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# TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY



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WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY Regular Meeting

March 26, 2009

Wastewater Treatment Plant

7:30 PM

**Attendees:** Chairman E. Mason Thrall III, John Anderson (arrived 8:09 p.m.), Carl Schaefer (arrived 7:53 p.m.), Melissa Shannon and Gary Leavitt. Also present: David Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control (arrived 7:54 p.m.); Arnie Bevins, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; George Rostkowski, Business Manager (arrived at 7:53 p.m.); Peter Williams, Town of Ellington WPCA; and Alan Eisenberg, President Amerbelle Textiles, LLC

- 1) Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.
- 2) Public Comment  
None.
- 3) Minutes of the WPCA Special Meeting held on February 23, 2009  
Mrs. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, motioned to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2009 WPCA special meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).
- 4) Minutes of the WPCA Special Meeting held on March 3, 2009  
Mrs. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, motioned to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2009 WPCA special meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).
- 5) Executive Session  
Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, moved to enter into executive session to discuss a pending claim regarding a delinquent sewer user account and invite Mr. Alan Eisenberg, WPC Director David Ignatowicz, WPC Assistant Director Arnie Bevins, WPC Business Manager George Rostkowski to attend. The motion carried unanimously (5-0) and the WPCA entered into executive session at 8:45 p.m.  
  
Mrs. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, moved to come out of executive session at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- 6) Action on Executive Session, if any  
There was no action on the executive session matter.

**7) Town of Ellington Request for Rate Adjustment for 2008-2009**

**Mr. Leavitt asked for an explanation of the sewer pipe depreciation and asked if the Authority maintains a sinking fund. He also suggested that functions of the WPCA with regard to the Town of Vernon and the Town Council, be specifically outlined.**

**Mr. Ignatowicz provided a summary regarding the impact of applying the depreciation expenses of the Vernon sanitary sewer line system directly to the sewer user fund. Mr. Ignatowicz said that historically, the sinking fund has been the fund balance/retained earnings of the WWTF budget.**

**Chairman Thrall said that whoever pays for a capital item should depreciate it and suggested a meeting with the Town Council regarding this issue. Mr. Schaefer agreed with Chairman Thrall and said that the Authority may want to consider having an attorney present at the meeting.**

**Mr. Williams said that the depreciation cost is not just on paper, but real dollars. He noted that the depreciation is in the Town of Vernon's audited budget for FY 07-08 and it impacts the Town of Ellington's credit rate adjustment. The Town of Ellington should not be paying for this depreciation; it is the part of the Town of Vernon's infrastructure. As per the inter-town agreement, the credit rate for 2008-2009 should be 11.13% he said.**

**A discussion took place regarding the general fund, enterprise fund, sewer user rates, assessments and assessment interest, depreciation and WPCA responsibilities.**

**After discussion, it was the consensus of the WPCA, that the sewer line system liability should be part of the Town's general fund as the Authority has previously stated. Also, it was the consensus of the WPCA, that a meeting be scheduled between the Mayor, Town Administrator, Finance Officer, and WPCA to further discuss the sewer line depreciation and its impact on the Town of Ellington's credit rate. A meeting with the Town Council should also be scheduled to discuss the depreciation as well as the specific responsibilities and jurisdiction of the WPCA. Mr. Ignatowicz suggested that the Authority may need to hire a financial consultant regarding this matter. Chairman Thrall asked Mr. Ignatowicz to look into hiring a financial consultant.**

**Based on today's flows, additional credit to the Town of Ellington would be between \$35,000 and \$40,000 per year Mr. Rostkowski said.**

**8) Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

**Mr. Bevins reported that the plant is running fine and preparation for chlorination (May 1st – September 30th) has begun. Also, the temporary diesel pumps on stand by in case screw pump failed, may be removed by next week. Mr. Bevins reported that the chlorine contact tank will be drained and cleaned to allow for inspection of the tank's gates. Repair work on the gates, which are 30 years old, will begin after October 1st.**

**Mr. Bevins provided an update regarding the NPDES Permit Compliance Schedule. He explained that every permit is valid for five years. Although the WWTF permit expired on February 17, 2009, the plant is operating under the pre-existing permit. Regarding effluent metals discharge, Mr. Bevins said that a letter should be sent to the DEP stating that the WWTF has the potential to be in violation of the mass metals permit. Regarding copper and water discharge issues, Mr. Leavitt said that it is a good idea to be on record with the DEP regarding this issue. Mr. Bevins said that a letter is being drafted in an effort to resolve this issue.**

**Two new influent screw pumps were installed on Wednesday, March 26th, Mr. Bevins said, and one pump was up and running that afternoon. Chairman Thrall asked if the pumps will be examined, and Mr. Bevins said that they will be checked. Mr. Bevins said that he has not received final cost figures for the pumps but he believes it will be under budget. Mr. Bevins said that the SCADA software is being built and he expects it to be up and running in five to six weeks. Regarding the Fine Bubble Air Diffuser Conversion, Mr. Bevins reported that the engineering plans for the Fine Bubble Diffuser Upgrade have been submitted to CL&P and he is waiting for a response.**

**9) Administrative Report**

**Mr. Rostkowski presented sewer user rates and projected budgets (2007-2015), based on the last four years with a at 7.07% sewer user rate increase. The report included the impact of credit adjustments to the Town of Ellington and Mr. Rostkowski noted that for FY 2010-2011 the total credit will be approximately \$102,000. Regarding septic receiving revenue, Mr. Rostkowski reported that revenue was on course to meet or perhaps exceed projections. Mr. Rostkowski also reported septic waste discharge figures obtained from the Town of Somers and said septic revenue may or may not be coming from Somers when the town closes its septage lagoons.**

**10) Adjourn**

**Mrs. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Lisa B. Yost**  
**Secretary, WPC**