



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF VERNON

8 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONN. 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3699

Fax: (860) 870-3584

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
09 JUL -2 PM 4:22

MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 25, 2009 Wastewater Treatment Plant 7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman E. Mason Thrall III, John Anderson, Gary Leavitt, Melissa Shannon, Carl Schaefer. **Also present:** David Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control; George Rostkowski, Business Manager; Peter Williams, Town of Ellington WPCA

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

2) Acceptance of Minutes

Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, motioned to accept the minutes of the May 28, 2009 WPCA regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

3) Wastewater Treatment Plant Report

Mr. Ignatowicz reported that the plant is running well and there are no major issues to report. He noted that the increase in kilowatt hours from previous months is due to the start of chlorination. Mr. Ignatowicz reported that at a meeting held on June 22nd, the DEP presented an overview of the proposed phosphorus reduction program for wastewater discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants. He said that phosphorus permit limits for certain treatment plants will be established to comply with federal EPA requirements and state law. Mr. Ignatowicz said that phosphorus removal will be tied directly to the NPDES permit and Vernon's plant phosphorus limit may be 0.2mg/l.

Mr. Ignatowicz said that he has asked DEP to approve the current facilities plan for nitrogen reduction and would like to get their concurrence to amend that facilities plan to also include phosphorus removal. The plan would include modifications to the treatment plant's aeration tanks and effluent sand filters which were constructed in the 1970's. There may be 30% grant funding on the design and construction of the facilities plan, he said. Mr. Ignatowicz said that a draft permit may be completed by the end of 2009 and implementation of the permit may be in three to four years. Mr. Ignatowicz said that the Town of Vernon and those included in the inter-town agreement will be notified of the facilities plan.

Regarding the Waste Treatment Plant Appropriations Detail as of May 31, 2009,

Mr. Ignatowicz reported that expenditures in compensated absences are due to one employee's retirement and another employee's death. Also, he noted expenditures for engineering fees for the fine bubble aeration diffusers as well as equipment rental expenditures for the stand-by diesel pumps which were needed during the replacement of the internal lift screw pumps. There is still \$490,803 available in the plant budget Mr. Ignatowicz said. Mr. Anderson asked about the depreciation account and Mr. Ignatowicz said the account gets adjusted at the end of the fiscal year, usually after all purchases have been paid for.

Mr. Ignatowicz reported that the Fine Bubble Diffuser Conversion Contract has been advertised this week and bids will be open on July 23rd.

4) Review and Discussion of Proposed Sewer User Charges for the last three months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 and the first nine months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010

Mr. Rostkowski presented information including a history of the Waste Treatment Budget, Use of Funds (FY 07-08), Source of Funds (FY 08-09), Rate Comparisons, Sewer Rate Increases, History of Sewer Use Rates and Septage Charges, Minimum Sewer Use Rates, Operating Income/Loss with current rate increases (Sewer User Fund), Actual and Projected Sewer Use Rates and Impact of a Sewer Use Rate Increase. Mr. Rostkowski noted that capital outlay increased 4.5% due to the depreciation expense for the sewer lines as compared from FY 06-07 to FY 07-08. He said that for FY 08-09, if the entire budget is expended, he projects an Operating Loss of about \$250,000.

Mr. Schaefer suggested that instead of putting the sewer pipe depreciation in the budget, it should be broken out as a maintenance item and include it as a separate billing on the sewer user invoice. Mr. Rostkowski said that according to GASB34, the sewer pipes need to be accounted for; if you own and maintain a line then it should go on your books. Mr. Rostkowski said that if the Town wants to pass off the expense, then the Town passes off the revenue as well. He said the revenue for the sewer pipes is on the Town's books and those funds from the connection account could offset some of the sewer pipe depreciation expense. The Sewer Department administers the connection account he said. Mr. Ignatowicz said that there is a possibility that the Sewer Connection account may run dry in the future. Further discussion took place as to whether or not the sewer pipe depreciation expense should be incorporated into sewer user billing and whether or not the Sewer Connection Account should be on the Authority's books. Mr. Rostkowski presented his recommendation for a 7.5% sewer use rate increase from \$5.29/1000 gallons to \$5.69/1000 gallons for FY 09-10 which would increase revenue by \$379,000. The increase takes into consideration \$105,000, half of the depreciation cost of the sewer pipes. Mr. Schaefer expressed concern regarding credit to the Town of Ellington. Mr. Anderson said that if the Authority takes all of the expense of the collection system then the Authority should take the revenue

as well. Further discussion took place as to whether or not future repairs/replacements to the sewer pipes would impact depreciation, resulting in additional credit to the Town of Ellington.

Mr. Thrall said he was concerned about a rate increase that would help build the Authority's reserves and would agree to a 7.5% increase in the sewer use rate. Mr. Leavitt said that if next year, a greater sewer use rate is anticipated, it may be more beneficial to ask for a higher rate now. Mr. Anderson said that if the Authority takes ownership of the Sewer Connection Account it may offset a future rate increase. Mr. Rostkowski recommended having a minimum charge for septage and increasing the minimum usage charge to \$26.

Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Leavitt made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority schedule a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at the Water Pollution Control Facility located at 100 Windsorville Road at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of establishing sewer user rates of \$5.69 per 1000 gallons; for the minimum sewer user rate of \$26.00; and a septic charge of \$75.00 per 1000 gallons with a \$75.00 minimum charge for the last three months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 and for the first nine months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

5) Discussion of Investment Options

Mr. Rostkowski presented information regarding investment options including those for liquid accounts. He said that most account balances are FDIC insured to \$250,000. Mr. Rostkowski said that it would be a good idea to divide up the investment dollars between several accounts to insure the maximum amount deposited in that account. Mr. Thrall and Mr. Anderson agreed with Mr. Rostkowski. Mr. Ignatowicz said that he would like to speak with James Luddecke, Finance Director, regarding this matter.

6) Any Additional Matters

Carl Schaefer made motion, seconded by Gary Leavitt, that the Sewer Connection Account be transferred to the Water Pollution Control Authority. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

7) Adjourn

Mrs. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Anderson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, WPC