

**WINDHAM WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

October 28, 2008

The Windham Water Pollution Control Authority held its meeting on October 28, 2008 in Town Hall. Chairman Rene Goss called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Members present were Nita Giordano, Rene Goss, Mary Burnore and Stanley Morytko. Absent was Charles Kratt. Also present was Plant Superintendent David Garand.

1) Public Comment

Christine Wheaton, 112 Manners Avenue, addressed the Authority regarding a recent sewer line blockage. She said she experienced a sewer blockage in late June resulting in considerable damage to her home, especially in the basement area. She came before the WPCA in July to speak to the incident. At that time she was told to come back to the WPCA once the cleanup had been completed. She said she reported the incident to her homeowner's insurance, but they paid only a portion of the bill resulting in a balance of \$2100.00. She added that her insurance company tried to negotiate with the Town's insurance company, but got nowhere. She said the Town should be responsible for damages incurred to her property since the blockage occurred in the Town's sewer line. She said she is appealing to the Town of Windham to compensate her for the balance of \$2100.00 since the blockage was caused through no fault of her own. She added that during the cleanup a piece of furniture was taken, but she does not have receipt to turn into the town.

Mrs. Rios, a neighbor, also experienced damage to her property due to the sewer line blockage. She said she was reimbursed for her expenses and said Mrs. Wheaton should be reimbursed for damages to her property as well.

Mary Burnore made a **motion** to go into executive session at 6:45 P.M. and Nita Giordano seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive session was closed and regular meeting reconvened at 6:55 P.M.

Mary Burnore made a **motion** to approve a reimbursement of up to \$2100.00 to Mrs. Christine Wheaton for damages incurred at 112 Manners Avenue due to a sewer line blockage and Nita Giordano seconded the motion. Mrs. Wheaton was also asked to submit a statement regarding the missing piece of furniture. Garand explained that the reason we are reimbursing Mrs. Wheaton for the damages

incurred is because this happened prior to the WPCA adopting its new policy which is to only pay for the initial cleanup and disinfection. Garand instructed Mrs. Wheaton to bring in all bills and receipts. The motion to approve the reimbursement carried unanimously.

2) Approval of minutes

The minutes of September 23, 2008 were amended as follows: pg. 1 #3 ...abstained as **they** were not present. Pg 2 #3d, para. 1 ...DEP does not always **notify the POTW of new permits**. Pg2 #3d, para.2, line 4 ... Authority **discussed the following action...**

Mary Burnore made a **motion** to approve the minutes of September 23, 2008 as amended and Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3) Reports

a) Chairman

1) The chairman referred to a letter from the Town Clerk regarding setting the WPCA's meeting date for year 2009. The Authority agreed to maintain the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. as its regular meeting time. The secretary agreed to notify the Town Clerk as required.

2) The end of the year luncheon for plant employees will be held in several weeks. WPCA members agreed to contribute \$25.00 each to cover the costs.

b) Plant Superintendent

1) Consultants

Current Work: New garage building has been back filled and work has started on the slab piping. Installation of the electrical duct bank is still going on down the driveway and should be completed in a couple of days. Also, tear down garage (service building), excavate for new primary settling tanks and install scum well #2 & piping.

2) Plant Performance

All permit requirements were met for the month of September. Garand then went on to review the September 2008 Effluent Quality Report.

3) Administration & Finance

- a) **Monthly Budget Report.** Garand reviewed the Budget Report ending 9/30/08 and went on to review line items pointing out adjustments made to expenses. He said revenues are at 24% revenues collected through 25% of the year. Expenses are at 25% of budgeted expenses through 25% of the year. He also reviewed the A/R Aging Summary and added that all haulers are within the 60 days timeframe.
- b) **Significant Non-Recurring Expenses.** Garand reviewed significant non-recurring expenses September 18 to October 22, 2008.
- c) **Mansfield Dispute.** We are waiting for the arbitrator to decide on issues eligible for arbitration. We should hear something by mid-November, said Garand.
- d) **High Strength Waste.** Garand said he will bring this up for discussion at the CAWPCA meeting and will report back to the members.
- e) **Capital Reserve Investments.** Garand reviewed existing investments. He said we are getting an average interest rate of 5%. He said there are 3 investments that will expire between now and mid-December. We will have three to fill next February, and then we should be all set until July 2010.
- f) **An employee of the WPCF** went out on family medical leave in June, and this leave expired in September. Garand said that said employee saw his doctor and has not yet been cleared to return to work. His union approached the Town and said that said employee does not want to return to the sewer facility. Instead he would like to transfer back to Public Works. Since there is nothing in their budget to cover this, the WPCA is being asked to pay his salary for 6 months. His co-workers are opposed to doing this, said Garand. After some additional discussion Garand offered three viable options for consideration: 1) Transfer said employee to the Public Works Dept. at the WPCA's expense, 2) when doctor clears him to return to work, he returns to the sewer facility to perform all his duties. If this is not agreeable to said employee then he can submit a letter of resignation. 3) Said employee submits a letter of resignation to the WPCA effective 6/30/09 and returns to the WPCF for modified duties.

Nita Giordano made a **motion** to follow all procedures that are presently in place, as well as the bargaining agreement that is presently in place. Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- g) **New Hire - Class 3 Operator.** Discussion held on whether to

advertise for a Class 2 operator, a Class 3 operator, or a state trade license. After some discussion, Mary Burnore made a **motion** to advertise for a Class 2 operator or someone who has a state trade license. Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- h) Sewer tape conversion.** Lydel Anderson has the tapes. He is passed his committed deadline and did not drop off the converted tapes as promised. Garand said he has been trying to call him two times a week, but he hasn't returned any phone calls. The secretary agreed to call Mr. Anderson to find out the status of the conversion and inform him to return the tapes as soon as possible.
- i)** Annual employee reviews have been completed.

4) Customer Relations

- a)** Garand said there were no sewer blockages in our lines through 10/28/08.

As there was no other business to come before it, the WPCA adjourned its meeting at 8:00 P.M. **Motion** by Mary Burnore and seconded by Stanley Morytko. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held on November 25, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Murray, Clerk