

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES
Canoe Brook Senior Center, 11 Cherry Hill Rd. Branford, CT
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 13, 2019 7:00P.M.**

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT
2019 AUG 15 A 8:00

RECEIVED

Acting Chairman Robert Imperato called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

Roll Call: Acting Chairman Robert Imperato, Ryan Sullivan, David Steinhardt, Joseph Herget, Yvette Larrieu, Mike Tamsin

Also Present: Town Engineer John Hoefflerle, Superintendent Dan Gregory, and Attorney Peter Berdon

Absent: Mark Winik

Vote to Appoint Acting Chair

A motion was made to appoint Robert Imperato as acting Chair by Ryan Sullivan, and Seconded by Ms. Larrieu. Motion carries unanimously.

Public Hearing

- a) Sanitary Sewer Assessments for District XLI
- b) Order to Connect – 84 Riverview Avenue
- c) Order to Connect – 88 Riverview Avenue

A motion was made to open the public hearing by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Ms. Larrieu. Motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Hoefflerle states, the history in our files go back to 2002, 2006, when the Connecticut DEP and State Senator got involved. In 2008 Criscuolo Engineering did a study with 3 options. Two central pump stations, or a low pressure force main.

This was once again looked at in 2017, and at this time it was determined that nine residences and two vacant properties are not connected. The two lots are narrow, and are not buildable but will provide a sewer agreement for hookups as to not disrupt the paving of road at a later time.

Criscuolo Engineering offered 2 options, either gravity to Central Pump Station, or a Low pressure force main.

Discussion of cost total cost was \$185,000 to \$200,000, \$14,000 or \$15,000 per dwelling. The Town would subsidize, and keep the assessments for each dwelling portion at \$6,000.00

Members from the public who were present were:

Lauri Halderman & Noel Corry – 84 Riverview Avenue

Louis Pane –86 - 88 Riverview Avenue

Joseph Schiffer – 52 Riverview Avenue

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Gronostalski 62 Riverview Avenue
David Peterson – 72 Riverview Avenue.

Mr. Pane, questioned regarding how many residents on septic, and can someone get a private contractor to pump out the septic if properly managed and flushed out?

Mr. Hoefflerle stated back in 2006 DEP and State Senator addressed the holding tank as a safety and health issue.

Mr. Tamsin stated that when holding tanks fail, the Health Dept. can issue an order to connect and then condemn the place.

Further discussion was regarding ownership of sewer. The Town owns the main and laterals to the valves, the property owners own from the valve to the building.

Question came up regarding, once hooked up, do they pay quarterly for sewer use fee?

The sewer use fee is \$130.00 per year, payable once a year, not quarterly.

Further discussion, if you are ordered to hook up, you cannot keep the holding tanks.

Regarding the unbuildable lots, they will get a lateral, but those properties will not pay unless hooked up.

A Connecticut State Statute allows the WPCA assessments with the ability to connect.

Mr. Peterson questions his 72 Riverview address. One lot has no house but a garage, with a ledge of rock. Will he have to pay the \$6,000.00? Again they will not be charged until they are hooked up.

It was discussed that The Town's pump out trucks, have been pumping out the holding tanks in that area for 30 years. It is an issue and nuisance to the neighborhood. Regarding pumps, nobody is familiar with pumps. Mr. Peterson looked at EPA website and found it is bad to have high and low pressure, and odors.

Mr. Tamsin said, the websites can be misinterpreted. We have 50 outflow manholes. For instance the pump station at Rte. 139 has a 12" force main in front of the former Lynn's Deli. This is not the same scale as your properties.

As far as odors, these are closed systems. The flow will keep moving.

There was further discussion on assessments. The Town sees the benefit of hooking up, and will subsidize \$8,000.00, so the assessment proposal will be \$6,000.00.

Mr. Imperato makes a motion to close the public hearing and go to an executive session, seconded by Ms. Larrieu to close. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Ms. Larrieu, and seconded by Mr. Steinhardt. Requested to executive session with the board are the Town Engineer, Superintendent, WPCA Counsel, and Mr. Pretti from Criscuolo Engineering, at 7:35 PM.

Motion was made to Re-open from Executive Session at 7:45 PM by Mr. Steinhardt and seconded by Mr. Herget. Motion carries unanimously. No votes were taken in executive session.

A motion was made to re-open the public hearing by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Ms. Larrieu. Motion carries unanimously.

A motion was made to move agenda item 5 public hearing action to agenda item 4.

Mr. Pretti displayed a chart of the sewer lines of the area and discussed the project.

Similar systems have been done in North Branford and Wallingford, back in the 90's and there have been no problems.

There were questions regarding the pumps used for these systems. They will last the life of the pump. You can keep a spare on hand.

Mr. Imperato wants to clarify the \$6,000.00 assessment only has to be paid once the person hooks up?

Mr. Hoefflerle stated, past practice has been to put the pipes in, but no assessment has to be paid until hooked up. If a person can't pay lump sum, they have 15 years to pay in installments with interest.

If the homeowner wants to look at the Engineering drawings they can be found on the Town Website. Copies can be purchased in the Town Engineers office.

Mr. Gregory will get a list of pump manufacturers for the homeowners.

Ms. Halderman questions would they have any assistance since they are mandated to replace the holding tanks, which she is in favor of?

You can choose a contractor who will be able to come up with a package.

There was further discussion of the rising waters and hurricanes. Will this be factored in?

Mr. Pretti stated that the pump chambers are supposed to be watertight.

Any tanks would have to be approved by the Engineering Department.

There were questions on force mains on gravity lines at Riverview? Mr. Pretti stated various check valves and end of line release valves, clean out cap if the Town should have to jet the line.

Again, this type of work has been done in North Branford, and there have been no smells by regular cleaning of sewers.

Mr. Imperato states, if we don't do anything this evening, we have to hear from the East Shore Health Dept.

Mr. Pretti said they will limit discharges to reduce flow. The Health Department will tell homeowners systems will be limited to certain gallons and the homeowner would be in violation.

Mr. Imperato stated we are running out of options and the Health Dept. will issue an order.

This evening the Town is willing to work with you. Five or six years from now, we may not be able to help you. The benefits of doing this will far outweigh waiting.

Mr. Hoefflerle said the WPCA should set up a time limit on the holding tanks to connect.

Mr. Tamsin explains, once the sewers come through, the homeowners will no longer be allowed to have the Town pump outs. They will be paying roughly \$250.00 to have the septic systems be pumped out.

There is a Town ordinance that if sewers are available, you are required to hook up.

Public Hearing Action items

- a) Sanitary Sewer Assessments for District XLI
- b) Order to Connect – 84 Riverview Avenue
- c) Order to Connect – 88 Riverview Avenue

Vote on Agenda item 3 (a), and 4 (a) –

Motion was made by Ms. Larrieu to assess as agreed \$6,000.00 per unit, with the assessment not due and payable until connection is made, and seconded by Mr. Steinhardt. Motion carries unanimously.

There will be a timeline made for 3(b) and 3(c) for individuals having to connect at 84 Riverview and 88 Riverview Ave. There is a State Statute allowing an order for properties to connect. The suggested timeline is from the end of the project per Atty. Berdon.

Vote on Agenda item 3(b) and 4(b) – 84 Riverview Avenue

A motion was made for connection to be completed one year from completion of the Town portion of the system, and if extenuating circumstances occur, they can apply for an extension, was made by Ms. Larrieu, and seconded by Mr. Steinhardt. Motion carries unanimously.

Vote on Agenda item 3(c) and 4(c) – 88 Riverview Avenue

A motion was made for connection to be completed one year from completion of the Town portion of the system, and if extenuating circumstances occur, they can apply for an extension, was made by Ms. Larrieu, and seconded by Mr. Steinhardt. Motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – 6/11/19

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Herget, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Correspondence No Correspondence

Approval of Vouchers – Invoice No. 35170

A voucher was brought forward from Attorney Peter Berdon for \$475.00.

A motion was made by Mr. Steinhardt to approve the voucher as presented, and seconded by Ms. Larrieu. Motion carries unanimously.

Sewer access applications – 8 Sycamore Way – New Warehouse

Mr. Pretti presents an access application for 8 Sycamore Way, a 26,000 square foot warehouse for American Polyfilm.

There will be approximately 2 to 5 employees.

A motion was made to accept the sewer application for the new warehouse as presented, and seconded by Mr. Sullivan. Motion carries unanimously.

Discussion regarding Rose Hill/Pinski/Pent Rd. sewers (tabled 6/11/19)

Mr. Hoefflerle stated he has not gotten any update.

Mr. Imperato stated there is \$1,000,000.00 in reserve to use for this project.

It was discussed that this item can be taken off the table from future agendas, but keep in mind, this agreement with property owner and developer, if it comes up again, you can act quickly.

A motion was made to take this item off the table at this time, and seconded by Mr. Herget. Motion carries unanimously.

Budget Transfer:

FROM: Utility Account	21043030 544100	(\$3,836.95)
TO: Uniform Clothing Account	21043030 526100	\$878.00
Sludge Account	21043030 544352	\$2,958.95

Mr. Gregory explained that they fell short in the last fiscal year in uniforms and sludge removal, and need this transfer approved to pay the invoices, and close out the last fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Herget, to approve the budget transfer as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Gregory presented his reports to the Board. The Plant has been doing well.

The money was approved for the relining job.

The State sent us a check for Nitrogen credits for \$218,000.00, which goes back into our account.

Brian is working well with the numbers, to keep Nitrogen low, which helped us with this refund.

We have been short staffed due to one employee injured, and one out after surgery.

We have had to do some overtime, call ins for problems with the Stony Creek Trailer. The workers have been able to do a lot of the work to get it going. A pump went, and the trailer is getting a lot of use.

There was a question on what will happen when some of the employees retire in the future? Mr. Gregory said that they newer employees have been doing the Sacramento Books to get graded to move up. We don't have any apprenticeship programs in place.

Bradley and Hemlock Pump Stations are going out to bid for work.

Town Engineer's Report

Mr. Hoefflerle noted that the Hemlock Bids were reviewed and were over budget. The lowest was around \$950,000.00 when we had estimated \$675.000.00
The Pump Station work was a lump sum item and recommended we break out and re-bid.

The Riverview Ave. project is out to bid. The Bid openings will be August 22nd.

WPCA Attorney Report

Mr. Berdon has no report at this time.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Tamsin at 9:15 P.M. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Linke, Clerk