

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM B
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

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

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 October 8, 2014 Regular Meeting

Mr. Fanwick made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2014. The motion was seconded and carried.

FOG Program

Mr. Ahern gave an update on the FOG Program (Summary sheet attached). To date all facilities are in compliance with the requirement to have an approved grease trap, so this issue is now closed out. Had Cohen & Wolf send letters to the permittees thanking them for their help. All on the list are now in and inspected.

Testing has started for this fiscal year, and bills are being sent out. Approximately 12% have renewed. Have tested a few facilities, but the majority to be completed will be done prior to June 30. Retesting for those who did not pass last year will be this year, with surcharge fees for some who have exceeded Norwalk's maximum allowable concentrations. He stated that the bills are complicated and he is copying Mr. Brennan on them for review. Mr. Brennan asked if Norwalk requested any reports from us. Mr. Ahern replied information on new connections to the system was sent last week. He felt that Norwalk is now comfortable with the way Wilton is handling things, and sometimes NWPCA asks for a report what we are doing. He has sent last year's test results, listing all who had the tests, a list of surcharges and who is registered. This is data Norwalk can use to bill. Mr. Brennan suggested that a report be sent to Norwalk to show efforts being made to have the facilities install the approved units as this shows Wilton's positive approach to the program, persistent follow-up and accomplishment, and that Wilton is abiding by the inter-local agreement with them. Mr. Follett asked if it is possible to go visit Norwalk's Waste Water Treatment Facility in the spring. Mr. Brennan agreed this would be very worthwhile for the new members to tour the Water Treatment Plant. An Action Item is to be set up for March to contact them for a tour sometime in May.

Other Business

Tom Thurkettle reviewed the Request for Special Benefit Analysis for Goddard School. Bill said this site once had an old house connected to the sewer in 1978. Tom discussed the Sewer Regulations handout (attached), citing page 19 that references capital assessments and special benefit and the formula that complies with State law, so everyone understood the procedure. Mr. Brennan said we are required to do this. Since the Goddard School is fully operating; connected to the sewer and Yankee Gas, a professional assessment has to be done. Mr. Brennan stated that a Motion to do the Third Party Special Benefit Analysis to obtain the data to move forward on assessment needs to be completed. Questions were raised about the cost of the assessment. Mr. Fanwick asked about potential revenue and a discussion ensued about a possible revenue range once the assessment is done. Tom informed the group that this is not a stand-alone project but anything along Rte 7 getting torn down and new construction started is subject to this analysis. Mr. Brennan did not have a number but suggested a look back at the five or six assessments that were already done to come up with a rough estimate of cost. Mr. Brennan stated that cost would probably fall between the \$4000 – \$7000 range and felt the fee would be on the lower end for the Goddard School.

Mr. Tomasetti recapped that this is done because State statutes won't allow you to use present-day value. The argument is that if the main sewer was installed in 1974, which is when the infrastructure was in place, it was paid for over a number of years. The assumption is it has capacity to go forward, but the user may not view as fair for him to pay a portion of this cost already incurred. The user might also dispute the property assessment value of the building as far as the sewer is concerned. Mr. Thurkettle said we were in this position because of a previously-settled lawsuit on such. Therefore regulations and the formula were changed based on the rendering.

Mr. Brennan made the Motion to approve the Third Party Special Benefit Analysis for the Goddard School. The motion was seconded and carried. At the next meeting he will have a summary of charges. Tom had no further business. Ms. Preston inquired as to whether the same company was always used to do the assessment. Mr. Brennan indicated would get quotes prior to proceeding.

Sandra Dennies, CFO introduced Pete Lucia, Manager, Integrated Systems to discuss the current budget status for the Sewer Operating Fund. Mr. Lucia distributed a summary of the process to Adopt the WPCA User Fee Rate and Budget for FY 2015/16 along with a Budget Performance Report for Fiscal Year to Date 6/30/15. Mr. Lucia indicated that a Public Hearing will be set in June prior to the Budget being approved. Mr. Lucia indicated that this year will have at least 200 more users because of the Goddard School, up from 2,690 users to over 2,900 next year. He is waiting for Norwalk cost information but stated that Wilton has one of the lowest rates in the area. Ms. Dennies stated that Wilton had initiated a contribution to the Repair and Replacement Fund in the past and that this needs to be a part of the discussion for setting the user charge going forward. Mr. Fanwick asks that a balance sheet be provided at the time of discussion meeting on the budget and the hearing.

Mr. Fanwick asked if there are any other capital projects that Mr. Thurkettle foresees in the next year or two. Mr. Thurkettle stated he is considering replacing the 35-year old generator located at the Pump House on School Road and he was questioned about how much it is currently used. Mr. Brennan asked in case of a very bad storm is there access to an emergency generator. Mr.

Thurkettle replied in that case, they would need to look into getting a portable generator. Tom Thurkettle to check the status of the generator, what replacement cost would be and discuss at the next meeting.

Tom had one last comment on the fund balance. Mr. Lucia indicated that information would be on the Balance Sheet which will be brought to the next meeting. Ms. Preston asked for clarification on the line item indicated on the Budget Performance Report as Maintenance Agreements - Equipment and the line item indicated as Maintenance Fund. Mr. Lucia clarified for Ms. Preston.

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

Kris Fager
Recording Secretary