



Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority **Special Board Meeting**
Monday, June 2, 2014 – 6:00PM
Stamford Government Center
10th Floor Operations Conference Room
888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT
Full Meeting Minutes
(The meeting was videotaped.)

Attendees

Michael Handler	Chairman, WPCA Board
Ernie Orgera	WPCA Board Member/Director of Operations
Cristina Andreana	WPCA Board Member
Gerald Bosak	WPCA Board Member
Daniel Capano	WPCA Board Member
James Fountain	WPCA Board Member
Dan Schwartz	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Executive Director, WPCA
Prakash Chakravarti	Supervising Engineer, WPCA
Crystal Blair	Admin Account Clerk, WPCA
David Yanik	City Controller

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

M. Handler called the special meeting to order at 6:00 PM with a Board Member roll call. No pledges and no flags.

Discussion & Vote: FY 2014-2015 SWPCA Operating & Revenue Budget

C. Andreana briefly gave an update of the Finance Committee meeting discussion.

- Finance Committee reviewed staff's electrical cost analysis and need to draw \$400,000 from contingency to fund electrical use at the treatment plant this fiscal year. The Finance Committee does not recommend reducing the contingency in FY15 due to this recent experience.
- SWPCA management identified savings in FY15 budget from 3 open positions which are not expected to be filled until a few months into FY15. The projected cost savings for those salaries plus benefits totals \$35,269. The Finance Committee recommendation is that the Board reduce its prior approved operating budget by \$35,269 for the 3 unfilled positions.

M. Handler briefly discussed where SWPCA stands with regard to the Operating Budget stating that the WPCA Board passed the budget which then went to the Board of Finance where they made the following cuts out of the proposed budget totaling \$310,000:

- \$250,000 from contingency
- \$50,000 from salaries
- \$10,000 from over time

He said the budget has been sent back to SWPCA Board and the WPCA is the only department without an approved budget as of yet. A motion to reduce the WPCA Board's previously approved operating budget by \$35,269 for the unfilled positions and to send this recommendation to the Board of Representatives was made by E. Orgera; seconded by D. Capano. There was no discussion. **Vote: 6-1-0.**

J. Fountain stated that the recommendation will be heard by the Board of Representatives on June 23, 2014 if placed on their agenda by June 4, 2014.

Discussion & Vote: Release of Study Report - Waste to Energy Project, dated January, 2011 to the Department of Energy

W. Brink explained that the final report for the Waste to Energy Project was never submitted to the DOE and they have requested the final report or they want their grant monies returned. He stated that the final report needs to be sent to DOE so they can close out the grant award and the WPCA can avoid having to return the DOE grant funds that were expended. Submittal of the report does not commit the WPCA to proceed with the next phase of the project, which was previously deemed by the WPCA Board to not be financially viable.

J. Fountain asked what the findings of the report were. W. Brink answered the project was completed between 2007 to 2011 to study the potential for gasification of the dried sludge pellets from the treatment plant to create syngas which would fuel an engine generator.

- The study included a literature review of work that had been done on gasification of biosolids
- The study determined that the dried sludge pellets had fuel characteristics that were similar to wood chips which have been used to fuel a gasification process.
- Bench scale and pilot scale studies were done using our dried sludge pellets to fuel a gasifier.
- The study recommended that a demonstration gasification project be designed to use the dried sludge pellets to fuel a gasification process to generate syngas to fuel a 0.5 megawatt generator
- The construction cost of the project was estimated at \$35 million

He stated the SWPCA Board voted to stop the project in July 2010.

J. Fountain asked W. Brink to write a brief summary of what had been discussed to send to the BOR Operations Committee and to copy the BOR Finance Committee.

M. Handler stated that an executive summary of the report should be sent out for information purposes only and for the discussion with the Board of Representatives at the Operations Committee meeting.

J. Fountain motion to approve the report being sent to the Department of Energy; seconded by E. Orgera. There was no further discussion.

Vote: 6-0-0.

J. Fountain motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 PM, seconded by E. Orgera. There was no discussion.

Vote: 6-0-0.