



Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – 5:30 PM
Stamford Government Center – Republican Caucus Room
888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT
Voting Minutes
(The meeting was videotaped.)

Attendees

Ernie Orgera	Chairman, WPCA Board
Tim Abbazia (absent)	WPCA Board Member
Cristina Andreana (absent)	WPCA Board Member
Daniel Capano (absent)	WPCA Board Member
Michael Handler	WPCA Board Member
Donald Huppert	WPCA Board Member
Mitchell Kaufman	WPCA Board Member
Dan Schwartz	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Executive Director, WPCA
Rhudean Bull	Administration Manager, WPCA
Prakash Chakravarti	Supervising Engineer, WPCA
William Degnan	Plant Supervisor, WPCA
Marie Sabo	Laboratory Director, WPCA
Mark Turndahl	Accountant, WPCA
Daniel McCabe	WPCA Legal Counsel

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

Chairman, E. Orgera, called the meeting to order at 5:39PM with Roll Call. The Pledge of Allegiance was not recited since a flag was unavailable. A quorum was not present (4 Board Members).

The Chairman called for a moment of silence to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the USS Thresher loss at sea and for recently deceased Board Member, Louis Basil.

Public Participation

Four public participants asked and were granted permission to speak at the meeting: K. Olsen, Kathleen Murphy, Karen Murphy and F. Flynn. E. Orgera announced that comments were to be kept to three (3) minutes.

Note: Board Member Mitch Kaufman arrived at 5:58 pm. A quorum was present (5 members).

Minutes Approval

M. Kaufman made a motion to approve the March 19, 2013 Special Board Meeting Minutes; seconded by M. Handler. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 3-0-2 (abstentions: D. Huppert and D. Schwartz); the motion carried.

D. Huppert made a motion to take agenda item # 11-a out of order; seconded by M. Kaufman. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 5-0-0.

a. Update on March Presentation

B. Brink referenced the Rate Setting Model handout from the previous special meeting and provided an update. He explained that the required Capital reserve set aside and \$1.25 million pooled cash repayment amount to the City were the driving forces for the increase. He recommended that the increase be implemented in increments or stepped and stated that page two (2) of the handout shows the cumulative increase in cash flow of \$2,009,604 with an eight (8) percent increase for the April '13 cycle billing and a four (4) percent increase for the October '13 and April '14 cycle billings. He stated that the proposed rate increase of \$4.21 would mean an increase of \$16.32 for an average resident for the billing cycle.

FY2012-2013 WPCA April Billing Cycle User Charge Rate Increase

b. Vote to Adjourn for the 6:30 pm Proposed User Charge Rate Public Hearing.

At 6:30 pm M. Handler made a motion to close out the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing on the User Charge; seconded by D. Huppert. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 5-0-0.

There were six individuals who requested to speak at the User Charge Public Hearing: F. Flynn, S. van Wachem, L. Ruijter, Karen Murphy, Kathleen Murphy and M. Mead Willson.

c. Vote to Reconvene after Public Hearing

D. Huppert made a motion to end the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting at 6:54 pm; seconded by D. Schwartz. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 5-0-0.

d. Vote on April Billing Cycle User Charge Rate

M. Handler made a motion to approve the eight (8) percent increase to \$4.21 for the April bill; seconded by D. Schwartz. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 3-0-2 (abstentions: D. Huppert and D. Schwartz); the motion carried. D. Huppert stated he wanted to explain why he abstained saying he definitely believes there is a need for the money but he was not sure of the figures. He said that he agreed with the Murphy sisters and wished the Finance Committee members were present to explain.

Discussion & Vote: Bond Refunding Resolution

P. Privitera, who arrived at 6:54 pm stated, to his knowledge, the Board had already voted on the Refunding Resolution and went on to report on the saving for SWPCA when the refunding occurs—approximately \$500,000 a year for the next four years. He concluded his report outlining timelines, which depends on the BOR process.

Action Item: R. Bull to verify if the refunding resolution was previously voted on by the Board.

Note: At 6:58 pm M. Handler and P. Privitera exited the meeting. At 7:00 pm M. Handler returned; P. Privitera did not.

Billing/Financial Update

c. Discussion: Modifying the collection policy to allow payments directly to SWPCA after the legal fees have been paid and the customer has executed a payment agreement.

Attorney Ward explained this issue and asked that it be tabled until after the April cycle billing.

d. Discussion & Vote: Lower Foreclosure Threshold to \$8,500

Attorney Ward reported that the current threshold for foreclosures is \$10,000 and requested that the threshold be lowered to \$8,500 to capture 27 accounts. He said the three demand letters sent to these customers have not yield any movement and only foreclosure will prompt them to pay the outstanding balances. D. Huppert made a motion to lower the threshold ceiling from \$10,000 to \$8,500; seconded by D. Schwartz. **Vote:** 5-0-0.

Transfer from Contingency

- a. B. Brink and R. Bull explained the need for the \$33,000 transfer to the Sludge Haulaway account saying that when the conveyer was inoperable the WPCA needed to haul away its sludge and that this transfer would allow the last of those related costs to be handled.
- b. R. Bull explained the need for the transfer to the Equipment Maintenance account. D. Huppert questioned the current contingency balance, to which R. Bull replied, about \$80,000 remains. She reported on the equipment account's current balance and most recent expenditures, saying the funds are needed for repair and equipment expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. D. Huppert made a motion to transfer the funds to the respective accounts; seconded by D. Schwartz. **Vote:** 5-0-0.

Update & Discussion: Capital Projects

- a. Update: Upgrade of Secondary Clarifier & Thickeners—P. Chakravarti reported the clarifiers are all on line but some minor punch list issues remain; project is 95% complete. He reported one secondary clarifier will be taken down for about a week and that B. Degan, Paul Dembrowski and he walked the plant about a week prior to this meeting. He said that P. Dembrowski made recommendations on operation efficiency and that the operators feel more confident running the Plant as a result of those recommendations.
- b. Pump Stations: He reported that the Cumming Station is on line and that the Dyke Lane's Stantec contract—totaling \$58k—has been reviewed by the law department and is ready for approval. After a brief discussion regarding funding source, M. Handler made a motion to approve the contract pending clarification of funding source; seconded by D. Huppert. **Vote:** 5-0-0.
- c. Summer Street Ext—He reported that the work is 90% complete; that one lateral is in poor condition—a private lateral—but will be repaired as part of the project. After some discussion regarding location of the broken lateral and curb-to-curb paving, P. Chakravarti reported that the Carriage Drive project bids were opened this day; he provided the bid amounts for the Board.

Executive Session:

At 7:45 pm, M. Handler made motion enter into Executive Session to discuss legal strategy and negotiations for the BLT connections appeal and the Darien Agreement; seconded by D. Huppert. There was no discussion. **Vote:** 5-0-0.

There were recorded votes obtained by the Executive Director for the exit time of the Executive Session and the adjournment of the meeting that was not available during the creation of this document. The applicable times and votes will be included in a revised version of this document and disseminated to the distribution group.