

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM B
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

PRESENT: William Brennan, Eric Fanwick, Andrea Preston, Bill Follett, David Taylor,
Rick Tomasetti

OTHERS: Sandra Dennies, CFO; Tom Thurkettle, Director of Public Works; Mike Ahern,
Field Engineer; Pete Lucia, Manager Integrated Systems

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order

Mr. Brennan called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Approve the Minutes for the March 11, 2015 Regular Meeting

Mr. Brennan asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Rick Tomasetti so moved, Andrea Preston seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

FOG Program

The pace of checks has slowed down. Mike Ahern reported that about 65% in the program have renewed, so he will send out follow-ups and second requests to approximately 17 facilities. He stated 100% have grease traps. The testing consultant will start testing in a few weeks, now that the snow has melted. It is expected that results will be much improved with the traps in place.

Dewberry Engineers Study

Mr. Brennan verified that all present had received the email sent about Appeals on Assessments.

The Dewberry report recommends a maintenance plan. Mr. Brennan agreed with the findings and stated that the \$25,000 needs to be budgeted, but from which fund? Mr. Thurkettle responded that we need to use the Operating Budget and reminded everyone that the Capital Assessments Fund is only to be used for Debt Service and Capital Projects. The \$600,000 in Operating Fund can be used for any of the items in the Operating Budget. Sandra Dennies informed all that this \$25,000 is already budgeted.

Mr. Thurkettle feels we are in good shape, but specific problem areas should be addressed before we get more or larger problems, as \$600,000 would not go far if there was a large break. Mr. Fanwick asked about the oldest pipe. Tom replied it was installed in 1978. Mr. Brennan stressed the need to put together a schedule to handle this. Mr. Tomasetti felt on-going testing does not need to be done every year and suggested possibly every ten years to understand how much the system is deteriorating. Mr. Brennan commented the report is a multi-year preventive program

designed to address weak sections, spending some money upfront now to prevent spending larger amounts in the future. Pete Lucia added that \$25,000 would get two miles inspected.

Mr. Brennan made a motion to implement the preventive maintenance plan as recommended by Dewberry. Eric Fanwick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Pete Lucia reviewed the proposed budget of \$812,434 and user rate of \$214 per unit. He explained the Capital Assessment Fund is the interest on the bonds that Norwalk is paying and is our share of those bonds. This fund is eligible to be used to pay off the interest to Norwalk and then what is left is the user charge. The user fee of \$214 is the same as last year, due to the significant increase in the number of units such as new condos, growth, Wolfpit Road, the school, etc.

Mr. Follett asked Pete if we could increase FOG fees to cover some of consultant man hours and miscellaneous costs. Mike Ahern said we are actually in the black at this point so the consultant fee is not a concern for this next year. Mr. Lucia explained there is some offset from legal and any other surplus rolls into the \$600,000 if needed to cover deficits.

Ms. Dennies advised that, per regulations, the user fees need to be set by May. If the Authority is comfortable with the proposed budget, she could go forward with publishing the user fees and notice of public hearing to be held at the next WPCA meeting. Mr. Brennan stated this was a good budget and keeping the user fee flat year after year was vital. He made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Fanwick seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Public Hearing will be held at the May 13 WPCA meeting to hear from the public on the proposed budget and user fees.

Closing Comments

Tom Thurkettle is finalizing facts on the 50 kilowatt natural gas-fired generator being considered. He is contacting other towns who have this type generator to determine the average longevity as well as maintenance and other issues that might arise. The intent is to have this unit fit inside the building vs. outside. Some discussion focused on concerns of using a natural gas generator vs. diesel. This will be on the Agenda for next month's meeting with the request expected to be \$50,000 - \$60,000.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Kris Fager
Recording Secretary