

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order by Commissioner at 7:00 P.M. in the Shelton City Hall, 54 Hill Street, Shelton, CT. 06484, on April 13, 2016.

The following Commissioners were present to constitute a quorum:

Commissioner Mike DeAngelis
Commissioner Stephen Morse
Commissioner Edwin Hellauer
Commissioner Joseph Frolish

Also in attendance were:

Thomas Sym, Sewer Administrator
Ed Comboni- WPCP
Garritt Ogden- WPCP
Matthew Jermine- Fuss & O'Neill

1. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Frolish to approve the following meeting minutes:

Regular Meeting of March 9, 2016

Seconded by Commissioner Morse. A voice vote was taken and motion passed.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. ASSISTANT TO WPCA REPORT

Peter Pavone: For the monthly FOG Status Report, for the month of March, we lost two places: Nacho Mama's and Subway Restaurant (Leavenworth Road). They told me that the business was not doing good over there. We had to do 11 inspections; we are trying to get ahead of April, May and June because those are the busy months for us to do, so I had to do 41 inspections in the month of March. Out of the 41 inspections: 39 passed and 2 failures.

The biggest problem that I am having is that 30-35% of the 144 restaurants and hotels that I visit is that there is turnover, so it is like starting over. We have to give them some training, we give them documentation. They read up on that and within three to five months we get them track.

On the sheet that Steve made for the grease removal, the month of March for grease removal was down from February. We have increased pumping frequencies that had helped the people that are new brought online. Once they are trained they will know how to take care of the grease traps; the inside traps. The only that we

have not been doing is testing outside traps. We talked about the testing on the outside traps, but it is difficult to do the testing on the outside trap. Infonet is streaming along, getting ready for our new batch of work.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ed Comboni: The average daily flow was 2.6 MGD; the peak flow for the month of March was 3.2 MGD.

Our effluent total nitrogen was 67.4 pounds per day; the limit was 106 pounds per day. We pumped out 97,500 gallons of sludge.

We now have had 58 months free from any accidents.

Our safety/training: Laboratory health and safety.

Our chemical consumables were approximately the same.

The grease removal for Upper Route 8 was 80 pounds, Lower Route 8 was 80 pounds, River Road was 100 pounds, Ladas Place was 80 pounds and Meadowlark was 70 pounds, for the month of March.

Comparing March 2015, the total was 490 pounds, and in March 2016, the total amount of grease was 410 pounds.

We have had 0 complaints this month, making it a total of 43 months free of noise complaints.

We have had 0 odor complaints, which brings us to 34 months of no state odor complaints.

Chairman DeAngelis: Do the state issued odor complaints come from neighbors, or do they come around once in a while?

Ed Comboni: A neighbor would call the state and then the state would come down and investigate. We did have a complaint from the bus company of an intermittent odor. They just contacted us, and we just adjusted our turbo blower air cycle and have not had any complaints since. They are right next to where we fill the trucks up, so that is where the odor comes from.

Chairman DeAngelis: Ed, please add that on the Superintendent's report for next month.

Ed Comboni: Sure.

Tom Sym: Was that a verbal complaint?

Ed Comboni: Yes that was a verbal from the bus company.

Commissioner Morse: The last one that we received, we got in trouble because the state guy was just driving around and he sniffed something that he did not like. He then stopped and wrote us up.

Ed Comboni: The odor was not a constant odor; you would sniff it here and there and that's it.

The daily maintenance was basically the same. The corrective maintenance included install and start up polymer mixing system, replaced radiator cap on Meadowlark generator, added odor control drip system to rotary drum thickener, filtrate discharge and started SCADA upgrade.

The future work includes potable water line replacement, SCADA upgrade, start rebuilding motive pumps 2 & 4, and rebuilding #1 & #2 pump at Bridgeport Avenue station.

C. BUDGET WORKSHEET

Commissioner Morse: I think we finally have a good budget worksheet. There are a couple of issues to keep in the back of your mind: the first issue is the Part Time Payroll account. That is not in line with the budget that we submitted. We just need to watch it.

We are heading for over budget for the Motor Vehicle Maintenance Account.

The last one for expenses is the Telephone Service. From what I could see we have one other Frontier bill that almost doubled from last month.

Garritt Ogden: That was a crossover where the check did not go out in time by the time we got billed. It has been adjusted in the new budget.

Commissioner Morse: The other thing to note is the Sewer Usage fees. It looks like a lot of it came in and we received the credit for it. We are almost at where we had anticipated for income.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING FY 2016-2017 USER CHARGE

Chairman DeAngelis: We will set the Public Hearing for the next regular meeting, May 11th at 6:45 P.M.

B. FUSS & O'NEILL STATUS REPORT

Matt Jermine: We had our meeting with the Mayor last month on March 24th. I thought the meeting was pretty productive. The big thing is to try to refine our costs for the infrastructure to eliminate the sewage charges paid to Stratford. To further reduce that, our biggest cost is rock excavation along River Road. Some of the uncertainty with connecting the force main from the proposed pump station at the transfer station, into the existing infrastructure. We are going to look at that into further detail to see if we could reduce our costs on that but still do the right thing. What we put together is a scope of services to do that work.

A – RIVER ROAD: SUBSURFACE EXPLORATION

- Preparation of a DOT Encroachment Permit for subsurface exploration along River Road.
- Notify CBYD at least three days prior to the work
- Perform probes and borings along the proposed force main (three days budgeted)
- Record the soil characteristics, depth to groundwater, and bedrock (if encountered)
- Police Traffic Protection to be paid directly by the Shelton WPCA – assume 3 days

The biggest cost is the subsurface exploration: \$20,000, and that is getting a subcontractor out there to do borings or probes, wherever they are.

I would like to request authorization for this so we could get started. Based on the bonding and cash flow for the larger city, the Mayor does not necessarily want to put this on the referendum this fall. Instead he was thinking if we could defer it two years. Even if we did do that, \$7 million is too much and we have to cut back. For those two reasons if we have to cut it back, if we were able to put a cash flow together that says that we are not going to have any substantial expenses until two years out because the referendum would not be until 2017. It would take one year

for design before you really hit the serious money for construction for the project; you might have an argument that way but generally he does not want to pay for this over the next two years.

Commissioner Hellauer: Why appropriate anything now while we are still in limbo?

Commissioner Morse: Sooner or later the question needs to be asked, how much?

Commissioner Hellauer: If he shoots it down then forget about it.

Chairman DeAngelis: He did not say no, but he is working out the finances internally with the city, with what he wants to do if he wants to fund it this year or in one year from now.

Commissioner Morse: Or maybe there is consideration in doing this project in pieces, with internal money?

Commissioner Hellauer: No, you do not do it in pieces.

Chairman DeAngelis: It is all about when he wants to finance it.

Commission Morse: I think it is worthwhile to spend the \$43,000 to find out what situation we are in, because that will also detail out a schedule when you have to put one together.

Chairman DeAngelis: The only thing is if there are findings that there is not a lot of rock there, that could bring the number down and make him more satisfied. In my opinion, he is still not going to put it on the referendum this year no matter what kind of work we do.

Tom Sym: One of the biggest costs is the permanent pavement by the state. If we can find out when the state is going to be overlaying this road again, we can cut costs that way by not having to pay a permanent paving fee/ patch. That is significant money; that is at least \$1 million dollars right there. We could then find out if the state would let us do a temporary patch without a permanent patch.

Mat Jermine: The rock that we are doing is every 300 feet; ultimately where there are areas of more rock you want more resolution for detailed design. So then you only would want to go every 100 feet, instead of every 300 feet but the stuff that you have is not going to change. Some of this upfront work for how the force main connects, and the utility mapping should not change unless they add something new down there.

Chairman DeAngelis: So Item A, for \$20,000, is basically for the encroachment permits and borings?

Tom Sym: How many test borings are we talking about?

Matt Jermine: There is around 35 to 40 test borings.

Chairman DeAngelis: Why couldn't you just do the River Road Subsurface Exploration for \$20,000, instead of spending the whole \$43,000 now?

Matt Jermine: We could do that. If we were to send the new force main into the wet well at the River Road station, do you replace the two pumps with two larger ones? Or add a third pump? If you were going to do that, you would have a higher electrical demand so what does that mean for the generator there? Is the wet well big enough?

Chairman DeAngelis: Those are some of the things that we could do now, or we could do it in three to four months from now.

Tom Sym: So you are not considering bypassing the pump station?

Matt Jermine: The preferred way is to not bypass the pump station. If you bypass the station and go right into the force main, then the issue becomes making sure you have a really robust communication between the two stations so they are not pumping at the same time. Or what happens when one really needs to pump? Can the other one really hold it? It is like two people trying to go to the bathroom at the same time.

Chairman DeAngelis: Matt, I am just talking but how about doing Items A and C for now? I think Item C would give you some good information upfront. I would think that Items A and C would give us some good information upfront that you could use.

What do you think about Items A & C?

Matt Jermine: Items A & C are the findings that you just don't know. The other items we have an idea about.

Chairman DeAngelis: That is why I am recommending those two items for now.

Commissioner Hellauer: This started out as items being on the referendum for this year and it is not going to happen. It is a great idea and we need it badly but I do not see any sense of arguing into it now. We need to stay with it, but all of this stuff can be done when we get the go-ahead on it. That is my opinion. Why spend the money when you do not have to?

Chairman DeAngelis: I think Items A & C will give us some good information. You are right, okay, two years from now.

Commissioner Hellauer: The information always changes.

Chairman DeAngelis: That is why I think reading these two versus the other ones, are the larger unknowns. What do you think, Steve?

Commissioner Morse: Can we apply both resources to Items A & C, and do some of the aeration work for the SBRs?

Tom Sym: At the meeting the Mayor asked for a cash flow, so he wants to know how fast he is going to need the money. Once they tell him how fast they are going to need the money, I think we could get that approved and start working.

Chairman DeAngelis: The city is going to self fund that; not the WPCA.

Tom Sym: There is good and bad of getting the information and doing test borings just in case the state comes back and says they are paving the roads next year.

Chairman DeAngelis: That is why I like Item C: Obtain Utility Mapping because you can get the information that is firm.

Commissioner Morse: I am concerned down the line somebody may come in with a plan, and starts redeveloping that area. Now we are forced into a decision, so what do we do? Wouldn't it be nice to have some clue based on the borings and the utility map as to what we have and do not have. I think it would be good to have that in hand. I do not think it is insurance, but it is assurance of what the condition is. I would say to do Items A & C.

Chairman DeAngelis: It is not going to change; it is going to be two years from now. How about you, Joe?

Commissioner Frolish: I just do not know. Is it going to pass in two years? Are we going to have a referendum in two years? We don't know.

Commissioner Hellauer: Or is the city going to fund it?

Commissioner Frolish: Is it going to referendum in two years? You do not know.

Chairman DeAngelis: What do you think, Ed and Garritt?

Ed Comboni: I think it is a good idea for Items A & C. I would think it would be a good idea for Matt to do Item B, too because that is really going to show him what road to take. I am in favor for Items A, B and C (River Road Subsurface Exploration, Review Force Main Connection Options and Obtain Utility Mapping).

Garritt Ogden: I think that sounds good.

Chairman DeAngelis: What do you think, Tom?

Tom Sym: I am in agreement with doing the test borings, and the guys that are going to operate the pump station want this other item done, so they are the ones that know. I am just concerned about doing these test borings; first we need to make sure that the state is going to allow it. At this point because I do know their paving schedule for this year does not include this portion of River Road; I do know that. If it takes two years before any construction activity happens, then we have the information in hand. I do not think that \$20,000 is going to break us.

Chairman DeAngelis: So are you for A, B & C?

Tom Sym: Yes.

Commissioner Frolish: I am in favor of Items A & C.

Chairman DeAngelis: Ed, you don't want anything?

Commissioner Hellauer: No I am in mind but I think it is premature. I just want to voice my opinion.

Commissioner Frolish: It is just the unknown.

Chairman DeAngelis: I am in favor for Items A & C for now.

Commissioner Morse: I am in favor for all three: A, B & C.

Commissioner Hellauer: I am in favor for all three, too. (A, B & C).

A motion was made by Commissioner Morse to consider the Scope of Services for the upgrade, on items A (River Road: Subsurface Exploration), B (River Road: Review Force Main Connection Options), and C (River Road: Obtain Utility Mapping).

SECONDED by Commissioner Hellauer. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Matt Jermine: On the Assignment Log Sheet, I forgot to update the Plant Water total budget based on what we had voted on last month. That should be at 100%.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. BILLS RENDERED

1. FUSS & O'NEILL \$8,977.04

A motion was made by Commissioner Morse to pay Fuss & O'Neill \$8,977.04.

Seconded by Commissioner Frolish. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

B. SEWER ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Tom Sym: I received a phone call from The Mark apartments; they are ready to pay. They are going to start having their closings and they are going to pay off everything at once; it should be in by the end of the week. The amount is \$303,008.

Chairman DeAngelis: That brings it up to around \$700,000 now?

Tom Sym: If you look at your financial statement, there is last year's surplus, in the amount of \$497,780. We are now up to \$706,982.98, and we are going to be adding the \$303,008 to that balance.

Big Y is working up there, Hawk's Ridge is still working. I see a couple of new applications coming online. I saw the application for Long Hill Avenue, where they want to put in 18 condos. They have not approached us yet.

They also have an application in for Old Bridgeport Avenue, for 43 apartments. No one has approached us for the development on Bridgeport Avenue; they are still trying to work out their numbers to see what they could get approved from Planning & Zoning.

Chairman DeAngelis: Tom, is there an amount that you are allowed to have that you do not have to spend?

Tom Sym: Stratford had \$5 million in surplus.

Chairman DeAngelis: I do know, when I was working in Greenwich, at the end of the year, the Road Department for the Town of Greenwich had to spend their surplus. If they didn't spend it they had to give it back.

Commissioner Hellauer: No that is an individual department budget, and if you do not spend it you have to give it back. Does that go the same for here, too?

Pete Pavone: Yes, except for WPCA. The Board of Education gives their money back too, with whatever they do not spend.

Chairman DeAngelis: We are not required to do that because we are autonomous.

Tom Sym: Plus, we are supposed to have a Sinking Fund where you put in 10% of your budget, per year. The money stays there until you have an emergency; if something were to happen at the plan that costs around \$500,000, they want to have that money in there.

Chairman DeAngelis: Then our 10% of our budget is \$270,000, and generally every year we re-fund it with \$75,000.

Tom Sym: Plus the Sinking Fund money of \$300,000 that covers us for the entire year.

Commissioner Hellauer: This budget is different than the city departmental budgets.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellauer to adjourn the April 13, 2016 Regular WPCA meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Seconded by Commissioner Frolish. All were in favor and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Gannon

Brittany Gannon, WPCA Clerk