and many questions about the line items and if there is any room for more cuts to be made. The members were told this is basically a bare bones budget. The rate last year should have been raised an additional 20 cents but the commission chose not to raise the rate as much as it should have been then, therefore this year the rate NEEDS to be raised to meet the contractual obligations and the daily costs to run the plant. The commission at some point tonight has to move to make a motion to allow the chairman to sign a TRANSFER SLIP at the bank to move money from the savings / money market account that currently only has \$300,000.00 in it to the general fund in order to make the payments that need to be made for the daily operation of the plant until we start our collection in September. The monthly cost of the electrical bill has sky rocketed, but unfortunately we can not shut it off, we need the sludge to be picked up and removed from the plant and payroll has to be met.

Chairman Madigosky told the members the biggest part of the budget is the utilities, sludge removal and payroll as stated above. "These are not items that can not be cut at all".

Maureen recommends the members move to adopt the proposed rate increase.

There continued to be questions and more discussion among the members present.

Member Carl LaRovera asked what kind of uncollectibles should we expect next year. Maureen told the members the office has been diligent in it's' efforts along with Attorney Androski's Office. The problem accounts have been brought down to the following.

2003-down to 13 accounts

2004-down to 20 accounts

2005-down to 83 accounts

2006-down to 237 accounts

2007-up (from last year) 738 accounts:

This is a prime example of how the economy has hit everyone. The office has sent numerous bills that have been individually prepared with hand written notes asking the property owners to PLEASE contact Attorney Androski's Office to take care of the accounts. "Your account is seriously past due" or "this account is very old and is in collections with Attorney Androski: Please contact him" etc. etc. etc....

Maureen continues to tell the members that as diligent as the office and Attorney Androski has been we / they have been very compassionate with the property owners. After all everyone is in the same boat.

Both Attorney Androski and Maureen told the members that the WPCA certainly shouldn't become land lords and by that they meant we really don't want to foreclose on anybodies properties but at the same time we do NEED to continue to make a serious effort to collect from the out of town landlords that are collecting multiple rents and not paying their sewer use bills. The members felt it is unfortunate that the out of town landlords are reaping the benefits of collecting rents from their rental units and are knowingly neglecting to pay their bills / obligations to the WPCA.

Member Gary Merlone asked if there is any possibility of the WPCA shutting down the sewer service to these homes / properties. He thought that maybe something that drastic

may get the property owners attention when the tenants contact them that they have sewer problems. The members all thought that might be a good idea but not really a good thing to do. There was also some more serious discussion about different collection ideas. The suggestion was made that possibly resorting to some old techniques like publishing a list in the newspaper of delinquent rate payers or sending marshals out to do collections or setting up rental payments being made to the WPCA rather than to their landlord.

Attorney Androski said these are all possibilities and he would like to investigate the legalities of each idea before any action is taken.

Member Gary Merlone said that taking all the discussion into consideration he would like to make a motion to raise the rate. He asked if anyone had any objections or did they want to discuss anything further. At this point in the meeting there didn't seem to be a second for the motion that Gary Merlone wanted to put forth.

Member Carl LaRovera said he personally would like to see the rate a little lower and Henry Boladz agreed. They felt it is a big jump.

Howard told the members that for every \$15,000.00 the budget is lowered it only lowers the rate by 1cent. Last year when the budget was prepared then had to be reworked to set the rate it was lowered and hence the WPCA is in the current situation we are and that is the reason why it seems as though the rate is being increased so much this year.

Member Gary Merlone asked what the surrounding towns are doing as far as rates.

Maureen & Howard told the members that most of the towns have raised their rates and Derby has also added on a FEE of some sort to off set their collections and build up a reserve as their rate has been kept down the last few years.

There was more discussion and speculation among the members.

Member Gary Merlone made the MOTION to the ADOPT the rate increase as proposed:  
\$3.25 per 100 cubic feet of water plus the \$50.00 Capital improvement fee and  
\$275.00 Flat Rate for Well Users plus the \$50.00 Capital Improvement Fee  
Per Family Unit

However Gary Merlone wanted it noted on the record that the "WPCA"- "WE HAVE NO OTHER RECOURSE AT THIS TIME BUT TO RAISE THE RATE"

Howard Madigosky made the second to the motion.

The Chairman asked for a roll call/ voice vote: Gary Merlone-YES Carl LaRovera –YES Henry Boladz – YES Howard Madigosky – YES

He stated there were four YES votes and the motion passed.

Member Gary Merlone stated again"nobody on the commission wants to have this increase but we (WPCA) have to be able to meet the day to day expenses to run the treatment plant and to meet its' contractual expenses"

The members all had heavy hearts after the motion to set the new rate was made and seconded. They all hoped the property owners would realize the daunting task they had to undergo to make the decision to raise the rate after all they are all rate payers too.

MOTION was made by Gary Merlone and was seconded by Henry Boladz to adjourn the Public hearing. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended @ 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Rita St. Jacques: WPCA Recording Secretary

July 2, 2009