

**TOWN OF WINDSOR LOCKS
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven N. Wawruck, Jr., Jeffrey Ives, Robert Crochetiere, Dennis Gragnolati, William Hamel, Gary Laurito and Michael Russo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Denise Balboni
Dana Steele, Town Engineer, Ex Officio

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Kuczarski, Superintendent
Heather Kane, Recording Secretary
Sharon Williams, owner of 119 Center Street
Tony Winn, contractor

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

MINUTES: September 9, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting: William Hamel made a motion: **TO ADOPT THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED** – Seconded by Robert Crochetiere. Without further discussion, the motion passed 5-0 with one abstention for Dennis Gragnolati.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- a. **Sharon Williams – 119 Center Street:** On August 9, 2013 the sewer backed-up into the basement at 119 Center Street. On that day Windsor Locks got 3.75" of rain over a very short period of time. This was Ms. Williams' second back-up over an eight year period. The first one occurred in October 2005 and was due to a heavy rain fall as well. Ms. Williams did not pursue a claim with the Town for the first one. Instead they paid for the basement renovation themselves. According to Ms. Williams, the back-ups are being caused by the Town's sewer system not because of anything with the house. Ms. Williams did get a settlement from CIRMA, the Town's insurance company, for the most recent back-up that occurred in August 2013 but it was recommended that she install a backflow preventer. Ms. Williams feels the Town should pay for the backflow preventer because it is the Town's issue that is causing the back-up. She expects the renovations will cost close to \$30,000 each time the sewer backs-up into her basement. Mr. Winn stated, for the cost of a \$3,000-\$4,000 check valve or backflow preventer, it would behoove the Town to pay for the check valve instead of paying 10x more through the insurance company for a back-up. Mr. Kuczarski stated that one of the issues is that this is a basement facility which is the lowest point in the line. The whole system was overwhelmed that day in August 2013 with the amount of rain Windsor Locks received in such a short period of time. A heavy rain event causes the back-up into the basement. Ms. Williams is hesitant to redo the basement and doesn't feel she could have someone stay in the basement because she never knows when there will be a heavy rain again and she loses personnel items and all the work that goes into doing the renovation job. Gary Kuczarski stated that the homeowner is responsible for their lateral to the main line. Mr. Kuczarski understands that the homeowner feels the issue is due to the heavy volume in the sewer lines during heavy rain events. The property is at the bottom of the hill, the lowest point for the sewer. Jeffrey Ives asked what the grade is from their house into the main line. Mr. Kuczarski stated that it is hard to say except that it is at basement level. Mr. Winn stated that from the street to the walk-out basement it is about 12 to 13 feet down. Mr. Kuczarski is unaware of any prior incidents in the area before Ms. Williams' ownership of 119 Center Street. Neighboring houses may not have basement facilities. Before Ms. Williams goes ahead with the renovations she wants to make sure that the issue is fixed. The claim was just paid a few months ago. Mr. Wawruck stated that the WPCA will look into it more and get back to Ms. Williams. Mr. Ives stated that he expects a decision no later than the WPCA's next meeting. Mr. Winn thanked the Authority for their time and Mr. Wawruck thanked Mr. Winn and Ms. Williams for their attendance. At 5:43 p.m., Mr. Winn and Ms. Williams left the meeting.

Mr. Kuczarski restated that Ms. Williams has a finished basement with bathroom facilities. They are at the lowest point. That particular line in that area has a slight back pitch to it. During heavy rain events, the sewer system gets inundated due to inflow and infiltration (I&I). Mr. Wawruck asked if they took out the proper permits to have a basement facility. As far as Mr. Kuczarski could tell from his research, they did have the right permits. Their basement facilities are low yet under normal conditions they are okay. The problem occurs when there is a significant rain fall because rain water and ground water inundates the sewer system through I&I causing the flow in the main to push back and go to the lowest point which is Ms. Williams' basement facility. Mr. Russo asked why a check valve was not installed after the first incidence. Mr. Kuczarski stated the Ms. Williams might not have been aware of it. Since then she has educated herself and has asked very good questions as to why the rain water is entering the sewer system as they are supposed to be separate systems. Mr. Kuczarski informed her that the Town is researching it and has tried to narrow down the possible points of entry. It is an expensive proposition on behalf of the Town. Mr. Russo asked if the issue is that the Town's sewer system is not flowing fast enough to handle rain events that inundate the system. Mr. Ives and Mr. Kuczarski both confirmed that the problem is with the Town's sewer system and that it does not work properly during heavy rain events due to I&I. Mr. Russo asked why not fund a check valve for Ms. Williams and be done with it. Mr. Ives stated that he does not disagree with Mr. Russo. Mr. Ives, though, wants to know what happened legally this last time around as somehow a \$30,000 claim was put into the Town and it got approved. Dennis Gragnolati stated that if the Town's insurance paid for the claim then the WPCA should pay for the check valve. Mr. Ives stated that maybe the check valve should be paid out of the \$30,000 received for the claim. Mr. Hamel stated that the WPCA should find out what was the settlement and was it paid because the Town was not going to contend it or was it an admission of fault. WPCA will research it and find out how Ms. Williams got a payment on a claim. The insurance company usually calls Mr. Kuczarski to talk to him regarding the claim but Mr. Kuczarski has no record of talking to the insurance company. Mr. Kuczarski stated that Ms. Williams is looking for the WPCA to supply a design for the check valve. Mr. Wawruck would like to know who paid the claim, if it was her insurance or the Town's insurance. Mr. Wawruck also asked the staff of the WPCF to check the Assessor's card to see if the proper permits were taken out for the facility in the basement.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Jeffrey Ives made a motion: **TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORTS** - Seconded by William Hamel. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **EPA Infrastructure Recommendations – Informational:** Mr. Kuczarski stated that this packet insert was for informational purposes only. It states not to forget about the wastewater infrastructure because it is one of the most expensive assets for a Town. It also provides some information regarding funding that is available.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Clean Water Fund – Dexter's and Halfway House Pump Stations update:** DEEP has assigned Ms. Ivonne Hall to WPCA's Facilities Plan. She will start looking at the Plan. Mr. Kuczarski had to re-verify the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) for Woodard and Curran as they wanted to make sure the WPCA went through the right process. Mr. Kuczarski sent them all that paperwork. DEEP asked that a scope of work be put together for Dexter's project. Dexter's is the biggest concern because the station is very old with its analog circuitry. The upgrade may eliminate the times the station is down though it will not necessarily improve the rate of flow.
- b. **Mixer Project:** The mixers will take about 20 weeks to be delivered which pushes the start of the project into the spring. A contract will be drawn up for the project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Pending Claim re: H.A.R.P. Mechanical:** At 6:01 p.m., William Hamel made a motion: **TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Seconded by Dennis Gragnolati. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

At 6:03 p.m., Gary Laurito arrived and entered the Executive Session.

At 6:05 p.m., Dennis Gragnolati made a motion: **TO COME BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION –** Seconded by William Hamel. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

William Hamel made a motion: **TO GO FORWARD WITH THE H.A.R.P. MECHANICAL'S SETTLEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,009 –** Seconded by Dennis Gragnolati. Mr. Wawruck stated that the \$8,009 will constitute the connection to the sewer line and that the funds will come from the contingency expenditure account at this time. Mr. Wawruck wants to ensure that the WPCA attorney will draw up the proper paperwork as part of this settlement so that no further claims can be filed in regards to this issue. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:09 p.m., with no other business to discuss, Jeffrey Ives made a motion: **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING –** Seconded by Dennis Gragnolait. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Kane
Recording Secretary