

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

October 11, 2016

PRESENT:

Director, Guy Russo
Deputy Director, Robert Young
Chief Engineer, Joseph Fazzino
Chairman, Dale Aldieri
Vice Chairman, Scott Bishel
Councilmatic Representative, Eugene Nocera
Commissioner, Jack Pieper
Commissioner, Emanuel DiMauro

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

Director Russo requested that an item for LEKA, LLC be added to the "Old Business" section of the agenda. Director Russo stated that this is in regards to the building behind Sweet Harmony on Main Street in Middletown. The building is owned by Marie and Al Leary and a line item is needed in the GSIF to address an old CSO issue.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to approve adding Item 7 LEKA, LLC to the "Old Business" section of the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Deputy Director Young stated to Chairman Aldieri that he opened the WPCA Regular Meeting that was originally scheduled for October 6th. This meeting should have been opened as the WPCA Special Meeting scheduled for October 11th. Chairman Aldieri made the correction and stated it on record.

Chairman Aldieri opened the meeting to the public. No one from the public was present and the public portion of the meeting was closed.

II. Reports, Minutes and Correspondence

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 1, 2016

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 1, 2016. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Transfers/Fund Updates

1. Monthly Fund Balance Report-September

The monthly fund balance report was distributed to the WPCA for their information.

2. Water CNR - Resolution

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MIDDLETOWN WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY THAT: The WPCA recommends the approval by the Common Council the following transfers and line item creations as so attached for the Water Department Fiscal Year 16/17 Capital Non-Recurring Fund.

Financial Impact: As per the budgetary plan, there is no fiscal impact.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to approve the Water CNR for FY 16/17 in the amount of \$500,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Sewer CNR - Resolution

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MIDDLETOWN WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY THAT: The following transfers and line item creations as so attached be authorized for the Sewer Department Fiscal Year 16/17 Capital Non-Recurring Fund.

Financial Impact: As per the budgetary plan, there is no fiscal impact.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to approve the Sewer CNR FY 16/17 in the amount of \$225,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business

1. Durham Water - Update

Director Russo indicated that he spoke to Ken Slater from Durham today. Mr. Slater wanted to schedule a meeting to complete drafting the Contract between Middletown and Durham. Director Russo will plan to meet with Mr. Slater and finalize the contract.

2. Mattabassett - Update

Director Russo stated that Art *Simonian* from Mattabassett will advise his Finance Committee to reimburse the City for additional costs incurred during the recent plant shutdown and fire. The reimbursement will include \$80 per truck load of sludge. Director Russo then indicated that the Department met with Mattabassett after the fire. Chief Engineer Fazzino, Field Maintenance Manager Tetrault, and Chief Meter Technician Trevisan were also present at the meeting. Mattabassett needs to install a new meter. The City has not been charging Mattabassett a meter fee, therefore, they will be responsible for replacing the meter. Fire flows and system pressures at the Mattabassett plant were less than anticipated. The Department recommended installing the strainer and meter upstream of the pressure reducing valve (PRV). This will reduce head losses downstream of the PRV. Director Russo also suggested that a new yard hydrant could be installed upstream of the PRV to provide additional fire protection. Director Russo and Chairman Aldieri provided additional details about the fire. There was further discussion on this matter.

3. Kleen Energy

Director Russo stated that, in accordance with State Statute 8-24, the Department will be seeking approval from Planning & Zoning to lease the collector to Kleen Energy. A draft lease agreement will be submitted to Common Council for the November meeting. The Department will no longer be responsible for running the collector wells. Kleen Energy will pay a yearly fee of approximately \$275,000 which will go into the general fund. An additional annual payment of approximately \$25,000 will be used by the Department to inspect the wells and equipment to ensure Kleen Energy is properly maintaining the equipment. Director Russo's r recommends that the WPCA endorse this arrangement proposed action. The WPCA was in consensus and will encourage the Common Council to review the lease.

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

Chief Engineer Fazzino indicated that Fed-Ex completed installing main on Middle Street closing the loop to the Berlin town line. This main is on line. The Department may pursue a sale of excess water permit that would allow the sale of water to Berlin. A new pump station and possibly a new water storage tank would need to be built to facilitate this sale. There was further discussion on this matter.

5. Riverfront Recognition – Update

Director Russo indicated that he has been in contact with Alison Orr and that he is working on a Resolution recognizing everyone involved in the "Feet to the Fire" event which included Wesleyan University staff, faculty, and students and Water and Sewer Department employees. Director Russo stated that with the WPCA's approval, he can finalize the Resolution for approval by the Common Council.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, On May 7, 2016 a River Festival was held at Harbor Park called “Feet to the Fire” which was sponsored by Wesleyan University and other community groups;

WHEREAS, The City of Middletown Water and Sewer Department was approached by the Fine Arts Department of Wesleyan University to participate in a student-employee study of the Department and a performance to be created for the “Feet to the Fire” Festival;

WHEREAS, Visiting Adjunct Professor, Alison Orr, of Wesleyan University, and Water and Sewer Director, Guy P. Russo, agreed to collaboration between the University and the Department for this purpose;

WHEREAS, Wesleyan University Faculty and Staff, Rani Arbo, Barry Chernoff, Valerie Marinelli, Allison Orr, William Pinch, Erinn Ross-Brown, Pam Tatge, and Students, Juliana Castro, Mike Edwards, Lizzy Elliot, Isaac Gotterer, Julian Johnson, Gretchen LaMotte, Melissa Leung, Sofia Navarrete Zur, Monica Sun and Clara Pinsky, which all participated in this project and worked actively over the course of the spring semester with members of the Water and Sewer Department that included Guy P. Russo, Alton Sanders, Robert Lane, Patrick White, Vincent Misenti, Frank Radomski, Sebastian Micciulla, James Radziewicz, Mike Talamona, Devin Darley, David Darley, Ricky Miano, Justin Giuliano, John Sloan, Pedro Melendez, Andrew Schwes;

WHEREAS, the Water and Sewer Department, on a voluntary basis, had employees who both allowed students to shadow their work and learn more about the department and ultimately participate in a performance at the “Feet to the Fire” Festival;

WHEREAS, the performance by the students and the employees of the Water and Sewer Department was hailed by members of the public as a wonderful and structural learning program, and;

WHEREAS, the performance has been committed to a video log and currently is in production;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: Chooses to recognize “Out of the Box” endeavors of employees of the Water and Sewer Department, and to also express its sincere gratitude to Wesleyan University for this Town Grown Project and wishes to also recognize the Wesleyan Students who participated in this project.

Director Russo showed the WPCA the “Feet to the Fire” video that is on YouTube. The Department will work with the IT Department to show it at the Common Council meeting.

6. Former Itkins Building – 413 Main St.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to approve the “Good Will” adjustment for the former Itkins Building owner regarding a billing dispute over an unexplained loss of water in the amount of \$646.54. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Sweet Harmony

Director Russo indicated that approximately three-years ago there was a problem with the sanitary sewer at Sweet Harmony Bakery. Director Russo stated that when the sewer line was open a defect was created during the CSO project that cut into this line. Director Russo learned that storm drains for the rear building, were never separated as part fo the CSO project. All the other buildings were separated. There was no convenient way to drain the water from Sweet Harmony. Director Russo further indicated there is now a drainage problem which flooded Fiore's Restaurant due to a drain that failed. Director Russo further stated that other owners received the benefit of having their building's drainage separated as part of the CSO project. Director Russo approached the original designer UIC, which has been purchased by Prime AE Group Prime AE provided the engineering to correct the problem at no cost to the City. Director Russo then stated that the repair work was completed by City staff. Drainage pipe was installed from the parking lot of the transit authority to a rebuilt catch basin on the corner. The pipe was then extended to the rear of the building. Director Russo stated that the Transit Authority received a grant for both paving and sidewalk replacement and they now requested reimbursement.

Director Russo stated that the last piece of it is that the Department installed PVC pipe to the back of the building. The pipe ended approximately 15 feet short of the building. The owner will have to install this last section of pipe. Director Russo asked the owner to get quotes for interior work and submit the total for payment. They have submitted, \$840.00 to do the drywall in the building for the new pipe location;,\$800 for plumbing to extend the interior drain to the new PVC located outside the building; \$1,200 to repair the brick masonry and \$1,250 to heat trace the new drain so it does not freeze in the winter. The total reimbursement is estimated to be \$4,090.00. In order to provide some room for changes, Director Russo is requesting authorization to create a new budget line in the GSIF for \$5,000.00 to address the CSO mediation at the LEKA LLC Building.

A motion was made Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner Pieper to authorize the creation of a line item in the GSIF in the amount of \$5,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. New Business

1. Revised Good Will Adjustment Policy

This matter was tabled until the next scheduled WPCA meeting.

2. Assigning New Acting Secretary for WPCA

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bishel and seconded by Commissioner DiMauro to approve Brian Robillard, Assistant Chief Engineer, as the new Acting Secretary for the WPCA since Director Guy Russo is retiring from the City Water & Sewer Department. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Staff Reports

Director Russo spoke about closing out an easement for RLO Properties for the Regionalization Project and closing the last four easements for the Pamachea project. Two checks were issued this week and they will be sent to Attorney Sarah Shapiro. Ms. Shapiro will distribute the payments and execute the easements. Attorney Phrances Szyewczk will conduct the closing for the other two properties located at 51 and 53 Warwick Street. Director Russo stated that the appraiser, Evan Noglow, will need correct some math errors. Director Russo plans to prepare a memo for the approval by the Land Subcommittee, which consists of Chairman Aldieri, Vice Chairman Bishel and Commissioner Giuliano to accept the changes to the appraisal. Director Russo stated that the final easement for the Wilcox Apartments needs some discussion with the owner. There was further discussion on this matter.

Director Russo indicated that a referendum to fund Columbus Avenue and Mazzotta Place improvements will be on the November ballot. Director Russo and Chief Engineer Fazzino are both recommending that the project be combined with the Barbara Road and Old Mill Road project since they are in the same area. This project is anticipated to go out for public bidding this winter or spring after the easements are in place.

Chief Engineer Fazzino did not have anything to report at this time.

Deputy Director Young staff report was provided to the WPCA for their information. The Deputy Director provided details regarding his report.

Director Russo included a copy of the Ordinances for Water and Sewer in the WPCA packet and noted that Vice Chairman Bishel and Commissioner Giuliano have formed a committee to consider options to enhance revenues for the Department. Director Russo apologized that he will not be able to get to these once he retires but encourages all to report to Vice Chairman Bishel and Commissioner Giuliano with any questions or suggestions to improve revenue. There was further discussion on this matter.

Director Russo took a moment to thank the WPCA who stood firmly behind him during his career as Director. Then the WPCA wished Director Russo good luck in his future endeavors.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Bishel and seconded by Commissioner DiMauro to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian P. Robillard
Assistant Chief Engineer/
Acting Secretary for the W.P.C.A.