



Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority **Special Board Meeting (REVISED)**

Monday, March 2, 2015

Stamford Government Center

5th Floor Board of Education Board Room

888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT

Full Meeting Minutes

(The meeting was videotaped.)

Attendees

Michael Handler	Chairman, WPCA Board
Daniel Capano	Vice Chair /WPCA Board Member
Ernie Orgera	WPCA Board Member/Director of Operations
Cristina Andreana	WPCA Board Member
Gerald Bosak (absent)	WPCA Board Member
Ed Kelly	WPCA Board Member
James Fountain	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Executive Director, WPCA
Rhudean Bull	Administration Manager, WPCA
Mark Turndahl	Accountant, WPCA
Marie Sabo	Laboratory Director, WPCA
Stephen Pietrzyk	Collections Systems Sup., WPCA
Crystal Blair	Admin Account Clerk, WPCA
David Yanik	City Controller
Nikoleta McTigue	Auditor, Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C.

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

M. Handler called the meeting to order at 5:03PM with the pledge of allegiance followed by roll call. A quorum was present (6 Board Members).

Review: SWPCA 2014 Financial Statement

M. Handler offered an apology for receiving the City's Pension information late and noted that **Nikoleta McTigue**, a representative from the City's and SWPCA's Auditing Firm, Blum, Shapiro & Company was present. He thanked the staff and the Board member who assisted in reviewing the statement before it went live and mentioned that a vote is required for the final statement.

D. Yanik started the discussion explaining that the financial statements were sent out last week; he brought the Board's attention to the Balance sheet on pg14, he reviewed reports and items on various other pages, highlighted WPCA's debt to the City decrease year over year, operational and capital advances to the SWPCA, details of revenue from sewer use charges, proceeds from refunding of 2003 & 2006 debt, cash flow from investing activities, discussed SWPCA pension and OPEB amounts , comparison of budget to actuals, administration budget variances and concluded stating he wanted to note how positive this statement's results are, which is a direct result of the Plant's overall management.

N. McTigue stated that there are no deficiencies to report, no material weaknesses; that this is a very clean report; everything reconciled and worked out perfectly and that there was nothing to report on internal controls.

J. Fountain made a motion to accept the SWPCA 2014 Financial Statement; seconded by E. Orgera. There was no discussion. **Vote 6-0-0.**

Discussion and Vote: Resolution Authorizing Chairman to sign Agreement with the Department of Transportation for Readjustment, Relocation and /or Removal of Utility Facilities on Highway Projects Regarding Replacement of Metro-North Bridge over Atlantic Street

M. Handler read the resolution. B. Brink explained that while the DOT worked replacing the Metro-North Bridge over Atlantic St., their engineers could not locate some of the sewer lines and buried manholes. The DOT offered to pay the SWPCA to assist them with the task. B. Brink stated that S. Pietrzyk assessed the cost and determined it to be approx. \$5,000. He stated he signed the initial agreement for the work but was sent a much thicker document later on that included a Certificate of Signatory, which states whoever signs the document is authorized to sign it.

D. Capano made a motion authorizing M. Handler as the signatory for the DOT document presented by B. Brink for reimbursement of \$5,000 for work completed by the SWPCA maintenance staff; seconded by J. Fountain. There was no discussion. **Vote 6-0-0.**

Discussion and Vote: FY2015-2016 Operating and Revenue Budget

R. Bull handed out the updated FY2015-2016 budget spreadsheet and B. Brink went over additional reductions made before this meeting, which total an additional \$157,000. He pointed out that most of the increases are beyond the WPCA's control, such as Pension, OPEB, Medical, Retiree Medical, Social Security and Union contractual increases. He stated the overall increase compared to last year's budget is 2.2 percent or \$26,664,211 vs 26,087,723 for FY2014-2015.

M. Handler clarified that since the City does not have actual OPEB numbers, the contributions to OPEB newest amount on the spreadsheet is significantly higher than the budget number on the previous spreadsheets and that this corrected amount is more in line with an 18% increase over 2014 actual. C. Andreana questioned why not use 2015 budgeted amount to which he replied, the budgeted amount for 2015 is lower than what actually should have been budgeted. M. Handler went on to say that the MOU pay down to the City requires the WPCA paying \$1.5 million annually but that \$1.6 million was paid back last year and that if the amount of payback in year 2 is reduced by the amount overpaid in year 1, the effective increase in user charge would be zero. J. Fountain stated that would be added pressure on the rate for the following year. M. handler stated the Board undertook the responsibility to fix the WPCA finances and to have more financial stability and he asked the Board to take a few minutes to review the budget yet again to determine if any additional reductions can be made.

C. Andreana stated that the Finance Committee had met twice on the budget and both times reductions were made to the original budget presented by management.

After reviewing the FY2015-2016 budget, the Board with input from management cut the permanent part-time Utility Worker position from the Pump Station cost center and reduced corresponding medical cost--\$44,985 as well as \$5,000 from Equipment Maintenance Supplies.

After a lengthy discussion regarding reduction in other line items, it was determined that Management, the Finance Committee and the Board had done their due diligence, taking the time to make significant reductions from the budget originally presented by management. J. Fountain made a motion to accept the FY2015-2016 Operating and Revenue Budget of \$26,614,226, at 2% increase over last year's budget; seconded by C. Andreana. There was no discussion. **Vote 6-0-0.**

Adjournment

E. Orgera motioned to adjourn meeting at 5:52; seconded by C. Andreana. There was no discussion.

Vote 6-0-0