

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

June 2, 2016

PRESENT:

Director, Guy Russo

Chief Engineer, Joseph Fazzino

Assistant Chief Engineer, Brian Robillard

Vice Chairman, Scott Bishel

Councilmatic Representative, Philip Pessina

Councilmatic Representative, Eugene Nocera

Commissioner, Jack Pieper

Commissioner, Emanuel DiMauro

Commissioner, John Giuliano

I. Open Meeting (started at 7:00pm)

Chairman Aldieri opened the meeting to the public.

Director Russo did indicate that he did receive an appeal from Middletown resident, Linda DeSena, for her property at 69 River Road, but could not be present for the meeting. Director Russo handed out the appeal letter to all WPCA Commissioners for their review and comments. Vice Chairman Bishel did ask Director Russo if the meter was tested and Director Russo indicated no it was not. Vice Chairman asked Director Russo if he had a recommendation and he stated that he understood Mrs. DeSena's position but our policy indicates that we do not rebate for any rental property but in our protocol for "Unresolved Customer Consumption Disputes" Mrs. DeSena points out that nowhere does it indicate in the document that rental property is excluded so Director Russo stated that she is correct and that maybe a new adoption policy about rental properties should be put in effect so there is no more confusion.

Director Russo then stated that the water did go through the water meter but if they approve a "Good Will Adjustment" the difference would be split and it would be \$209 that we would rebate to Mrs. DeSena. Director Russo did state that her bill is current and paid in full. A recommendation was then made by Commissioner Giuliano stating that the wording needs to be put back into the policy so that if income producing property does come up again the WPCA can hold its ground and that this type of property would be excluded from any refund/rebate in regards to Unresolved Customer Consumption Disputes. Director Russo stated that he will come up with a revised policy and then present it at the next scheduled WPCA meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Giuliano and seconded by Councilmatic Representative Pessina that the WPCA would allow the one-time "Good Will Adjustment" and that the rebate would be split in half once Accounts Supervisor Bruton figures out the difference. Motion was approved unanimously.

Since no one else was present from the public, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

II. Reports, Minutes and Correspondence

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 5, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Giuliano and seconded by Councilmatic Representative Pessina to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 5, 2016. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. Minutes of Special Meeting of May 5, 2016

A motion was made by Commissioner Giuliano and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to approve the Minutes of Special Meeting of May 5, 2016. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Finalized Legal Notice for Sewer Rate Increase refiled

This was for informational purposes only.

III. Transfers/Fund Updates

1. Monthly Fund Balance Report-May

The monthly fund balance report was for informational purposes only.

IV. Old Business

1. Durham Water - Update

Director Russo indicated that he, Deputy Director Young and Chief Engineer Fazzino took a look at the final drawings for the tank and system and that it has been signed off and sent to AECOM. Director Russo stated that the department filed for a permit for installation of water main and the applications to construct the tank and to operate the concrete tank with the diversion. Director Russo stated that this project is going out for a late fall early winter bid and then start the project in the spring of next year. Director Russo spoke more about the tank and the project in further details.

2. Mattabassett - Update

Director Russo indicated that he attended a progress meeting this morning at Mattabassett and that the line is fully connected and fully tested. Director Russo stated that the paving will be done on DeKoven Drive tomorrow and in two weeks paving will be done on Bridge and Miller and the haul road will be finishing up. Director Russo further stated that the bid on the pump station was out today and is due on July 28th and a pre-mid meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2016. Fall of 2018 the project will be completed.

3. Kleen Energy

Director Russo indicated that the appraisal was sent to Kleen Energy but they did not like it and now they want to take our department to arbitration. Director Russo stated that arbitration could begin this summer.

4. Middle Street Extension with the Town of Berlin – Update

Chief Engineer Fazzino spoke on this project and indicated that a winter shut down took place because of the Algonquin gas line. Work resumed after Mother' Day. DeRita Construction remobilized and completed the water main installation including pressure testing it. Water main is at 100%. The sanitary sewer picked up where they left off and they had to go under two twenty-four inch gas mains and over the third one. DeRita also pressure tested the sanitary sewer line and there is one issue that needs to be addressed. They are not sure if it either has a loose cap or a bad joint. A camera will be sent in the line to look at it and then make the necessary repair.

Chief Engineer Fazzino also indicated that he met with Public Works regarding the permanent pavement. Public Works wanted us to do the pavement for the section that sat over the winter and then wait an additional thirty-days for the rest of the section. DeRita just has the permit pavement to go which should take place in a couple of weeks. There was some further discussions on this matter.

5. Land Swap-Eversource – Update

Director Russo stated that the department met with Eversource's appraiser and thanked Roger Palmer, the Deputy Tax Assessor, who worked directly with us. Mr. Palmer pointed out a few items to the appraiser regarding this matter that (1) after they took the parcel what was left in the back was useless they only took 1.8acres of the site and (2) the department is getting encumbered residential property and the piece they are swapping back to us was two residential lots and both encumbered with underground conduit for high voltage electricity. The last two issues that Director Russo brought up was (1) was for evaluation on commercial property and lastly they were hesitating at giving us any kind of Phase I or Phase II on their parcels where they laid down transformers that were going in and out of the substation. Director Russo stated that when the appraisal finally came back to us about the land swap, Eversource offered the department \$9,000.

Director Russo stated that Roger Palmer did his own appraisal as to what he thought the offer should be since Eversource missed a lot of things and came up with an amount well over \$200,000 for the parcel. This was presented to Eversource and waiting for their answer. There were some further discussions on this matter.

V. New Business

There was no new business to be discussed at this time.

VI. Staff Reports

Chief Engineer Fazzino did not have a staff report ready in document form but went into some discussion about an update on the South Main Street Pump Station project and how it was coming along.

Director Russo spoke about the CSO project on Pamachea and mentioned that they are having a meeting with Wilcox shortly to finalize the issue regarding extra storage space as stated in the agreement. Director Russo indicated that he will need to meet with the Land sub-committee for final numbers so some checks can be cut. A permit extension was received from Inlands/Wetlands last night regarding this project. Director Russo will speak with Tighe & Bond about what is open in bond funds and ask for a proposal. Director Russo further indicated that he was waiting for EPA to come in since Director Russo is waiting to receive a big fine from them in regards to an inspection that took place last November for not on filing the gas chlorine under the Emergency Response Plan. Under regulations, EPA cannot mandate which chemicals you can use. There were some further discussions on this matter.

Director Russo then spoke about the “Feet to the Fire” Festival with Wesleyan University at the end of May. Most of our employees were approached to be involved in this project with the Wesleyan students under the direction of Alyson, who was in charge of the project, and does a lot of work with civil service sectors. Director Russo stated that this project was a chance to teach students how to engage in community art. They were looking for a department to work with so they thought that being at the river the natural companion would be the Water and Sewer Department. Director Russo indicated that there were a total of 15 employees from our department involved including Director Russo himself during the public performance. Director Russo is waiting for the video from Alyson so he can show the WPCA. The WPCA would like to have it shown to Council members, as well. The department will also be receiving copies too. Director Russo wanted to let it be known on record that this project was all on our employees time and that they worked really well with the students of Wesleyan. There were some further discussions on this matter.

Deputy Director Young’s staff report for April on the WPCA Agenda was for informational purposes only.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Giuliano and seconded by Councilmatic Representative Pessina to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**Guy P. Russo
Director of Water and Sewer Department/
Acting Secretary for the W.P.C.A.**