

Water Pollution Control Authority

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Present:

Mr. Robert Smith, Chairman
Mr. Paul Phillips
Mr. Daniel Civitello
Mr. Ted Mannello

Absent:

Ms. Noa Miller

Also in attendance:

Mr. Michael Angieri, Consulting Engineer
Mr. Ed Bailly, WPCA Employee
Mr. Kenneth Long, WPCA Employee
Attorney Jennifer Yoxall, WPCA Counsel
Ms. Jean Dawes, Middlebury Tax Collector
Waterbury Republican-American reporter
Mr. Joe Dinova, owner of Four Corners Grocery
Mr. Michael McCormack, Resident
Ms. Maureen Del Vicario, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Robert Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Public Hearing – Sewer User Rates:

Mr. Smith read the public notice which was previously published in the Waterbury Republican-American newspaper.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Daniel Civitello and seconded by Mr. Paul Phillips to open the public hearing on the proposed sewer user rates. This motion was unanimously approved by the members.

Mr. Michael Angieri explained the rationale for the proposed user rate changes. Mr. Smith explained that user rates have not increased for 20 years due to new building assessments and the benefit of a large reserve fund. However, an increase is now needed to prevent a deficit next year although this increase would only provide for a flat budget.

Mr. Joe Dinova, owner of Four Corners Grocery and other properties, expressed his frustration at what he said is an unfair distribution of the sewer user fees on the commercial property owners of Middlebury. Mr. Dinova calculates his user rates for the grocery store will double and expressed the need to make up the cost of the increase by passing the cost on to the customer.

Mr. Dinova questioned why his actual water usage is not tied to his user charges. Mr. Smith explained that the water companies will not provide the meter readings to the WPCA so there is no reasonable way to charge sewer user fees based on usage. Therefore, the WPCA has devised a system of charging user fees based on the property usage type and size.

Mr. Michael McCormack spoke to express his opinion that it would have been better to raise the user fees gradually over the recent past rather than making a significant increase all at once. Mr. Smith stated it could not be justified to raise user fees when the WPCA had a large reserve fund. Now that the reserve fund is near depletion, the user fee increase is necessary.

There was some discussion of the impact of the increase on the fees being required by the Naugatuck Treatment Plant. Mr. Smith acknowledged that there may be additional increases necessary in the future to cover Middlebury's share of DEEP/EPA requirements for upgrades to the treatment plant.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Angieri noted the Middlebury user fees are still one of the lowest in CT. In addition, Mr. Smith noted there are plans to change the user fee payments into two payments each year to minimize the impact of the increase.

Mr. John Kotchian attended this meeting as a representative of the Region 15 Board of Education. Mr. Kotchian requested clarification of the increase in dollars instead of percentages. Mr. Angieri stated the user fees will be a cost of \$30 per student. Mr. Angieri also clarified that the PHS pool is covered under the commercial pool category.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Civitello and seconded by Mr. Phillips to close the public hearing on the proposed sewer user rates. This motion was unanimously approved by the members.

3. Approval of November 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Civitello to accept the meeting minutes of November 18, 2014, as amended below. This motion was unanimously approved by the members.

d) Naugatuck Contract, first sentence should read:

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Civitello to enter into executive session at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of pending claims on the Naugatuck Contract.

4. Old and New Business:

a) West Shore Owners Association – Compliance with Sewer Use Agreement:

Mr. Smith reports that communication on this matter is ongoing. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting. The town of Woodbury has been invited to the next meeting to participate.

b) Sewer Use Rates and Capital Plan:

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Civitello to approve changes to the user rates, as published. In addition, the charges will now be payable in two payments with the first payment due in August and the second due in February. This motion was unanimously approved by the members.

c) WPCA Budget 2015-2016 - 1st Draft:

Mr. Smith requested the members review the 1st draft of the 2015-2016 budget and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

d) Naugatuck Contract – Naugatuck vs Veolia:

There has been no activity on this matter.

e) Monthly Expenses:

The bills were distributed for review and signed by the Chairman for payment.

4. Staff Discussions:

A and B. Pump Stations - station upgrade project and Collection System:

Mr. Ed Bailly reported the pump station upgrades are now 100% complete with final paperwork being completed. Mr. George Caughman of Milone & MacBroom will be requesting the release of retainage monies next month.

There was some discussion regarding a letter received from the state indicating the need to install a pump station for some property on Straits Turnpike and the necessity of re-laying a couple of hundred feet of pipe due to a mistake in the original design.

Mr. Angieri recommended the WPCA review the 5-10 year capital plan to identify projects which will need to be included in future budgets.

Mr. Kenneth Long reports the WPCA is able to utilize a new scanner available at the town hall to scan in the WPCA maps into digital format. Mr. Bailly reported their intent to include all residential connections on these digital maps which will take some time to complete.

5. Adjournment of Meeting:

A **motion** was made by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Ted Manello to conclude the WPCA meeting at 8:18 p.m. This motion was unanimously approved by the members.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Del Vicario

Maureen Del Vicario, Recording Clerk, January 22, 2015

cc: WPCA members
Board of Selectman
Edith Salisbury, Town Clerk
Directors of Health
Mike Angieri, P.E.
Jennifer Yoxall, Attorney
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