

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven N. Wawruck, Jr., Jeffrey Ives, Denise Balboni, Dennis Gragnolati, Kevin Brace, Robert Crochetiere, William Hamel, and Gary Laurito

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dana Steele, Town Engineer, Ex Officio

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott C. Lappen, Director of Public Works, Ex Officio  
Gary Kuczarski, Superintendent  
Heather Kane, Recording Secretary  
Ron Crook, observer

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jeffrey Ives called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES: January 10, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting:** Gary Laurito made a motion: **TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED** - Seconded by Robert Crochetiere. Without further discussion, the motion to approve the minutes passed 5 – 0.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Mr. Ron Crook came to observe the WPCA meeting for a school assignment.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- a. **January 2012 Cash Reports, b. CD Investments:** Gary Laurito made a motion: **TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORTS ALONG WITH THE CD INVESTMENT UPDATE AS PRESENTED** - Seconded by William Hamel. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Delinquent Accounts – Atty. Storms update:** Gary Laurito asked why Attorney Storms reappraised the properties for all the accounts that were handed over to him. William Hamel also questioned the need for the reappraisals. Jeffrey Ives commented that because Attorney Storms reappraised all the accounts it seems that there must be a reason for it. Heather will ask Attorney Scott Storms and will get back to the Authority next month.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Greif Update:** Gary Kuczarski informed the Authority that Scott Lappen and he met with Greif on January 31, 2012. Greif presented two proposals to Mr. Kuczarski and Mr. Lappen. One was an elaborate type of filtering system with a pump. The discharge off the machines would enter a 500 gallon tank, go through a filtering system with a pump and then come back. The second proposal was a 3,000 gallon internal baffled tank with a filter on top. After discussing the options, all parties agreed to go with the second proposal as it requires less maintenance. Greif would just need to pump out the tank. Greif discharges about 250 gallons of processed water a day from the machines. The 3,000 gallon tank would give ample time for the material to settle. The material should not harden up but instead stay a muddy consistency as long as it is immersed in water and not exposed to any air.

Denise Balboni arrived at 5:38 p.m..

The baffled tank has two baffles and three compartments. In the first area, the water will churn up each time discharge enters. There should be plenty of time, though, for the material to settle on the bottom. Only water and a little bit of the solution will go over into the second compartment which will clarify the discharge even more. By the time it gets to the end it should have very little solution in the water. Kevin Brace asked if Greif was going to reimburse the WPCA for carbide

cutting the main line. Scott Lappen stated that the main line has not yet been cleaned since the priority has been to get the filtering system in place.

Steve N. Wawruck, Jr. and Dennis Gragnolati arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Gary Kuczarski stated that at a previous meeting with Greif, Mr. Lappen and he informed Greif that they would be responsible for bringing the main line back to its original condition. They provided a quote from New England Pipe Cleaning Co. (NEPCCO) for about \$5,500 to carbide cut the main line. The plan is to get the tank installed sometime in April. Just prior to the installation, NEPCCO would come out to cut the line which would provide a starting point to see how well the filtering system does in keeping out the material from the sewer system. This line has always had problems but now the WPCA will send a camera down (in addition to flushing the line) to see if there is a build-up of any material. Mr. Lappen does not think there will be any build up in the main after looking at the 3,000 gallon interior tank. Mr. Kuczarski believes that Greif oversized the tank as their engineer would rather go larger than smaller. While Mr. Kuczarski and Mr. Lappen were at Greif, Greif's lateral was being dug up in order to replace it all the way out to the main line. The whole line was constricted by at least 50%. The material had hardened up in the pipe as the material was not in water all the time. Greif did not have any problems with their line until January when they had Rotor Rooter out there about three times.

One resident was very upset that they had to expend money to clear their own line to no fault of their own. Greif was reluctant but did help subsidize part of the cost. They did not want to set any precedence for future problems. At that point, Greif had not experienced any problems. Since then they have had to replace their lateral and they saw the constriction of the pipe due to the material. With that knowledge, hopefully the Town can go back to them and possibly get some further reimbursement for the one individual.

Steven N. Wawruck, Jr. thinks the State DEEP should retest the discharge from the facility. Scott Lappen thinks that the problem with the original testing was that they tested the discharge in a very soluble form. Whereas, when it gets out in the pipes and it is not completely immersed in water, the material tends to harden up. Greif was not aware of it as they were surprised when they saw their pipe. Gary Kuczarski stated that the discharge could still pass the DEEP testing since the material hardens only after it has come in contact with air. Greif had this problem in California and plans on copying the solution used in CA here in Windsor Locks. Mr. Wawruck stated that Greif then was well aware of the problem before January since they had set up a relief system elsewhere. Mr. Wawruck requested that the WPCA keep track of all expenditures related to this issue to try to receive reimbursement from Greif.

- b. **NEWEA Awards:** Tom Sciarrino was thrilled to receive the Lab Analyst award. Scott Lappen accepted the Asset Management award on behalf of the Authority. The Asset Management was awarded to the WPCA for their willingness to invest funds into the Facility.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **WPCA vs. Town Funding for Sanitary Projects:** Steven N. Wawruck, Jr asked that this item be put on the agenda. Mr. Wawruck was looking to have a discussion in regards to this subject and to gain knowledge on how it came about that it is the Town's responsibility to replace sewer lines.
- The WPCA's assets are the Plant and the Pump Stations. The sewer lines are the Town's assets.
  - When doing a road project, the Town doesn't just repave the road. The Town replaces the infrastructure located under the road bed in hopes to eliminate a need to dig up the road in the near future. It replaces the sewer main, the individual lateral connections from the main out to the property lines, storms drains, sidewalks and curbing. Due to all the work, it costs about \$900,000 per ¾ mile of road. From the Town's perspective, Mr. Wawruck feels there should be about 3 miles of road bed replaced per year instead of doing just ¾ mile due to the cost. Currently, the Town is experiencing less funding for road work.

- William Hamel thinks it is history that is driving this current division of funding. Prior to the WPCA, everything was done by the Sewer Commission which was part of the Town's budget.
- Dennis Gragnolati informed the Authority that when the construction of the new Plant was approved in the 1970s, the Commission could either chose to have the sewer bill be part of the tax bill (informing everyone what part of the tax was allocated for sewer) or they could choose to charge a separate sewer user fee (which was not tax deductible) as desired by the federal government. Money from the federal government built the Plant but the Town had at that point already put in the sewers. Therefore, the sewer lines were the Town's asset (as are the roads) and the Town replaces them. Mr. Hamel stated that the road bed itself is a Town's asset and the sewer lines reside in the road bed.
- Either way the tax payer pays for the replacement whether it is through a higher sewer user bill or a higher property tax. Mr. Gragnolati stated that he thinks residents are better off paying for it through their taxes since it would then be tax deductible. Though, it could be arguable either way.
- Gary Laurito asked what the original purpose of the Authority was - was it to maintain the Facility or the entire system. Mr. Wawruck stated that, as he sees it, the WPCA maintains the entire system as the WPCA operators are the ones that perform maintenance on the sewer lines.
- Jeffrey Ives stated that when the Plant was going to be built, the government required that an Authority be formed in order to receive 80% of the money from the federal government. The Authority was to be separate from the Town. The WPCA was to charge a sewer usage fee to raise funds to maintain the Facility through the years. At that point of time, sewer lines were a capital entity with the Town.
- Gary Kuczarski stated that the DEP either strongly requested or required the WPCA to be a separate enterprise that raised funds through sewer user charges instead of taxes. The DEP knew that it would be easier for the Town to cut the WPCA budget if the WPCA's and Town's budgets were combined. The Authority sets its own budget and raises its own money to ensure funding for the maintenance of the Plant and Pump Stations.
- Jeffrey Ives stated that having a WPCA is a requirement. What the WPCA does and what it is in charge of could be discussed though. Mr. Ives also said that if he was sitting on the Town side and had to put a project together for a road, he would like to have control over everything that was in that road. Budgeting and coordinating for a project is a huge effort without having to depend on another Board to raise capital funds for the project.
- William Hamel added that if the WPCA was to pay for the sewer lines, the WPCA would want to have a determining seat at the table in regards to what is happening to those lines. If the Town funds the sewer line replacement, then the Town is in charge of it all.

Steven N. Wawruck, Jr. stated that the last point closes the discussion on the matter. The Town will remain responsible for the sewer lines.

- b. **The proper disposal of prescription drugs:** Kevin Brace voiced his appreciation for this item being put on the agenda. This came about through some discussion at the Police Department regarding the disposal of evidence. The Police Commission approved the purchase of an incinerator to burn not only prescription drugs but also confiscated illegal drugs once the related court case has been completed. Therefore, the Police Department is putting in a grant for a special drop box that would go in the Police Department's lobby where residents could come in and dispose of prescription drugs. Since Dennis Gragnolati and Kevin Brace sit on both the Police Commission and the WPCA, Mr. Brace was wondering if a notice could be mailed out with our bills once the box is in place in order to inform residents not to flush prescription drugs but instead to dispose of them in the drop box. Mr. Gragnolati stated that the police will continue to have the big collection in October. Mr. Brace will keep us updated.

At 6:14 p.m., there being no other business to discuss, Steven N. Wawruck, Jr. made a motion: **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING** - Seconded by Kevin Brace. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Kane  
Recording Secretary