

The Regular Meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order by Chairman Michael DeAngelis at 7:00 p.m. in Room 305 of Shelton City Hall, 54 Hill Street, Shelton, CT 06484 on Wednesday, May 09, 2012.

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

Commissioner Michael DeAngelis  
Commissioner Stephen Morse  
Commissioner Bronislaw Piotrowski  
Commissioner Todd Dowty  
Commissioner Edwin Hellauer  
Commissioner Regis Dognin

Also attending were: Thomas Sym, Sewer Administrator  
Ed Comboni, WPCP  
Garitt Ogden – WPCP  
James Convertito - WPCP  
Virgil Lloyd – Fuss & O’Neill  
Matt Jermine – Fuss & O’Neill  
Jeff Shortell – WPCP Superintendent  
Peter Pavone

Also appearance by Mayor Mark A. Lauretti

## 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

## 2. PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Lauretti arrived.

Mayor Lauretti indicated that Tom Sym asked me to come, so here I am.

Mr. Sym said that the Mayor indicted he wanted a meeting with our engineers and some of the plant operations so I suggested he come to our meeting. The original concern was the *blower* situation and the *noise* they are making. I don’t know if that is ever going to get resolved-how is that going to work?

Virgil Lloyd said we have something about that in our report tonight.

Commissioner Morse asked the Mayor is someone had complained about the noise?

Mayor Lauretti said “yes, as all of you know whenever something goes awry in the City it ends up coming to me. The two issues are the *Odor* which is ongoing and it has to get solved. We have to do better than this as it is not fair to the neighborhood. It has been going on for years. They have had to live with this for umpteen years and now recently, this *Noise* issue. (The blowers).

Virgil Lloyd said in our report tonight we are going to talk about both those issues and we have a solution that will address both of those at the same time. There is the Consent Decree Order on the odors down there and we recently sent a report into DEEP and in that report we proposed to provide aeration in the sludge holding tank plus the two charcoal carbon filters. So, by aerating the tank, that is a major change and the odors will not be generated in the first place and instead of being anaerobic in there it will be aerobic. The air that comes off that will also be captured and go through the carbon filter and that should make a huge difference with the odors.

Mayor Lauretti: when is that going to start; how long is it going to take and what is the financial impact?

Virgil Lloyd said these are all good questions. DEEP today have given us a verbal OK on what we sent them so we can start the design of that right away. That will take a little longer about the blower and that is what we wanted to speak to the Commission about tonight. We will need a new blower – and we can use some of the existing blowers for sludge hold tank aeration and get new blowers for the SBR. This will take a little longer. Part of it is that they wanted us to proceed with it right away is to provide a carbon absorption unit just for the sludge de watering equipment and they want us to do that right away and it is not big money and not a lot of effort to get done – it is something that can get into the works.

Mayor Lauretti: So, what is the biggest generator of the odor?

Virgil Lloyd said it is one of the tanks – one of the old digesters.

Commissioner Morse said perhaps we should say how the sludge gets into the tank.

Virgil Lloyd said the sludge comes from the bottom of the SBR's. The solids go to the largest storage tank and sits there for a long time and then it goes like “septic”. So odors are created there. The air above that tank is concentrated with bad foul smelling odors, sulfites and things.

So, what we are proposing to do there is:

#1 Put a small grid on the floor there so we can blow air and it won't go anaerobic. The air space on top would be collected and go out back to a carbon unit. It should be a huge improvement there.

Mayor Lauretti: Is this the stuff that gets sent to the burn plant?

Virgil Lloyd said yes. It goes through the thickener first where it is exposed to the air in there and that is where a lot of the odors are released in there also. So, there are two big sources over there. This will take a little longer to do the aeration of the tank.

#2 is to put a hood over the thickener equipment and capture the air as it comes off and vent it to a small carbon absorption unit. This will strip the sulfites out. We can do this quickly and DEEP wants us to do something quickly.

Commissioner Morse said the other benefit of doing this, is when we thicken the sludge there is a certain amount of fluid that goes back to the headwor's and gets recycled through the plant and that recycled material is full of ammonia and it affects the nitrogen as it goes into the water/river. So, this whole system will become more efficient by getting rid of the ammonia by aerating the tank.

Matt Jermine said and we are going to move the noisy blowers behind the tanks in a new building and that will buffer the noise.

Mayor Lauretti asked how are you going to account for the blowers...

Matt Jermine said we can use the blowers. We can order two for the sludge tanks and get the new ones where the noise is.

Mayor Lauretti: Why are they so noisy?

Virgil Lloyd said they are that loud, but usually the doors are closed and it muffles the sound. They have to keep the doors open because the way the exhaust equipment was installed, the blowers are not insulated from the exhaust, so all the heat stays in there so that is why they keep the doors open.

Mayor Lauretti: that won't help when it is 90 degrees out.

Virgil Lloyd said the new ones won't have that deficiency and we will be able to insulate the exhaust apparatus and we won't have to keep the doors open to ventilate the room.

Mayor Laretti asked if the grid on the tank goes on the bottom?

Virgil Lloyd said yes, it will keep it aerated.

Mayor Laretti asked where the hood goes.

Virgil Lloyd said the hood goes over the dewatering unit and it will cover all the equipment and it is a small unit and it will capture the air with a vent and fan on it. The carbon unit itself is half the size of the table.

Mayor Laretti asked how much maintenance is there?

Virgil Lloyd said the carbon will need replacing on a periodic basis. And it depends on how much work it does.

Commissioner Hellauer said we never get reported complaints on the Superintendent's monthly report. The odors could be from Derby too. It is only across the river.

Mayor Laretti said I get the complaints when I walk down the street or stop to get gas. The neighborhood around Latex International is up in arms also. I hope we get this resolved real soon.

Commissioner Morse said we can put together a timeline/schedule.

Commissioner DeAngelis said we need to do a final design and go out to bid.

Mayor Laretti said so we are months away before that happens.

Matt Jermine said it can be fast tracked.

Virgil Lloyd said the other part on moving the blowers will take a 9 month timeframe.

Mayor Laretti asked why.

Virgil Lloyd said we have to design it – we only discussed it tonight. We may need a building to house the blowers in.

Mayor Laretti said from a practical standpoint, nine months is into the cold weather- is there a short term solution for the summer months when people are out doors?

Matt Jermine said a short term solution would be to address the heat issues and that would be to insulate so we can keep the garage doors closed. Insulate the discharge muffler and insulate the piping underneath the blower. This is for the noise issue and we can keep the doors shut.

Mr. Sym asked Mayor Laretti is he gets a lot of complaints on the odor?

Mayor Laretti said it comes and goes. The humidity causes odors.

Ed Comboni said that DEEP has not written us up on the odor. We have used a masking spray and it neutralizes the odor. Maybe mist the sludge holding tanks.

Mayor Laretti said we have to do something and stop making excuses. This isn't right. \$27 million later and we have all these problems? This is not right. Something has to be done.

Commissioner DeAngelis said it is \$18 million not \$27 million. That is the pump stations.

Virgil Lloyd said maybe we can save some time and put design build on the hood.

Mayor Lauretti said bidding is not the issue. Bidding is three weeks. Gene can condense the bidding process. You need to get the documents together and let's go.

Commissioner DeAngelis: Mark, I understand your frustration. But, you have to understand that we have been working on this real hard for the last 6-8 months trying to get these problems resolved. It doesn't happen overnight. We realize the issues and that is why these guys show up every month (Plant guys). We have a prioritized list and we have Special Meetings. It won't happen overnight. I have not heard of the noise issue until tonight.

Mayor Lauretti: Mike, are we living in never, never land? How long has this odor issue been going on? You have to be kidding me. How can you sit there and make a statement like that? This has been going on for years.

Commissioner DeAngelis said Commissioner Hellauer was right, we have not had any odor complaints on the Superintendent's monthly report for months. You are coming and telling us this now – when was the last time you came here to a meeting?

Mayor Lauretti said that is ridiculous. From now on when I get a complaint, I will tell them to come to your meeting. If that is what you want, I am happy to oblige you on that. This is ridiculous! This odor issue has been out there for at least six years. Long before we started the plant renovations. Enough is enough! You are going to tell me something I don't understand?

Commissioner DeAngelis said come to our meetings every month.

Mayor Lauretti said I don't need to come to the meetings to know something is wrong. Something is radically wrong.

Commissioner DeAngelis said when was the last time you called me to tell me there was a problem?

Mayor Lauretti said I don't need to do that. That is not my responsibility. I don't know how many engineers we have been through to deal with this issue and it is still there – and you want to make excuses? I am not interested.

Commissioner DeAngelis said he is not making excuses. We are working on it.

Mayor Lauretti said it is not happening fast enough.

Commissioner Dowty said I think we need to move forward. I think his idea of insulating at least to get the noise issue down. The misting on the sludge tank will help and we can put those things into action pretty quickly. Then we have a long term fix we can look at. We can do a design build right away and enclose the sludge thickener which is the greatest source of odor.

Matt Jermine said we can do a short term for odor and noise and then do long term schedules.

Mr. Tom Sym asked if the blower noise is 24/7?

Ed Comboni said it depends on the temperature.

Mayor Lauretti said Tom Sym what are the other issues?

Mr. Sym said the I&I – we recommended it go on the Board of Aldermen Agenda and we did not see it on the agenda. Also, the relief sewer on Canal Street.

Mayor Lauretti said that is a little more complex as there are multiple property owners that have to be dealt with.

Mr. Sym said I was not sure if we can just do title searches.

Mayor Lauretti said we have done that already. We considered a by-pass lane on Canal Street. One way down and one way back over the tracks. So, I believe we have all the information.

Mr. Sym said we are talking a 24 inch sewer pipe not a 50 foot roadway.

Mayor Lauretti said when you are dealing with the railroad in this country they have more authority than the federal government.

Mr. Sym said he has been talking to Jim Ryan regarding the core borings under the Railroad tracks for utilities. Do you want to eliminate that?

Mayor Lauretti said we can't take it out. For the benefit of the Board, the Rail Road has now assessed an annual fee to the City for a sleeve for water and sewer line under the railroad and assessed the fee to UI for another sleeve to handle the underground utilities as well as the Gas Company. So, that is one utility charging another utility and the Rail Road charging the city. This is a first. It is like a permit for \$1500 a year. It is the point of it to install a sleeve under the Rail Road line for sewer and water.

Mayor Lauretti said to go under the tracks is not that expensive. I think it is a good idea for us. We should have more discussions on that at a later date. We are going to support the I&I and we are going to have a meeting with Fuss & O'Neill about your contract, scope of work and money.

Virgil Lloyd said we are available.

Mayor Lauretti said before that contract goes ahead we are going to have a meeting before the Board of Aldermen meeting in June; so we should meet this month re the I&I. Let's get moving on the I&I.

Commissioner Morse asked the Mayor if he is aware of the grease program in the restaurants and how successful it has been?

Mayor Lauretti said yes I am. It is a good thing. Good luck with the residential!

Virgil Lloyd said we were selected as your new engineer a year ago and we have been working with issues at the Plant. It has been a challenge to work well and you have a great crew running your Treatment Plant.

Mayor Lauretti said that is not the issue. The issue is how long do we make excuses for the odor? That is the issue.

Mayor Lauretti left at 7:35 p.m.

### **3 .a APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF APRIL 11, 2012**

<p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin and seconded by Commissioner Hellauer to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of April 11, 2012 as submitted. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioner Dowty who abstained. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
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**3.b APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2012**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin and seconded by Commissioner Hellauer to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 11, 2012 as submitted. All were in favor with the exception of Commissioner Dowty who abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. SEWER USER BILL INSERT – “DUMP THE SUMP PUMP”**

Mr. Sym said this has been sent to the printer for insertion in the Sewer Bill.

Mr. Pavone said the cost is \$999.

Commissioner Dognin asked if it is too late to change anything in the text?

Mr. Sym indicated it is too late. We worked on it several times to get the rain leaders in there and in the CT Post Larry Miller had an article about the rain leaders and water going into the river.

Commissioner Morse said he would like it on the website.

Mr. Pavone said let's wait until it goes out into the bills.

Commissioner Dognin said it might be good to have bullets to show what is allowed and what is not allowed. People relate to that better. We can do that on the website.

**B. DEEP FOG COMPLIANCE REPORT**

Peter Pavone indicated that DEEP sent a letter dated March 9, 2012 regarding the Fats, Oil and Grease discharge from restaurants to the sanitary sewer system and asked us to complete the form for our compliance status.

Mr. Pavone indicated Lori Gibson is helping add to the table. The State is going to the Board of Health and all restaurants have to be in compliance. If they are not now, they will have to be in compliance by our next report in the fall. We have to include classes 1 & 2.

Commissioner Morse said he would like to see the January 2012 date and include where we are now – not as of January. Make it as of May 01, 2012.

Mr. Sym said we will tweak this compliance form.

Peter Pavone will call the State to see if we can make the compliance date May 1, 2012.

**C. WPCA CLERK**

This is the letter from Linda Hooper who has been the clerk for many, many years and is resigning to coincide with her retirement from the City of Shelton.

**D. ASSISTANT TO WPCA REPORT**

Peter Pavone reported that we lost a restaurant. It went out of business.

Total FPE's are 147.

7:45 p.m. Tape 1 Side B

InfoNet version 10.5 was upgraded to 12.5 and there are still many unresolved issues.

Commissioner Morse said it sounds like X2 software is paying for itself.

Peter Pavone said yes, Lori Gibson is doing a great job updating it.

We are trying to get information from the septic haulers.

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Commissioner DeAngelis asked Jeff Shortell if he spoke to the guy who had an odor complaint from a couple of months ago.

Jeff Shortell said he spoke to his wife on the phone. I told her what we were doing to try to remedy the odor problem. He said he told her we are spending a half a million dollars and we have a new Engineer as well. She said OK. There is never anyone there when I try to stop by.

Commissioner Hellauer said the Mayor said he gets complaints walking down the street.

Commissioner DeAngelis asked Jeff if he can intercept the Mayor and ask him if he has heard of any more complaints.

Tom Sym said when I saw the Mayor that his first comment was the noise issue.

Commissioner DeAngelis said to Mr. Sym that the Mayor's visit was a hit below the belt.

Jeff Shortell continued that the effluent TN was 4 mg/l.

Total effluent nitrogen was 68 lbs a day which is very good.

4 SBR's were on line.

Corrective Maintenance: repaired #2 lead, had #3 motive pump adjusted to 65 HZ, had to remove a fan on the drive in the thickening building, had to check the drive on motive pump #3. Replaced "C" metering pump for sodium hypochlorite system and had Superior Associates comedown for summer maintenance of all RTU's and exhaust fans.

The training subject for the month was Chemical Safety.

Commissioner Morse said the 68 lbs day total effluent nitrogen was great and the average thru 4/12 is 72 lbs a day.

Fats, oil and grease has leveled off. Good job to the guys at the plant.

## **F. BUDGET WORKSHEET**

Commissioner Morse said the graph shows the green side is revenue and we picked up all the User fees from last June and July. Expenses are on track. Just Tom Sym's sewer cleaning is pending. The other items are in good shape.

We should finish the year out at the income line.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. FUSS & O'NEILL STATUS REPORT**

Virgil Lloyd said we covered some of this in the Public session.

Commissioner DeAngelis asked if we can do this misting right away – it was a good thing to offer up.

Ed Comboni said we need to get chemicals and order a new pump then send the Mayor an e-mail that we have acted on this.

Matt Jermine said the motive pumps seem to work as the manufacturer said they are supposed to work.

We have a graph from the manufacturer and took into account the wear and tear. They have lost 10% - 15% over the six years.

James Convertito said that is a bit too much.

Matt said they are definitely showing their age.

Motive Pump #4 had a flow test with the new pipe tap done on April 12, 2012 and operates at 4100 GPM.

Motive Pump #3 operates at 5,000 GPM and is doing better as it is rebuilt with a larger motor and it is getting more flow. Upgrades to #3 are in the right direction.

Ed Comboni said the electricity will help with the odors also and reduce the blower capacity.

Motive Pump Overhaul – there are three left to do. You already did #3 so we would like to be in the 6-7 gpm flow rate per pump.

The three options to be considered are:

1. Order new impeller and a new 1200 RPM motor
2. Use 12.04 impeller and a new 1800 RPM motor
3. Order a completely new pump

Mr. Sym asked if you are talking all 4 new pumps?

Matt Jermine said may be 2 this year.

Mr. Sym asked “don't we have to replace them as soon as possible?”

Matt Jermine said #1 should be done immediately as it is grinding and is at 75 HP.

Virgil Lloyd said that Matt needs to get some costs.

Matt Jermine said it gets complicated fast to see how it can work and if it will be more wear and tear on your equipment.

Virgil Lloyd said let's talk more about this at a Special Meeting.

A Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 4:00 in Room 305. Commissioner Hellauer said he will not be able to attend.

Mr. Sym said we will have to rebid this.

Odor Control Consent Order

- a. DEEP asked to break out sludge thickener enclosure as separate project to be completed this summer to show measurable progress if any additional odor complaints are received.
- b. DEEP will approve Sludge Aeration in the coming days.
- c. F&O to begin design of aeration system this month.
- d. Plan to move existing blowers that currently aerate SBR's. Purchase two new turbo blowers for SBR's.

Matt Jermine indicated the estimated cost for moving the blowers is less than \$100K. Use the existing blowers for peak and spare.

The 2-5 year plan is to move 1 blower to a spare.

The WPCP Aeration – Long Term Plan:

- SBR Aeration
  - Investigate supplemental aeration methods
    - Install surface mechanical mixer
    - Modify existing jet header
    - Add additional jet header(s)
    - Fine bubble diffuser grid
    - Submersible aspirating aerator
    - Other

Garritt Ogden said "let's just buy the correct blowers".

There was some discussion on the repairs procedure.

Mr. Sym said we have to go out and rebid this. Canfield offered us a discount.

Tape 2 Side A 8:30 p.m.

Blower Building Noise Complaint

- a. Plant recently started operating blower building with garage door open in anticipation of warmer seasonal weather.
- b. Mayor Lauretti visited the Plant on April 24<sup>th</sup> after a noise complaint was received by his office
- c. Mayor Lauretti wants the noise reduced
- d. Plant staff shut garage door as temporary solution, but will need to open it again for the summer heat.
- e. Recommend insulating the discharge piping so the room doesn't overheat and so the garage door can remain closed for **most** days during this summer.

For the May 23, 2012 meeting, the following will be discussed:

- Motive Pump Overall will increase capacity of pumps during rebuild (6000-7000 GPM flow per pump).
- Odor Control Program
- Noise Control

Virgil Lloyd said we have existing application flow monitoring grant that I would like to amend.

**Chemical Flow Dilution Isolation Flow Monitoring – On Hold**

Discuss adding it to the CWF Flow Monitoring application which was previously submitted to the DEEP.

Budget of \$53,000 minus 55% grant of \$29,150 = \$23,850 cost to the City.

Will send to DEEP to obtain prior approval and then perform the work next spring. Will address Clean Water Fund MBE/DBE participation as part of the work scope.

There is money available now. I want to amend existing application and it qualifies.

Mr. Sym said it will be too late for this spring.

Virgil Lloyd said if it stays rainy we can do it.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. BILLS RENDERED**

1. KOVACS CONSTRUCTION CORP.....\$1,731.10

**Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Hellauer and seconded by Commissioner Morse to authorize payment to Kovacs Construction Corp in the amount of \$1,731.10 for SBR #3 Tank Drain Modification and SBR #4 Pipin invoice dated April 27, 2012. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. Monies to come from the Capital Sinking Fund/ Consent Decree.

2. FUSS & O’NEILL.....\$5,466.34

**Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Dognin and seconded by Commissioner Dowty to authorize payment to Fuss & O’Neill for \$5,466.34 invoice dated May 03, 2012, for Odor Control Study. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. Monies to come from the Capital Sinking Fund/ Consent Decree

3. FUSS & O’NEILL.....\$18,274.95

**Motion:** A motion was made by Commissioner Dowty and seconded by Commissioner Dognin to authorize payment to Fuss & O’Neill for \$18,274.95 invoice dated May 03, 2012, for Professional Services through April 28, 2012. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. Monies to come from the Capital Sinking Fund/ Consent Decree

**B. SEWER ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Sym said we have the bid opening for the contractor to raise the manholes, frames and covers and the low bidder was Dave Dessell from Southington for \$30K per year for 70 manholes. He will start this week. I gave him about 55 manholes to be raised and replace. These are the ones that are 100 years old. When he is finished I will order more manholes in the next fiscal year from Campbell and he can keep going.

NEPCCO starts next week to get us where we want to be at the end of the fiscal year.

Barry from Maguire Group sent me a punch list of items that needs to be done.

Commissioner DeAngelis said he will call Barry tomorrow and he is to be here at the June meeting and asked Mr. Sym to put him on the June agenda.

Commissioner Dognin resigned as Vice Chairman, but is staying on the Board.

The Vice Chairman Position should be added to the June agenda as well.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct this evening,

<p><b>Motion:</b> A motion was made by Commissioner Hellauer and seconded by Commissioner Dognin to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Sew0512