

**WINDHAM WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY**

MINUTES

July 28, 2009

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

1) Public Comment

There was no public comment

2) Correspondence

A) Acting Chairman Charles Kratt referred to a letter that was written to First Selectman Jean de Smet regarding an allegation that the WPCA mishandled \$10,000,000. He said he suspects the allegation may be forwarded to the Ethics Committee.

A discussion ensued.

Plant Superintendent Dave Garand said he has not received any notice of the allegation, but surmised that there might be some misunderstanding regarding an article which appeared in the local newspaper, (The Chronicle), regarding the Town of Windham and Town of Mansfield dispute. It stated that during arbitration hearings it was determined that Windham will receive a settlement from Mansfield.

Garand said rumors arise without proper documentation. It is not appropriate to comment on the letter until such time that the WPCA officially receives a notice of such allegation. He said proper protocol should be followed. Comments, complaints or questions pertaining to any business of the WPCA or the WPCF should be directed to him after-which he would forward such comments, complaints or questions to the WPCA for discussion and action.

B) Acting Chairman Kratt reported that Selectman Ernest Eldridge was approached and told that Windham is allowing campers/RV's to dispose of their sewage at the Sewer Treatment Plant. Kratt said he contacted Mr. Eldridge and told him that Windham does accept campers/RV's sewage, and has done so for at least 6 1/2 years. Kratt said it was suggested that the WPCA set up a policy and charge for this service. Plant Superintendent David Garand said we accept sewage from approximately one or two dozen campers per year. He said since the frequency and quantity is pretty

minimal he would recommend leaving the current policy as is. It is simply a courtesy to accept the sewage and makes for good public relations, added Garand.

After some discussion, the WPCA determined that to change the present policy and charge for this service would be unreasonable. To discontinue this service would most likely lead to illegal dumping, said Kratt. He said he would communicate this to Selectman Ernest Eldridge as well as to First Selectman Jean de Smet.

C) Kratt referred to a Letter to the Editor from Neil Mesick which appeared in The Chronicle recently regarding fees paid by the Town of Windham, and by the Town of Mansfield to attorneys for litigation proceedings. Mr. Mesick referred to the amount of \$278,000 and asked if anyone from the Town of Windham or Town of Mansfield questioned the billing, or did anyone interview the attorneys before they were hired. Charles Kratt said he will send a letter in response to Mr. Mesick's comments.

- 3) Kratt asked WPCA members if they wished to elect a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman in the immediate future, or wait until a new member join the WPCA. Members agreed to forestall the elections for now and wait until the WPCA has a new member.

4) **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of June 30, 2009 were amended; page 4, item #7. Substitute wording "**internal transfer**" for "lateral transfer". Garand explained that Assistant Superintendent Dave Gagnon is interested in applying for the Teamster's Operator 12 position. He said once the Union contract is approved, the Town would determine how they want the position filled. Once this determination is made it would come back to the WPCA for discussion and action, said Garand.

Mary Burnore made a motion to approve the minutes of June 30, 2009 as amended and Stanley Morytko seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5) **Reports**

a) **Chairman's Report**

The chairman had nothing further to report.

b) **Plant Superintendent's Report**

Construction

1) Current Work: **New Garage Building:** Continue electrical work; provide permanent power, working on punch list. **Primary Settling Tanks:** Primary collector equipment startup, completing electrical wiring, installing overflow weirs, installing grating and railings. **Administration Building:** Energizing

electrical switchgear, emergency generator startup. The Service Building is the only building left on old electrical power. **Gravity Thickener:** On line (issues with flow turbulence). **Aeration Tank #2:** Tank off line for tank repairs and equipment replacement.

Change Orders: There were no new changes orders. Total to date is 7.

2) **Plant Performance**

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

3) **Administration & Finance**

a) Monthly Budget Report

Garand reviewed the Monthly Budget Report dated 6/30/09. **Income** is \$3,940,242.00. This is 97% of revenue collected for the fiscal year. **Expenses** total \$3,700,671.00. This is 95% of budgeted expenses for the fiscal year.

b) **Significant Non-recurring Expenses**

Garand reviewed significant non-recurring expenses June 30, 2009 to July 21, 2009. These expenses included emergency line work Elm and Chapman Streets. and construction work associated with the WPCF Upgrade.

c) **Mansfield Dispute**

Garand said he recently met with Lon Hultgren and Matt Hart from the Town of Mansfield to provide financial information pertaining to the construction project. He said he is awaiting a response from Mansfield regarding a plan of action, but as of this date he has had no response.

d) **High Strength Waste**

Garand will discuss this at the next CAWPCA meeting and report back.

e) **Reserve Investments**

Garand reported that one CD was replaced.

f) **Collection System Structural Issue**

The sewer main on Lewiston Avenue to Oak Street has deteriorated since the last inspection in 2006. Garand recommends lining that section of sewer main (1,875 feet) immediately. The cost is \$38 per ft. plus \$200 per lateral (estimated

20) plus \$600 mobilization. The total cost is \$75,850. He said half of this work was scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2010 and the remainder in 2011.

g) **Teamster Contract Negotiations.**

There has been no update from Personnel Director Don Muirhead.

h) **Splash Park**

Garand said there was a misunderstanding regarding snowplowing at the Sewer Facility. Brad Wojick (Public Works Superintendent) has agreed to snowplowing inside the Sewer Facility prior to 6:30 A.M. He said required areas were discussed and agreed upon.

i) **First Baptist Church (Soup Kitchen) – Upgrade of Heavy Metals in Sewer System**

Garand said he has spoken with Fred Shapiro who told him they do not have the money to install an A.G.R.U. Garand reminded him that they have until Year 2011 to become compliant. Charles Kratt said WPCA is sympathetic to the Soup Kitchen especially in these difficult economic times, but the Soup Kitchen must become compliant by 2001 because granting exceptions to certain individuals only opens the door for problems.

j) **Customer Relations**

There were no sewer blockages in our lines through 7/28/09.

3) **Old Business**

A discussion was held regarding the Magnet School which is proposed on Tuckie Road, Windham, CT. A newspaper article in The Chronicle recently stated that providing sewer hook-ups and possibly adding a booster station would not be a problem. At the last meeting Plant Superintendent Dave Garand said that is not correct because the proposed location is outside of the service area. He added the new Magnet School would be required to meet State requirements and would also need approval from the Windham Zoning Commission, as well as the WPCA.

As there no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 P.M. Motion by Mary Burnore and seconded by Stan Morytko. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Murray, Clerk

