



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, June 2, 2014 – 5:30pm
Stamford Government Center
10th Floor Operations Conference Room
888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT
Full Meeting Minute

Attendees

Michael Handler	WPCA Board Member
Ernie Orgera	WPCA Board Member
Cristina Andreana	WPCA Board Member
Daniel Capano	WPCA Board Member
Jay Fountain	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Executive Director, WPCA
Prakash Chakravarti	Supervising Engineer, WPCA
Crystal Blair	Admin Account Clerk, WPCA
David Yanik	Controller, City of Stamford

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

C. Andreana, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. A quorum was present (3 of 3 Finance Committee members present, along with other SWPCA Board members). As there was not a flag, the Pledge of Allegiance was not recited.

Discussion & Vote: FY15 Operating & Revenue Budget

W. Brink suggested this item be discussed after the SWPCA Electrical Cost Analysis was presented because they are tied together. C. Andreana asked for a motion to take the agenda out of order. Motioned by D. Capano; seconded by C. Andreana. **Vote: 5-0-0** (votes includes all SWPCA Board members present).

Discussion: SWPCA Electrical Cost Analysis

W. Brink summarized the Electrical Analysis spreadsheet explaining SWPCA expenditures and the factors that caused the electrical account to go over budget. He stated that the contributing factors for the increase spike were that this winter was the coldest winter on record and we had not locking in an off peak rate in the beginning of the year. He stated that the projections for the remainder of the fiscal year FY totals \$1.9 million vs. \$1.5 million budgeted, which justifies the \$400,000 requested move from contingency.

J. Fountain asked what can be done to mitigate the problem. W. Brink responded saying that other city departments got hit hard as well and that Nancy Picicelli did a power point presentation to analyze the situation. She suggested modifying the contract and locking in rates. E. Orgera suggested looking into alternate power sources for the plant and stated he met with our D.C. lobbyist to request funding to

power the whole strip of commercial buildings down Harbor View Avenue. D. Capano suggested windmill and J. Fountain suggested solar.

W. Brink stated that because of unforeseen occurrences he recommends that the Boards not cut the contingency line in the budget.

Discussion: FY15 Operating & Revenue Budget

W. Brink stated that he understands some cuts must be made and recommended the areas where the SWPCA could live with certain reduced funding. He stated that although all positions are needed, the SWPCA could allow for some reduction at the beginning of the fiscal year until HR has completed the testing process on the following unfilled positions:

- Administrative Account Clerk will not be filled before Sept 1
- Plant Maintenance Control Clerk will not be filled before Sept 1
- Shift Foremen will not be filled before Oct 1

He stated the positions deferred totals \$32,000 in reduction not including benefits.

M. Handler explained that budget reduction efforts must be shown and the WPCA can do that in these areas without compromising the plant. He asked J. Fountain if there was an amount the Board is looking to cut. J. Fountain replied that he was not sure exactly how much and went on to explain the budgeting process stating that he needs someone from the committee to explain to the Board why certain reductions are not a good option. He stated that explaining how the SWPCA uses its contingency account is important to explain as well. J. Fountain concluded saying that the Board needs to look into using a flexible budget vs. a fixed budget that can be adjusted based on uses and revenue for next year; check the charter to see if that's aloud.

After additional discussion, M. Handler stated that the WPCA Board needs to come to a decision with a recommendation to the full Board for a proposal with a reduction of the budget. After discussing, it was decided that \$32,763 plus benefits would be the agreed upon recommendation that will be presented to the board.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

D. Capano motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:55pm; seconded by C. Andreana. Unanimously approved.