

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 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  
Frederick Mueller, Tighe & Bond

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Steven N. Wawruck, Jr.

**PUBLIC INPUT: 2011-2012 Proposed Budget:** Gary Kuczarski reviewed the proposed budget for those attending the hearing. The highlights included:

- Salaries budget is increasing mainly due to an increase in sewer inspector hours for projects that are going on presently and into next fiscal year.
- The change in Fringe Benefits reflects an increase in Social Security Tax and Health Insurance.
- The proposed Audit budget increased by 3% per the Finance Department.
- The Capital budget increase includes the \$50,000 towards the demolition of the old and abandoned Dexter's Pump Station.
- Both the polymer and the hypochlorite rates increased under Chemicals. In the future, the WPCA hopes to install a larger storage tank in order to receive a reduced bulk price on the chemicals.
- The reduction in Fuel Oil reflects the change to Natural Gas.
- The reduction in Natural Gas is due to a decrease in usage.
- There is a slight increase in Gasoline due to an increase in the market price.
- Lab Equipment increased due to the Department of Environmental Protection's requirement for a 5-year service agreement on some new equipment.
- Legal Fees increase reflects payment of a retainer for the Town Attorney
- The Nitrogen Exchange budget decreased because the Plant has a much better handle on the denitrification process.
- Safety Training went down because some of the training is not required every year.
- Sewer Line Maintenance is down due to a decrease in root control work.
- Vehicles Parts/Repair did go up mainly because the tires need to be replaced on the Vac-Con. Four new tires were priced at \$2,400 with mounting and dismount.
- Total budget increase of 3.73%.

Mr. Peter Coffey, a resident of Windsor Locks, wanted to know why the WPCA received raises when all other Town employees have given up their raises. Mr. Kuczarski and Mr. Wawruck stated that salary increases were not reflected in this budget. Mr. Wawruck stated that the increase in Fringe Benefits is due to the fact that the tax itself increased by almost 2% and that the cost increased for certain benefits. The increase in Salaries is due to an increase in sewer inspector hours for the work being performed on South Center Street and future work on Fern and Pearl. The inspector's rate of pay did not change just the number of work hours.

Mr. Coffey asked why the Legal Fees are increasing by 200%; he thought the lawyers worked for the Town not for each department. Mr. Wawruck stated that the WPCA is a separate Authority from the Town. The

Authority has not paid the attorney a retainer fee for years. Mr. Wawruck stated that the Authority accepted a proposal presented by the Town attorney to retain him to continue to do the legal work that he has been doing for the WPCA basically for free all these years. Mr. Coffey asked if the lawyer will be doing more work for the Authority due to the increase. Mrs. Balboni stated that the Authority has asked the attorney to be very aggressive in the collection of outstanding delinquencies. The Authority does monitor the delinquent accounts and they receive quarterly updates from the attorney. Mr. Coffey thinks the Town and the WPCA should be joined together so that residents don't learn, weeks after finding out that their tax is increasing, that there will also be an increase in their Sewer Use charges.

Mr. Coffey wanted to know who does the "chemistry work" at the Plant. Mr. Kuczarski stated that it is typically done in-house though the nitrate, nitrite and the TKN are sent out to an independent laboratory. One does not need to be a chemist to perform this work; one just needs to follow the proper procedures. The State was previously looking into a certification process for the lab but it is currently on hold. Every year a Quality Assurance (QA) Test is performed at the WPCA. The QA Test involves the in-house lab technician analyzing unknown samples that are received from an independent lab. The results are then sent back in and the WPCA receives either a pass or fail grade. If the Plant fails, the State would visit the Plant, determine what was causing the problem, and require action be taken to correct the situation.

The Town is reducing Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) through the replacement of sewer lines. Sewer relining repairs, on the other hand, are typically done on small 8 foot sections.

Mr. Coffey asked if any money is left over for this year. Mr. Lappen stated that typically the balance is put back into the STIF account after the WPCA rectifies the accounts at the end of the year.

**PUBLIC INPUT: Water Pollution Control Authority Facilities Plan and Proposed Water Pollution Control Plan with Sewer Service Area Map:** Frederick Mueller P.E. from Tighe & Bond spoke about the Facilities Plan process which was mainly funded by grant money though a share was paid for by the Town. A handout of the presentation was available to those attending the hearing. The Facilities Plan process included six tasks:

- Task 1 – Short Term Improvements: Many of the recommendations have already been done including step feed modifications and the replacement of some plug valves.
- Task 2 – Sewer System Evaluation Survey: This task involved looking at the condition of the sewers and doing some I & I testing. The general planning activities included looking at future growth and at the existing condition and capacity of the system. Recommendations included replacing problematic sewer segments, performing work on pump stations, and addressing I & I in some areas that would be cost effective.
- Task 3 – Collection System Planning & Mapping: This task involved mapping out the whole sewer system and creating the Sewer Service Area map. It took a look at future flows and loads. The good news is that future flows and loads are predicted to remain within the design capacity of the Plant.
- Task 4 – Long Term Improvements: The Plant capacities do not require an upgrade. A real concern is that the Plant has aging equipment and it is time to plan replacing the equipment. Most of the equipment is 20 years old and some of the equipment has been rehabilitated once already. Another suggestion is to improve the chemical storage facility.
- Task 5 – Summary of Recommended Plan: All the recommendations were put together for the sewer service area and capital improvements. A staffing evaluation was done based on new guidance documents. The Plan recommends seven million dollars in Capital Projects that should be done over the next 10 years or more. An evaluation was done to see what kind of financial impact seven million dollars in improvements would have on the residents and Town.
- Task 6 – Public Participation Plan: Mr. Mueller reviewed the Facilities Plan with the Authority in December 2010. He has met with the Planning & Zoning Committee and presented the highlights including the Sewer Service Area Map. This task is finishing up with this Public Presentation.

The proposed Sewer Service Area map is consistent with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) guidance which states that every community should develop a proposed sewer service area map for their community. The Town of Windsor Locks is essentially entirely sewer. The map encompasses the entire town except for the Bradley Airport area (which goes to MDC), the Waterworks Brook parcel, and a

small area that goes to Windsor. Mr. Mueller went over the recommended Capital Plan and the two scenarios developed (through the financial evaluation) to fund the capital plan.

Mr. Coffey had a question regarding the aging of equipment. Mr. Kuczarski stated that the return pumps, influent pumps, three primary pumps, and the scum grinder system have already been replaced in the Plant. The secondary clarifiers, the concrete and the iron work are all showing wear and tear. Mr. Coffey asked if the WPCA rebuilds or replaces aging equipment. Mr. Kuczarski looks for the best solution. The secondary clarifiers are not rebuilt because they are about a million dollars each. The WPCA is looking to resurface the concrete work. Mr. Coffey asked if the pumps are able to be rebuilt. Mr. Kuczarski said it is not worth it at this point since at 20 years old they have been rehabilitated once before. It is cheaper at this point to buy a new pump for \$15,000 then put \$10,000 to \$12,000 into rebuilding a 20 year old pump. The WPCA operators do a lot of work in-house.

**PUBLIC INPUT: Rates for Sewer Use Fees, Inspection Fees and Disposal Fees:** Mr. Kuczarski reviewed the Projected Rate Sheet for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 which was handed out at the hearing. The rate based on water usage would be \$4.56 per 1000 gallons for Residential, Public, Commercial and Industrial users. Residential well rates would be the average of the residential users. Minimum Charges would be \$142.46 per year for residential accounts. Public, Commercial and Commercial Wells would be \$455.94 per year and the Industrial rate would be \$651.78 per year. Sewer Connection fees would remain the same at \$3,000 per each separately saleable, rentable, and /or transferable unit. Hotels would stay the same at \$2,000 per individual unit plus the \$3,000 connection fee to the main line. Inspection fees would increase from \$50 per permit to \$100.00 for new construction, renovation or repair work. Disposal fee for RVs would increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Mr. Coffey thought the increase in the inspection fee was excessive. Mr. Wawruck stated that the inspection fee hadn't changed in years. Mr. Coffey asked how much of an increase will be seen on the average sewer user bill this year. Mr. Wawruck and Mr. Kuczarski both stated it would increase by about \$25.00 per year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 6:44 p.m., with no further business to discuss, Joseph Calsetta made a motion: **TO GO BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION** – Seconded by Denise Balboni. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Kane  
Recording Secretary