**WINDHAM WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES**

**April 28, 2009**

The Windham Water Pollution Control Authority held its meeting on April 28, 2009 in Town Hall. Chairman Rene Goss called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Members present were Mary Burnore, Nita Giordano, Charles Kratt, Rene Goss and Stanley Morytko. Also present was Plant Superintendent David Garand.

Mary Burnore made a motion to amend the agenda to move item #4 as the second order of business and Nita Giordano seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1) **Public Comment**

Bill Sayers, 17 James Drive, Windham, CT addressed the board regarding the Town of Windham being charged sewer user charges for the Splash Park. He was very upset over this and stated his concerns. He said we need to review how we treat the youth and taxpayers in Windham. There is very little for the youth of our community to do as it is. Charging the Town for the Splash Park sewer charges is definitely the wrong way to go. He suggested that the WPCA reconsider its action and issue a waiver on the sewer user charges as the Splash Park benefits the youth of our community. He said he will review the State Rules & Regulations sewer user charges, adding even if there is a statute out there, there has to be a way to circumvent it. We need to consider all our options before we start charging for activities that benefit our children. He added, how can an agency that

lets its Director drive an oversized, expensive vehicle back and forth from home want to charge the town for children activities.

Plant Superintendent David Garand reviewed his letter dated April 21, 2009 in response to Mr. Sayers' complaint. He asked if Mr. Sayers had read the letter and Mr. Sayers responded that he had not read the letter. Garand said the state statute pertaining to user charges does exist and governs the WPCA decision making on related issues. He referred to the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Chapter 103: Section 7-255 (Charges, Hearing, Appeal, Payment by municipalities of charges upon specified classification of property or users). He said Section 7-255 states that municipally-owned and other tax-exempt property which uses the sewage system shall be subject to such charges under the same conditions as are the owners of other property. It is important to understand that the WPCA has a responsibility to follow all state statutes, he added. We are also responsible to secure funding for the entire operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the 45+ miles of collection system. He said the board is made up of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and are committed to providing this town with a top quality wastewater treatment operation while maintaining extremely reasonable sewer user rates for all its customers. In response to Mr. Sayers' comment regarding the vehicle he uses, Garand explained that vehicles purchased for the sewer facility are purchased with a vehicle life cycle and specific functions assigned to that vehicle. The vehicle that Mr. Sayers refers to was purchased in 2005 to replace the 1987 facility work truck once it died. This type of truck is what is required to last many years standing up to the daily grind of the wastewater operation. Garand then referred to the P.I.L.O.T fund. The Town of Windham currently received federal and state funds (P.I.L.O.T.) for low income housing (Housing Authority) as a substitute for collecting taxes and sewer user fees for those properties. The sewer authority by state statute is unable to charge the Housing Authority sewer user charges which results in over $150,000 annually in lost revenues. A percentage of the P.I.L.O.T. funds given to the Town are for sewer user fees, yet the entire amount is kept by the Town. The sewage portion of the P.I.L.O.T. would be more than adequate to cover the sewer user fees for the Splash Park. He concluded by stating that the WPCA is not trying to single out charging the Town for its children activities. It is simply trying to comply with regulatory requirements while acting

responsibility in the best interest of the entire group of paying sewer users.

Mr. Sayers said if we have no money, does that mean the splash park will have to close? As a rate payer I am expressing my concerns about charging the Town for children activities. I hear comments from teenagers at school complaining that they have to go out of town to find suitable activities. We have to provide for our children, said Sayers. Garand said he has been trying to get the WPCA's portion of the P.I.L.O.T. fund, but we have not seen a proper distribution. Charles Kratt agreed that in the past we have tried to fight for our portion of the P.I.L.O.T., but it went nowhere. Mr. Sayers said he would support the WPCA before the Board of Selectmen regarding securing its portion of the federal and state funds.

**2) New Business**

Michael Paulhus, Financial Consultant with RBC Wealth Management, gave a brief overview of the company. RBC Wealth Management is a division of RBC Capital Markets Corporation, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada. He referred to an article from Global Finance entitled The World's Safest Banks Mid-2009. Global Finance selects the world's safest banks, the 50 institutions with the highest ratings from the leading credit rating agencies. Royal Bank of Canada is listed as #10 in the rating. It is a triple A rated company and considered one of the safest in the world. Mr. Paulhus said he is working with other municipalities and their plans and could help the WPCA with its portfolio. He said if he was to handle the WPCA plan he would report to the WPCA on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis. There would be no costs involved, nor penalty for liquidation of the present plan. It would simply be a transfer with no penalties involved. He said he would hope to deliver a peace of mind to the WPCA by working with a local agent.

Dave Garand said if we had bought with higher ratings in the past we might not have gotten as high an interest rate as we did, and they are all FDIC insured. Stan Morytko asked if MBS (Multi-Bank Securities Inc.), who is presently handling our plan, approached the WPCA as Mr. Paulhus is doing? Dave Garand said MBS was recommended by Rob Buden, the former controller for the Town. Garand said they

were directed to go out and buy the best rates. The objective was to get the highest yield. As pointed out by Mr. Paulhus there would be no risk in going with RBC, added Garand. It would be business as usual, but with local guidance. Charles Kratt asked if there would be any front or back end cost to us? Mr. Paulhus said there would be no out of pocket expenses. Mr. Kratt asked will money be put into CD's at our request? Mr. Paulhus answered that it would. Kratt asked is RBC covered by FDIC. Mr. Paulhus said that it was insured by FDIC.

The WPCA tabled discussion on this topic until the next meeting.

3) **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of March 24, 2009 were amended as follows: pg 1, para 2 …He questioned why the WPCA couldn't do a 5% increase for a **2-year** period, and then another 5% for **2 years…** pg 2 , item 2 under Public Comment. Add **Al Giordano questioned and discussed the Mansfield Arbitration**, pg 4 item6 Capital Reserve Investments correcting the last maturity date to **2/8/2023.** Nita Giordano made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mary Burnore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**4) Reports**

**Chairman**

The Chairman had no report.

**Plant Superintendent**

**a) Construction**

Current Work: New garage building – Install overhead doors, continue electrical pipe and wire, sheet rock ceilings, soundproof blower room. Primary settling tanks: Backfill tank structure to base on influent and effluent distribution chambers. Administration building: Install roof on new electrical room, install emergency generator. Form and pour primary effluent channel.

Change Orders: One new change order (4 total). Garand reviewed the changes. The total increase in the contract price is $11,818.00.

**b) Plant Performance**

All permit requirements were met for the month of March. Garand reviewed the March 2009 Effluent Quality Report.

**c) Administration & Finance**

1) Monthly Budget Report – Garand reviewed the Monthly Budget Report ending 3/31/09. **Total revenues** are $2,259,367 which is 71% revenue collected with 75% of the year completed. **Total expenditures** are $2,241,528 which is 70% of budgeted expenses with 75% of the year completed.

2) Significant Non-recurring Expenses – Garand reviewed significant non-recurring expenses from March 21, 2009 – April 27, 2009.

3) Mansfield Dispute – Arbitrator scheduled to give interim award by May 30, 2009. Garand said he will be meeting with the arbitrator this week to clarify some of the questions.

4) High Strength Waste – Garand said he will discuss this at the next CAWPCA and report back to the board.

5) Capital Reserve Investments – 4CD's purchased (3 bank closings). Garand reviewed the account activity report for April 2009.

6) Absent Employee – Resolved. Early retirement finalized.

7) Proposed 2009/2010 Water Pollution Control Authority Budget is $3,416,000 – This was originally presented at last month's meeting and line items were reviewed. Discussion ensued. Certain line items were discussed. Rene Goss questioned why there is an increase in accounting costs. Garand explained that is our portion of the audit. Charles Kratt said the cost ($29,000) for a new truck is projected too high. Garand explained that his

intention is to turn his present vehicle into a work horse and purchase a full sized 6-cylinder pick-up truck with a plow. This vehicle will serve as a back-up truck for the facility and will also provide his transportation.

After some further discussion Mary Burnore made a motion to approve the 2009/2010 budget as presented and Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. Mary Burnore suggested that Garand shop around for a price on a 6-cylinder, small SUV type pick-up truck. Voting in favor of the motion were Mary Burnore, Stanley Morytko, Nita Giordano and Rene Goss. Charles Kratt abstained. Motion carried.

8) Special Sewer Rate customer renewal letters – Letter from General Cable requesting renewal of their special **rate** for sewer usage. Garand said they are paying 55% of water use. He added that Stonegate Manor is also paying a special rate for their sewer usage. They are currently paying $50.97 per quarter for each home. Mary Burnore made a motion to approve the special rates for General Cable and Stonegate Manor. Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Mary Burnore, Stanley Morytko, Nita Giordano and Rene Goss. Charles Kratt voted in opposition. The motion carried. Garand agreed to go to Stonegate Manor to check on the number of homes in the park as well as the number of sewer hook-ups.

**d) Customer Relations**

There were no sewer blockages in our lines through April 28, 2009.

**e) New Business**

Charles Kratt referred to the minutes of March 24, 2009, pg 5, item 10 regarding the Collection System. He also referred to the Sewer Collection System Operation and Maintenance Plan dated September 26, 2006. Kratt said that Dave Garand has failed to meet the objectives outlined. Dave Grand explained that Objective #5 on the above report contained a typo. The date (7/1/07) was incorrect. It should be 7/1/09. Garand said he has met all the objectives that were outlined. Chairman Rene Goss agreed adding that we said we would

camera all the lines and then compile a list of areas that needed to be addressed.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M. Motion by Mary Burnore and seconded by Stanley Morytko. The motion carried. The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Murray, Clerk