

ORANGE, CONN
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MINUTES OF MEETING

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

APRIL 22, 2021

2021 MAY -5 PM 7:13

Patricia B. O'Sullivan
TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Robert Sigler, Acting Chairman
Michael Richetelli
Nick Mastrangelo

ALSO PRESENT: Robert Brinton, Town Engineer
Art Williams, Treasurer
Vin Marino, Attorney

As Acting Chairman, Mr. Sigler opened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Election of new chairman: A short discussion ensued wherein Commissioner Richetelli motioned to nominate Commissioner Sigler to be Chairman of the WPCA. Commissioner Mastrangelo seconded the motion and, with no further discussion needed, the motion was unanimously approved.

Approve minutes of January 28, 2021 meeting: With no discussion needed, a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, was made by Commissioner Richetelli, seconded by Commissioner Mastrangelo and unanimously approved.

Sewer Connection Application for 329 Smith Farm Road: At this point in the meeting, with Bruce Whitaker, the developer of the Smith Farm Road project (an apartment complex consisting of 46 apartments) in attendance, Chairman Sigler moved up that item on the agenda. Mr. Brinton, Town Engineer, reminded the Commission that this application had been submitted last year; never went forward and the developer has resubmitted the application for approval at this time. A short discussion ensued wherein it was noted that Inlands & Wetlands and Planning & Zoning have approved this project. Discussion continued. Mr. Brinton recommended conditions of approval as follows: (1) that the design engineer shall inspect the construction of the sewer and certify to the town that it was constructed in accordance with the approved plans and town regulations; (2) that the sewer contractor be required to contact the town prior to construction; (3) as-built plans be required to be filed. Commissioner Richetelli then motioned that the WPCA approve this application subject to conditions that the Town Engineer has outlined. Commissioner Mastrangelo seconded the motion and the application was unanimously approved.

Updates on operations/maintenance: Mr. Brinton noted a flurry of alarms a few months back and recently there was a problem due to a grease situation at the Boston Post Road pump station. Also, he gave an update on the problem with the man hole on Route 1 at So. Lambert Road and noted that the man hole was temporarily welded shut until it can be replaced.

Treasurer's report: Mr. Williams distributed the financials for discussion. He noted that revenue for the year thru March was \$854,811.86 with expenses totaling \$453,484.62. A general discussion regarding the budget ensued. The conversation then continued by discussing the West Haven Sewer Pump Stations Upgrades that carry Orange's flow, as well as Orange's share of costs. It was noted that out of West Haven's three (3) pump stations, Orange's share breaks down as follows: Cove River 26.2% - Oyster River 44.0% - Main 8.7%. The commissioners voiced their concern with the billing system and the percentages that Orange is responsible for. At this point, Attorney Marino discussed the billing situation as well as the law suit and the arbitration outcome from years ago.

Mr. Williams then discussed the Bull Hill Lane/Carlson Road private sewer situation and whether Orange should take action to formally take it over. Attorney Marino noted that, in the past, Orange did not want to take over this responsibility; however, it was further noted that Orange takes care of any blockages/problems on this line when/if they occur and hasn't charged the businesses on Carlson Road for its services in these cases. Mr. Williams reported that approximately \$15,000/year in sewer fees are not being charged. Attorney Marino voiced his opinion that the businesses on Carlson Road should be paying user fees. It was agreed that further discussion is needed on this issue. It was then questioned whether there is an agreement in place. Mr. Brinton agreed to look into this and get back to the Commission.

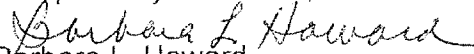
Mr. Brinton noted that the Commission may have to meet before the next scheduled meeting to come to a rate for budget purposes.

Selection of appraiser for sewer benefit assessment, 329 Smith Farm Road: Mr. Brinton noted the Commission has received three (3) quotes from appraisers: Kerin & Fazio \$800; MB DiMarco & Associates \$3500; Advisra \$9500.

Attorney Marino noted that he has worked with Kerin & Fazio previously and, in his opinion, the Commission should go with them for \$800. A short discussion ensued with the Commissioners' consensus to go with Kerin & Fazio. With no additional discussion needed, Commissioner Mastrangelo motioned to go with Kerin & Fazio for the sewer benefit assessment regarding 329 Smith Farm Road. Commissioner Richetelli seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Brinton will notify Kerin & Fazio of the Commission's decision.

New Business: a) Mr. Brinton asked Attorney Marino for an update on the agreement with West Haven and noted that an addendum should be drafted and sent to West Haven; b) Chairman Sigler reported that the Master Utility Agreement with the State's DOT was signed and sent to the DOT for counter signing.

With no further business to be addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Howard
Recording Secretary

blh
cc: WPCA Members, Town Treasurer, Town Engineer, Sylvie Napoli