

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven N. Wawruck, Jr., Jeffrey Ives, Denise Balboni, Kevin Brace, Joseph Calsetta, Dennis DeMaine, and Gary Laurito

MEMBERS ABSENT: John McSweegan
Dana Steele, Town Engineer, Ex Officio

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

CALL TO ORDER: Steven N. Wawruck, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

FY 2011-2012 BUDGET AND RATE DISCUSSION: The Authority looked at various projected rate scenarios that either did or did not include the estimated cost for demolishing the abandoned pump station and that had different amounts allocated to the replenishment of the operating fund. Joseph Calsetta stated the Authority should first make a decision regarding the abandoned pump station in order to have a valid number for the capitals budget. He suggested putting half of the estimated project cost into a sinking fund for the 2011-2012 fiscal year and funding the remaining project cost during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The actual demolition of the station would not commence until the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The Authority agreed that there should be no use of the operating fund and that an increase in the sewer usage fee is appropriate and necessary in order to start building the operating fund back up.

The Authority discussed in detail the Tighe & Bond proposal for the demolition of the abandoned pump station. This proposal quoted projected costs ranging from \$63,000 to \$92,000 and engineering fees of \$14,500. Part of the Authority's discussion surrounded soliciting proposals from other companies. The cost for the project is contingent upon whether there are hazardous building materials that will need to be properly removed. The pump station will need to be dewatered and inspected to identify any hazardous building materials. Gary Kuczarski agreed to contact laboratories to determine what the cost would be to test and analyze water samples taken from the 16 feet of standing ground water that is in the pump station. The water needs to be analyzed to determine if there are any contaminants in the water. The results from the analysis will determine how the WPCA initially dewateres the station.

The Authority decided to fund this project over a two year period. The WPCA agreed to allocate \$50,000 towards this project for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. These funds would be used for any preliminary work. Funding this project over two years will provide the Authority time to see if this project can be done for less than what was quoted by Tighe & Bond and would allow time for the planning of the project. Gary Kuczarski will send a letter to Ahlstrom stating that the WPCA is working towards the demolition of the pump station with a projected commencement date sometime during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Allocating \$50,000 for the pump station demolition increases the proposed capital budget to \$132,710. If the WPCA increases the inspection fee to \$100, the disposal fee for recreational vehicles to \$10, and calculates \$50,000 towards the replenishment of the operating fund (without using any monies from the operating fund to subsidize the budget), the rate would be \$4.57 per 1000 gallons. If the WPCA reduces the amount going towards the replenishment of the operating fund to \$25,000 while everything else stays the same, the rate would be \$4.50 per 1000 gallons. If the WPCA determines not to allocate any funds towards the replenishment of the operating fund while everything else stays the same, the rate would be \$4.43 per 1000 gallons. These three scenarios would increase the average residential bill for the year by about 10%, an increase from \$210.86 to about \$231.94 with a \$3 to \$5 difference between the scenarios that produce the lowest and the highest rate. That being said, the Authority agreed on proposing the highest rate in order to put more towards the replenishment of the operating fund. Since the rate must be an even number, the Authority decided to propose a rate of \$4.56 per 1000 gallons. This is approximately a 12.8% increase which in turn projects that the average residential bill will increase by about \$22 annually.

Jeffrey Ives made a motion: **TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROJECTED RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 AS AMENDED** – Seconded by Denise Balboni. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The Authority informed Heather Kane to estimate the average residential bill by increasing the current average by the same percentage that the sewer user rate (based on usage) increases by. The minimum residential bill would be calculated by taking 60% of this estimated residential average bill.

At 6:22 p.m. there being no other business to discuss, Joseph Calsetta made a motion: **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING** -- Seconded by Kevin Brace. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Kane
Recording Secretary