

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY MINUTES

Canoe Brook Senior Center, 11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford, CT Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Chairman Mark Winik called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

Roll Call: Chariman Mark Winik, David Steinhardt, Joseph Herget, Ryan Sullivan, Robert Imperato, and Yvette Larrieu

Also Present: Engineer John Hoefflerle, Superintendent Dan Gregory, and Operations Manager Brian Devlin

Absent: Mike Tamsin, and Attorney Peter Berdon

Approval of Minutes – 12/11/18, 1/8/19

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented from 12/11/18, and 1/8/19, by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Herget. Motion carries.

Correspondence: Mr. Hoefflerle presented letters from 492 West Main Street, and 312 East Main Street asking for sewer adjustments.

Sewer Use Fee Adjustments – 492 West Main Street, 312 East Main Street

492 West Main Street is a vacant lot, and the property owner has paid the sewer use fee for the past three years. They are requesting a refund for the past three years.

312 East Main Street – Dekes Furniture has been paying \$2,700.00 a year for the past three years. After dye testing, and testing from JBS Sewer & Drain Service, it was determined this property is not hooked up to sewers. They are also requesting a refund for the past three years of payment, for a total of \$8,100.00.

A motion was made to refund both 492 West Main Street and 312 East Main Street for the past three years of paid sewer use fees, by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Mr. Imperato. Motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Vouchers: No vouchers brought forward at this time.

Discussion regarding Beacon Hill (Rose Hill Rd.) sewer agreements

Engineer Michael Ott, Summer Hill Civil Engineering and Land Surveyors, Madison, CT, Robert Sachs from Cherry Hill Construction, and the property owner from, S and L Beach Enterprises, were present for the discussion regarding Beacon Hill (Rose Hill Rd.) agreements.

These three gentlemen met with John Hoeffler, and Attorney Peter Berdon, to determine if the Town and WPCA are interested in reviving this agreement, which was agreed upon in 2009. The money agreed upon is still in a sewer assessment account.

Mr. Gregory explains the original proposal had a pump station within the development. The Town and the Developer proposed to put a pump station at the corner of Rose Hill and Pent Rd. and then make that gravity line go into the pump station, and the Town would share the cost of putting in the pump station and extending sewers on both streets. The soil is very poor for septic systems and they did have a failing unit on Pinski Rd. The East Shore Health Department got involved. At the time, when the project was put together, it would have been a hefty amount to the homeowners there, and if it didn't benefit the homeowners to hook up, they were not going to be forced into it. The developers original proposal would have provided the forcemain, and pump station, and the Town would provide materials, ie pipes, and manhole covers for Rose Hill. The subdivision would go into the pump station.

The original homeowners would be assessed at \$6,000. Additional units would be assessed at a higher rate.

It was discussed that the East Shore Health District has records of failing units, and they would determine who has to hook up. Mr. Hoeffler will reach out to East Shore Health.

The developer is questioning if the WPCA would like to take on this development where they left off?

Mr. Gregory said there was a certain amount of money set aside for this project at that time. The cost would go up from the 2009 agreement. The Planning & Zoning approval is still valid.

There was discussion regarding polling the neighborhood, and having a public hearing.

The WPCA Board is requesting the developer come back with the cost for this project and they will further discuss this project at that time.

Report of preventative maintenance within Rights-of-Ways, easements, and around pump stations

Mr. Gregory discussed the preventative maintenance the department is handling.

The road crew goes out checking trees, tree limbs. They take the brush hog to clean the easements.

After the consent decree was lifted, all the easements were cleaned and flushed.

Linden Shores was just upgraded. We had many problems with adult diapers clogging our pumps down there. The maintenance person said some of the elderly residents had health aids, and were probably flushing them. We had to replace the pumps and control panels.

Mr. Winik suggests that if the problem continues there should be a charge.

We had a bypass and jetted the portion of easement on Gould Lane near the Tilcon Railroad tracks. There were dead roots in piping. This will be put on the list for Duke's Root Control for future treatment of line.

There was further discussion on the utility preventative maintenance. Mr. Gregory took down trees in different Pump Station locations, to prevent a disaster if trees fell on power lines or the stations.

Discussion and review of Wastewater Treatment Plant budget

Mr. Gregory presents the proposed budget, and explains they did not have to go up much this year. The revenue is up 3.4%. Salaries will go up 2.5% per union contract, except Administrative Assistant whose contract expires June 30th.

The New Equipment account is up \$25,000. This account handles any new equipment we need to buy, instead of taking this money from the Repair and Maintenance account. It was discussed if the Honeywell energy contract is showing any savings with the high percent of the electricity bills. A lot of electricity used at the plant is for the Blowers in the Oxidation ditches, and UV Disinfection.

There was discussion on when the Plant will get the septic receiving system to determine exact loads from the septic vendors. This has been going on for four years now.

Mr. Gregory explained Engineer Firm AECOM is still in the process of getting drawings. He will follow up with the Engineering Firm.

Mr. Winik would like this subject placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Further in the budget, the Capital account was discussed. Each year, money is added to this budget, but stays there, and is drawn upon when a large job for either an emergency or preventative maintenance needs to be done, like line replacements and rehab. One such emergency or job could cost upwards of one half a million dollars, so the money is in place if needed.

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

Reports:

Superintendent Report

Mr. Gregory wants to report that he received an e-mail from the State. Due to staff cuts, it is forcing more responsibility to local sewer authorities in Connecticut, like utilizing our staff record keeping, permits, etc.

Our permit will be good for 5 years when renewed.

Mr. Gregory said they are requested from the State to go to a "Status Conference" for Wastewater from Industrial Users, being held either March 14, or March 19. He will e-mail the letter from the State to the Board.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Steinhardt, and seconded by Ms. Larrieu at 8:32 P.M. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Camille Linke