

**WINDHAM WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

Dec. 28, 2010

The Windham Water Pollution Control Authority held its meeting on December 28, 2010 in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Chairman Rene Goss called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Members present were Mary Burnore, Stanley Morytko, Nita Giordano and Rene Goss. Also present were Plant Superintendent David Garand and Lon Hultgren representative from Town of Mansfield.

1) Public Comment

a) Mayor Ernest Eldridge and Town Manager Neal Beets came before the Authority to ask if the W.P.C.A. would consider changing its meeting location. Presently the W.P.C.A. holds its meeting in the Meeting Room in Town Hall. The SIFT Committee also meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month and would like to hold their meetings in this location because the room can accommodate the public, and it also has the capability of recording the meeting for public viewing. They asked if the W.P.C.A. would consider holding their meetings in the Finance Dept. or another location in Town Hall until June.

W.P.C.A. members felt this would not be an issue because they very seldom have members from the public at their meetings. Chairman Rene Goss said the conference room at the Windham Wastewater Treatment Plant should be ready for the W.P.C.A.'s February meeting, so it would only be the January meeting that would be in question. Starting in February W.P.C.A. meetings will move permanently to the new location at 2 Main Street, Willimantic, CT.

Nita Giordano made a motion to change the W.P.C.A.'s meeting location to the Finance Dept. or another location in Town Hall, and Mary Burnore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Mayor Ernest Eldridge and Town Manager Neal Beets appealed to the W.P.C.A. to waive the Splash Park's water treatment bill in the amount of approximately \$9,000 in exchange for in-kind services. He said the town adsorbed the cost of building the splash park which is located in Lauter Park. He said the Windham Water Works has waived indefinitely its bill for water supply to the park, and we are requesting that the W.P.C.A. do the same, said Beets. We feel that the Authority has enjoyed services from the town that it wasn't billed for such as building permits for the sewer plant improvements and should therefore waive the bill. He said we share services, equipment and supplies, and then he went on to give an overview of town services that are shared among town agencies. We are requesting a cooperative effort among town agencies in order to be able to provide the splash park to the town's youth, said Beets.

Plant Superintendent David Garand said he is willing to exchange the fee for services idea, but the snow-plowing that the town provides to the Authority is much less than the cost of the water. There needs to be more of a balance, he said. Mr. Beets said he has talked with Brad Wojick of Public works who stated he feels that Public Works provides enough services to the W.P.C.A. to warrant the waiver. Garand said the W.P.C.A. has displayed a cooperative effort among town agencies by absorbing the cost (\$78,000) for service to the Recreation Park bathrooms. It also absorbed the \$25,000 cost to upgrade the George Street pump station for the Magnet School.

Mary Burnore referred to a letter from Dennis Greci, a supervising sanitary engineer with DEP, which indicates that discharging the splash park water into the sewer system and treatment facility may be illegal under the local sewer ordinance, and that it is in conflict with the DEP's permit with the facility to discharge what isn't considered sewage. Mr. Greci referred to the town's request that the W.P.C.A. treat the splash park water at no cost. He said that all discharges into the sewer facility need to be billed. This includes schools, churches and other government buildings. He said the discharge from the splash park should be either recycled and reused, or recycled into the ground as a subsurface discharge.

Plant Superintendent Garand said installing equipment to recycle the splash park water was discussed when the splash park was built, but it was rejected because of the cost. Mr. Beets said he would hope that discussions were held with DEP before the splash park was built to allow for the current discharge arrangement. He said perhaps we should revisit the idea of retro-fitting a system for recycling. Perhaps we could have an engineer check to see if it is possible to add a filtering and recycling system. Member Nita Giordano said the cost for a study is only a small portion of the ramifications of splash park water going into the sewer system. Mary Burnore said she would be in favor of allocating the \$9,000 towards an engineered system for recycling. She said allocating the \$9,000 for a study might satisfy DEP. Mr. Beets said the town doesn't have the resources to pay for a recycling study at this time. When the splash park was constructed, it was conceived that all town departments would participate, said Beets. Chairman Goss said the W.P.C.A. did waive the fees the first year because it didn't know what the water usage would be. Garand said we thought the usage would be 50,000 gallons a year, but it turned out to be 50,000 gallons a day.

Nita Giordano expressed concern because so much water is being wasted. 50,000 gallons of potable water going down the drain on a daily basis is a lot of water, she added.

Mary Burnore referred to a statement made previously that the majority using the splash park are rate payers. Mr. Beets said because it is a free service we really don't know where the kids are coming from. Mayor Eldridge said the whole community must be considered; not just the rate payers. This is goodwill effort, he said. We need a safe place for the town's youth.

Mary Burnore said perhaps we should table this until DEP makes its decision whether the water can go into the sewer system. The W.P.C.A. cannot be in violation of its permits, she added.

After further discussion, Mary Burnore made a motion to forego the \$9,000 bill in lieu of town services until the issue with DEP is settled. She added that waiving the water treatment charges would be reviewed on an annual basis. Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2) Correspondence

Letter from Dennis Greci, P.E. with DEP regarding Splash Park.

3) Approval of minutes

The minutes of November 23, 2010 were amended: Pg 3 Para 6 Electricity Purchase Agreement... per kilowatt for a term of 36 months **beginning in December 2011**. Stan Morytko made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mary Burnore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4) Reports

a) Chairman's Report

Chairman Rene Goss reported that he, Mary Burnore and Plant Superintendent Dave Garand recently attended the CAWPCA meeting. They had a discussion with Dennis Greci of the DEP regarding Windham's splash park water going into the public sewer system and treatment facility. Mr. Greci referred to his letter of Dec. 6, 2010 to Town Manager Neal Beets which outlined that such discharge is illegal under the local sewer ordinance, and is in conflict with the permit to discharge issued by DEP to the W.P.C.F., as the discharge is not considered sewage. A discharge of 50,000 gallons per day is equivalent to the discharge from 250 homes, and should be charged in such a manner, per the sewer user charge system adopted by the W.P.C.A. in accordance with state regulations.

b) Plant Superintendent's Report

Plant Superintendent David Garand reported on the following:

Construction

Current Work: New Garage Building: Working on punch list. **Primary Settling Tanks:** Working on punch list. **Administration Building:** Working on punch list (the building must be complete prior to moving in). Furniture delivery is scheduled for 12/29/10. **Headworks Building:** Installing mechanical piping.

Secondary Clarifier #2: On line, issues with scum removal on tank influent channel.

Change Orders: Two new change orders amounting to \$19,431. Wright Pierce will be paying \$19,924. on Scum Pit No.2 and No.3 Cover Modifications. Total change orders to date number 17.

Plant Performance

We experienced BOD & TSS permit violations due to a process upset and only one secondary clarifier available because of construction during the month of November. DEP was notified and everything is under control. Garand reviewed the November 2010 Effluent Quality report.

Administration & Finance

a) Monthly Budget Report ending 11/30/10. **Revenues** at \$1,374,292. This represents 41% of revenue collected with 42% of the year complete. **Expenditures** at \$1,140,406. This represents 34% of expenditures expended with 42% of the year complete.

b) A/R Aging as of December 27, 2010 was reviewed. Two haulers fall under the 61-90 days category.

c) Significant non-recurring expenses.

Garand reviewed significant non-recurring expenses Nov. 23, 2010 to Dec. 28, 2010. These include Construction costs, Trinocular microscope & testing, Crane & pedestal mount, repair to tanks, Storrs Rd. station repairs, Dell computer, and Mansfield arbitration.

d) F.O.G. Implementation and Staffing. This was also discussed at the CAWPCA meeting. Garand said getting the program in place will be a large project not only to develop but to manage as well. He has a candidate (David Dreibold) in mind who he believes could run the F.O.G. program very well. He said Class 3 restaurants would be inspected three times a year, while Class 4 restaurants would be inspected four times a year.

Lon Hultgren said he has documentation showing a F.O.G. Program that has been implemented, and agreed to provide that documentation. Garand said he would incorporate that grouping into our audit.

Mary Burnore made a motion to hire an entry level person after posting the entry level position in January 2011 and Stan Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

e) F.O.G. Exemption Request for Windham Heights Day Care Center.

Garand reviewed a letter from Roberta Martyniak, Program Director for New Heights Child Development Program, a pre-school program located in the Windham Heights Apartment Complex. She said they serve 54 children breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack on a daily basis, five days a week. Their food prep and cooking consists of oven heating precooked foods, cooking soup from cans on the stovetop and baking in lined muffin tins or on parchment paper. She said for these reasons we are seeking a variance for our preschool stating because of the nature of their food preparation we **are hoping not to be** required to install a grease trap/interceptor or grease recovery unit.

Garand said he inspected the facility and concurred that they are only heating precooked foods and are not generating any grease. He recommended granting the exemption.

Nita Giordano made a motion to grant the F.O.G. exemption to Windham Heights Day Care Center on a yearly basis and Mary Burnore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

f) Hydroferra Company: Surcharge for high strength waste. Garand reviewed his letter to Tom Drury, Hydroferra Company stating that because of the high COD and sulfate concentrations he is recommending to the W.P.C.A. the imposition of a 300% surcharge (\$600.00 per month) beginning January 1, 2011. Hydroferra will be invoiced directly by the Town of Windham.

Mary Burnore made a motion to approve the recommendations made by the Plant Superintendent to impose a 300% surcharge for high strength waste to Hydroferra Company and further conditioned that they install a flow meter at points of discharge. Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried **unanimously**.

g) Windham W.P.C.F. Annual Pamphlet Authorization. Mary Burnore made a motion directing Garand to continue with compiling the annual Windham W.P.C.F. pamphlet. Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Customer Relations. There were no blockages in our lines through 12/28/10.

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2012 either at the Windham Wastewater Treatment Facility or Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Murray, Clerk