

The Regular Meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order by Chairman Michael DeAngelis at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 in Room 305 of Shelton City Hall, 54 Hill Street , Shelton, CT 06484.

The following Commissioners were in attendance to constitute a *quorum*:

Commissioner Michael DeAngelis
Commissioner Steve Morse
Commissioner Edwin Hellauer
Commissioner Anthony Presutto
Commissioner Bronislaw Piotrowski
Commissioner Regis Dognin
Commissioner Todd Dowty

Also attending were: Thomas Sym, Sewer Administrator
Ed Comboni - Treatment Plant
Jeffrey Shortell - Treatment Plant

Absent was: Commissioner Richard Jager

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. A. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tabled.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADD-ON

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin and seconded by Commissioner Hellauer to add the following item to the agenda:

6 A (6) Mark IV Construction for \$100,281.60

All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

3. a APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF APRIL 09, 2008

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Piotrowski and seconded by Commissioner Presutto to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of April 09, 2008 as submitted. Commissioner Dognin had one correction: The Minutes reflected he attended the Public Hearing and he did not. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioners Hellauer and Dognin who abstained, as they were not at the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Mr. Sym said he did not receive any responses from anyone that attended the Public Hearing.

3. b APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 09, 2008

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin and seconded by Commissioner Morse to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 09, 2008 as submitted. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioner Hellauer who abstained, as he was not at the meeting. Motion carried.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. CAWPCA Workshop

Commissioner DeAngelis said he might want to try to go to this Workshop.

Commissioner Morse said it would be good to send some representation.

Mr. Asikainen said he had not heard of this workshop.

Commissioner DeAngelis asked Jeff Shortell if he could go.

Mr. Shortell said he needs to be here for the guy who is coming out to repair the mixer. There is a problem with the ammonia in the sludge.

Commissioner Morse said he would try to go. Commissioner Presutto said he would go if someone would drive.

B. Consent Decree Timetable

Commissioner DeAngelis asked Messrs. Sym and Shortell how we go down each line item and figure out timetables.

Commissioner DeAngelis will discuss this in Executive Session.

C. Budget Worksheet

Commissioner Morse said don't rely on the budget report from the Accounting Department.

The electricity for the Plant has doubled.

Plant water usage seems excessive - Mr. Asikainen will talk about it in his report.

The February \$4,000 legal steno entry was incorrect - it should have been for overtime. Finance is to delete it and add it to the overtime line item.

The UI Demand Response Income - Finance located the UI check for \$17,920 in the General Fund and will transfer the amount to the Income line item in the next budget report.

The Finance Department has a problem with allocated income and should straighten it out next month.

Commissioner DeAngelis asked Commissioner Morse to continue to give the monthly report.

D. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Comboni read his report into the record:

Commissioner DeAngelis asked about the septic holding tank.

Mr. Comboni said the pump is not working properly. It was new with the upgrade. Presently it is automatic - maybe something is stuck. We have to rely on the operators. This is septic waste which is being pumped in there are there are a lot of rags, etc. There is a coarse bar screen.

Mr. Shortell said the pump won't pump water fast enough. You need a heavy duty grinding pump to push it up into the holding tank.

Septic waste is sludge and gets thickened and then goes to the burn plant.

Mr. Asikainen said it does not go through the head of the plant. DEP wants it put in a separate holding tank and does not want it going through the plant and then get rid of it with the rest of the sludge.

The mixer should be back on line next week.

Commissioner Morse said if we cannot get our April 350 number down, we will have to buy credits due to the mixer not being operational, next year.

Mr. Asikainen said the mixer failed and had to be fixed. It mixes the sludge contents inside the waste holding tank and it is thickened and hauled away. The mixer was just out of warranty but they may cover it.

Mr. Comboni said the septic waste does not go into the plant.

Mr. Sym asked Mr. Comboni regarding the electric charge that doubled last month.

Mr. Comboni said that heating is not required. There is increasing use of air as the air gets rid of the ammonia. More electricity is used in warm weather for the ammonia.

5. OLD BUSINESS

B. 2008-2009 Sewer User Charge Rate

Mr. Sym said based on the Public Hearing and Commissioner Morse's numbers of \$187 is what you are voting on. I think you could go with \$185.

Commissioner Morse said if we go to \$185 or something other than \$187, something else has to change on the income side or the expense side to cover our expenses. The \$187 covers the expenses now to the best of our working knowledge.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin and seconded by Commissioner Piotrowski to set the Sewer User Rate for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 20, 2009 at \$187. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Sym said we have collected more monies over the past few months - \$40K.

Commissioner DeAngelis said the reason of not going to \$185 is that we do not know how the Consent Decree will affect this.

Mr. Sym said it is not going to affect us this year. The Sinking Fund will cover the Consent Decree fine. DEP is requesting our responses to all the items on the list and the expenses won't be this year.

Mr. Sym said the \$2 dollar difference between \$187 and \$185 amounts to \$24K more.

Commissioner Dognin said this is not worth trying to whittle it down. We may need additional funds not less funds.

Commissioner Morse said that is big dollars.

Mr. Sym said the Consent Decree dollars are not from this year's budget.

Mr. Sym said we went up \$33 last year and now we are going up again.

Commissioner DeAngelis said there is no public here this evening to discourage this amount. I suggest the \$187 should be the amount.

Commissioner Hellauer said he is more concerned with the warranty items going out of warranty.

A. Renaissance - 100 Parrot Drive

Mr. Robert Scinto said he is asking for a "no hook-up charge" for his residential apartment building, The Renaissance.

I bought this parcel 3, which was part of the subdivision of Francini. When I bought the property, there was a deed (which he distributed) and Schedule A the title of the three lots.

The agreement between Francini and the WPCA in 1968 states that in consideration of Francini putting in sewers, no assessments shall be charged now or in the future and no tie in fees of any type to those who tie in. So, I don't expect to pay any fees. I do know I have to pay the user fees - just not the tie in fees.

Mr. Scinto gave Commissioner DeAngelis a copy of the deed and the map.

Mr. Scinto said this is the only property he is addressing this evening.

Commissioner Hellauer said it is a "done deal".

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Piotrowski and seconded by Commissioner Hellauer to *not* charge Mr. Robert Scinto's Renaissance residential apartment building on 100 Parrot Drive, the hook-up charge (benefit connection charge) or tie in charge based on the 1968 Agreement and deed with Francini and the WPCA. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Maguire Group Status Report

Mr. Asikainen said he would like to go over the septage. The Septic Pump is having problems. We had a septic hauler come in and dump a load of septage and sure enough it was not pumping the septage. I put together an action plan to empty the septage in the tank and asked them to fill the tank with plant water. Then turn the pump on and see what happens with the pumping. When they did that, there was no pumping, even with plain water. This shows we have a plugged pipe, or plugged check valve or a plugged plug valve.

Tape 1 Side B 7:45 p.m.

There was discussion of the valves. It is a grinder pump. I went through the hydraulics and there is plenty of head for that pump. But, since it would not pump clean water, that is an indication there is plugging somewhere in the line.

Mr. Asikainen said it is a manual operation. If the City is going to accept septage, we need a way to get it to the storage tank by revising the pumping in the tank. It will be a manual operation - not automatic.

A check valve can get the stuff behind it and it is not open 100% and is restricted.

Plain water couldn't get pumped any faster than the septic. Not a workable solution.

The last page is a solution option. It eliminates the check valve and plug valve. Put in two (2) ball valves; one below the existing elbow that goes out and a new elbow on top. The head in the tank will back flush and we will have a full pumping capability.

Mr. Sym said this has nothing to do with the head pressure in the tank?

Mr. Asikainen said no, it does not.

The blockage is in either the plug valve, the check valve or in the line.

Mr. Comboni said the plastic by-products get stuck in the ball valves and you cannot close them.

Commissioner Presutto suggests putting in a clean out. The plant water top to blow it out.

Commissioner Morse said there is the provision of the plant water.

Mr. Asikainen said the other option for flushing water is to purge with fresh water at the end of the cycle.

Mr. Asikainen said he thinks the check valve is the issue.

Mr. Comboni said he feels it means an operator has to be there for the septage tank hauler.

Commissioner DeAngelis said he agrees with Ed Comboni that it has to be "dummy proof".

Mr. Asikainen said you need to put rules in place and you need to train the septage tank haulers and they have to come in during working hours only.

This is the only submersible pump in the plant.

Mr. Sym asked if you can test the lines?

Mr. Comboni said there is a high water alarm. The pump never worked correctly since day 1.

Commissioner Dognin said perhaps it is a faulty pump.

Mr. Asikainen disagrees.

Mr. Sym asked how can you test the pump? Can you use an alternate discharge line to test it?

Mr. Asikainen said it could be tested. The elbow at the top that goes out - remove it and close the valve in the sludge building, rotate the elbow 90 degrees and put the septic in and pump it and see what happens. The you can tell if the pump is working.

Mr. Comboni suggested TV'ing the line in the tank. We can take the elbow off.

Mr. Asikainen said then lets try it- lets take the elbow off, close the valve in the sludge room and turn the valve 90 degrees and open the valve in the sludge building and see if the head inside the sludge building and tank cleans out.

Commissioner Dowty said then you can check both sides.

Mr. Asikainen said I will get a price proposal from Nickerson.

Mr. Comboni said the pump never worked. No one from the plant witnessed it working no more than 20 gallons per minute.

Mr. Asikainen said that Nickerson said it did.

Commissioner Morse said that we should do the confidence test on the septage pump to determine if the pump operates to the head at the acceptable rate to the twenty five foot head at the holding tank prior to re-design with possible double ball valves at a later time.

Mr. Asikainen will do a write up and send it to the Commission.

There was some discussion of the pipe size and velocity.

Plant Water: Mr. Asikainen said there are seven main pumps and four mixing pumps for the SBR's are with the highest use and they have double seals and should use 1.5 gallon of water per minute. Now they are using in excess of 12 gallons per minute when the pump is on. Nothing when the pump is off. You look at the discharge pressure on your pumps and the suggestion from the factory is that you turn down the needle valve. The seal water pressure should be 10% higher from the discharge. The gauge has a lot of pressure. The pumps should be pumping at 18-19 PSI.

Mr. Comboni said we record this everyday.

Mr. Asikainen said the seal should not be hot. It will reduce the volume.

Mr. Shortell said to change the seal costs \$6K.

Mr. Asikainen said the main influent pumps are the other big pumps in the system.

Commissioner DeAngelis said we found this by accident during the budget review sessions. The water bill is about \$100 a day! What other things are out there that we may not find out until the next budget review and may be a surprise to us?

Mr. Sym said the water bill is \$100 day and that is a lot of water.

Mr. Comboni said we record the numbers daily.

Mr. Asikainen said what we saw was 18 pounds vs. 30 pounds.

Fine-tuning is needed and adjustments need to be done.

Messrs. Shortell and Comboni said we are doing what the factory rep said to do and we have no pressure regulators to regulate the incoming water. So we need pressure regulators.

Mr. Asikainen said our drawings show a needle valve. Discharge pressure needs to be checked.

Mr. Asikainen said we need to go 10% above the discharge pressure. The input and output numbers need to be recorded on the pumps.

So, needle valves need to be installed.

Punch List Items

Mr. Asikainen said last month there were 148 punch list items and there are 110 this month. We are working on the outstanding ones.

Tape 2 Side A 8:30 a.m.

The inspection got taken out of our budget at the riverfront.

DEP approved Change Order 15 (time extension) & 16 (shopping list of things left to do).

Steel plates for the outfall - Chapin and Bangs in Bridgeport is where you can get the steel plates and will be done when Nickerson does the Riverfront work. Mr. Asikainen will get a quote. Nickerson is planning to be done in June. The core permit was approved. DEP should approve our permit next week, which will allow us to do the work.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bills Rendered

- 1. Conn Professional Water Services.....\$ 1530.00

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Hellauer seconded by Commissioner Piotrowski to approve payment to Connecticut Professional Water Services in the amount \$1530 dated April 11, 2008 to relocate the fire hydrant on Riverdale Rd at the Plant. All were in favor. Motion carried. Monies to come from the Wastewater Collection Systems Fund/Referendum Fund – utility upgrade relocation.

- 2. Shelton Police Department.....\$ 209.32

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin seconded by Commissioner Presutto to approve payment to the Shelton Police Department in the amount of \$209.32 dated April 25, 2008 for Riverdale Rd Professional Water Work. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioner Piotrowski who abstained. Motion carried. Monies to come from the Wastewater Collection Systems Fund/Referendum Fund – utility upgrade relocation.

- 3. Maguire Group.....\$ 133.06

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin seconded by Commissioner Hellauer to approve payment to Maguire Group in the amount \$133.06 dated April 11, 2008 for sewer inventory work. All were in favor. Motion carried. Monies to come from the Wastewater Collection Systems Fund/Referendum Fund.

- 4. Maguire Group.....\$14,704.89

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Piotrowski seconded by Commissioner Presutto to approve payment to Maguire Group. No one else voted. **Motion does not carry.**

- 5. Mark IV Construction\$34,201.55

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Hellauer seconded by Commissioner Dowty to approve payment to Mark IV in the amount \$34,201.55 dated May 15, 2008 for Rocky Rest Road/Spoke Drive. Five percent (5%) retainage on their original contract. All were in favor. Motion carried. Monies to come from the Revolving Sewer Account.

6. ADD-ON Mark IV Construction\$100,281.60

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Presutto seconded by Commissioner Hellauer to approve payment to Mark IV in the amount \$100,281.60 dated May 14, 2008 for Spoke Drive and Wagon Road overlay curb-to-curb. All were in favor. Motion carried. Monies to come from the Revolving Sewer Account.

B. Sewer Administrator’s Report

Commissioner Piotrowski said he wants the restaurant grease checked to stop it from going to the Plant.

Mr. Sym said new connections have to install grease traps.

Commissioner Piotrowski said we should look into hiring a part time someone to do it.

Mr. Sym said the consent decree fine comes from where? The fee is \$142K. The memo from Administrative Assistant Sandra Nesteriak indicated we have to pay it.

Commissioner DeAngelis said he thought the people downstairs were going to pay it.

Commissioner Morse said lets wait until we have the meeting with the Mayor.

Mr. Sym said there is \$200K balance in the Revolving Sewer Account. We will have a bill from Trumbull Construction for \$400K for the relief sewer. So, we will have to go into the Capital Sinking Fund for a portion of that and the fine. The fine is probably due in a few weeks.

Maguire Group came up with numbers that helped reduce this amount and got some extensions.

Commissioner Morse said he wants to wait until we get a piece of paper and wants a new line item in the Budget called DEP/EPA and do it that way rather than the Capital account and over run it.

Mr. Shortell said you cannot over run it and you cannot revise the budget.

Mr. Sym said you have money in the Sinking Fund for emergencies and this is an emergency.

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Sym said there was no Financial Statement as the girl in Finance is out of medical leave and who knows when she will return.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct this evening,

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Presutto and seconded by Commissioner Dowty to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hooper
Clerk 2 Tapes on file with the City/Town Clerk

