



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2011

RECEIVED
MONTTOWN CLERK
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Attendees: Chairman Adam Weissberger, Vice-Chairman E. Ray Weaver and Gary Leavitt. Also present David R. Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control; Arnie Bevins, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; George Rostkowski, Business Manager and Mr. Harvey Martineau, 18 Brighton Lane

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairman Weissberger.

REQUEST FOR SEWER USE ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Harvey Martineau of 18 Brighton Lane asked the Authority for an adjustment on his sewer use bill for the months he and his wife were away last winter. He said that since it is a usage based fee, he is looking for relief not only for himself but for other people who are away for periods of time. Mr. Weaver asked Mr. Martineau if he could provide proof of some type of non-residency, such as an electric bill. Mr. Martineau said that he could provide such proof as well as the receipt for \$100 to have his mail forwarded. Mr. Weaver asked if the Authority can make such an adjustment. Mr. Ignatowicz said that there is no provision to make adjustments and the Authority has a fiduciary responsibility to everyone. The policies are established at the time rates are set which typically takes place in June or July, Mr. Ignatowicz said and it is difficult to prorate a bill for time spent away. If an adjustment is made for one, then it can be anticipated doing it for everyone, he added. Mr. Leavitt said that a rate structure has been set for the year but such requests are something to be considered in the future; there needs to be some thought brought into this. Mr. Leavitt said that it is a way to tax and it is similar to a mill rate. Mr. Leavitt explained that a sewer connection can be considered a benefit and the Authority would run out of money if it were to bill for usage only. He also said that the bill could be separated - part of which would be costs associated with wastewater treatment and usage could be billed separately. Mr. Martineau asked about the installation of water meters on properties with wells. Mr. Ignatowicz said that issue has not been discussed and that there would be costs associated with installing and reading the meters. He explained that policy changes are discussed/considered beginning in May with a public hearing usually scheduled for June or July. Mr. Weaver agreed that this issue warrants further consideration on the part of the Authority and Mr. Weissberger agreed. Mr. Weaver said that this issue bears further scrutiny and should be part of our rate structure; the Authority should consider coming up with a minimum fee with proof of non-residency. Mr. Weissberger encouraged Mr. Martineau to attend the meeting in the Spring.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2011 WPCA regular meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). Chairman Weissberger asked that the minutes of the October 20, 2011 Special Meeting be amended to add "The motion passed by acclimation" for Item #3. Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Weaver, made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2011 WPCA Special Meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT

Mr. Bevins reported that the average efficiency of the treatment plant is 99%, which is remarkable. He also reported that the water leak has been slow to find. There has been a lot of manual digging, he

said, because of the numerous pipes located underground. Mr. Bevins said that if a plastic sleeve is put through the existing pipe to repair the leak, it would eliminate the need to cut through about 80 feet of road. Mr. Weaver suggested using a vac-all truck to find the leak. Mr. Leavitt asked if there are plans to continue to find the leak or put in a new water line. Mr. Bevins said that decision will be made tomorrow. Regarding the Talcottville Pump Station force main repair, Mr. Ignatowicz reported that it has been postponed for a third time because flows are too high. Bypassing the first part of the force main may be an alternative Mr. Ignatowicz said, and he will look at the cost for this option. Mr. Weaver asked if the Town of Manchester is taking precautions to make sure the sewer line is clear and Mr. Bevins said that he did not know as of this time. Mr. Weaver suggested consideration of a bypass connection inside the Talcottville Pump Station.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

A discussion took place regarding the November 2012 and December 2012 meeting dates. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, made a motion to adopt the amended 2012 meeting schedule for 2012 and the first month of 2013. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Rostkowski reported that the October 2010 billing was approximately \$1,440,637 compared to \$1,333,611 for October 2011, for a difference of \$107,000. Mr. Rostkowski reported Quarterly figures for Transported Waste from July 2011 to September 2011. Although he had projected approximately \$5000 for cash received for Transported Wastewater, only \$125 has been received. Mr. Bevins noted that Simonize no longer uses the treatment facility and that company accounted for much of the transported wastewater. Regarding Connecticut Water Company Consumption Data for the January 1, 2012 billing period, which includes the towns of Tolland, Ellington and Vernon, Mr. Rostkowski said that consumption was 251,818,000 gallons and for the January 2011 billing period, consumption was 262,817,000. Current consumption figures represent a 4 ½ % drop from last year he said. Mr. Rostkowski reported that the last account authorized for a tax sale has been settled. The amount of \$616.58 has been received to bring the account current and the total amount received for all three accounts authorized for tax sale is approximately \$20,000 he said.

Regarding membership, Mr. Weissberger informed the Authority that, if elected to the Town Council, he would have to resign immediately from the Authority, and there would not be a quorum. He urged current members to keep in mind those residents who may want to get involved in local government. Mr. Ignatowicz said that a resignation is effective when the letter of resignation is received by the Town Clerk. Mr. Weaver said that he will contact Authority member Richard Madden. A discussion took place regarding the November and December 2011 meeting dates. A discussion took place regarding the resignation of members. Mr. Weissberger said he will speak to Administration to ask about resignation procedures and will notify the Authority.

ADJOURN

The Authority recognized the November 2011 article of Treatment Plant Operator about the NEWEA award winning Vernon Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Weaver noted that the photographs were nice and the article was nicely written. It puts Vernon in a very nice light and it is nice to see a good article about the Vernon Treatment Plant he said. Mr. Weissberger and Mr. Leavitt agreed with Mr. Weaver. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Yost, Secretary, WPCD