

**TOWN OF WINDSOR LOCKS
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Christopher Kervick, Jeffrey Ives, Denise Balboni, Ruth Cate, Robert Crochetiere and Michelle Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Laurito and Sara LeMaster
Dana Steele, Town Engineer, Ex Officio

ALSO PRESENT: Philip J. Sissick, Director of Public Works, Ex Officio
Gary Kuczarski, Superintendent
Heather Kane, Recording Secretary
Paul Dombrowski, Woodard & Curran
Mike Ciarcia, homeowner
Donald Hamilton, homeowner
Malcolm Hamilton, homeowner
Paul Harrington, homeowner
Ronald C. Wozniak, homeowner

CALL TO ORDER: J. Christopher Kervick called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and had the members of the Authority state their name.

MINUTES: June 14, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting: Denise Balboni made a motion: **TO APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2016 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES** – Seconded by Robert Crochetiere. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 3 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed with three abstentions for J. Christopher Kervick, Ruth Cate and Michelle Hill.

June 14, 2016 Public Hearing: Robert Crochetiere made a motion: **TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 14, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES** – Seconded by Denise Balboni. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 3 votes in favor and 0 votes oppose with three abstentions for J. Christopher Kervick, Ruth Cate and Michelle Hill

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mike Ciarcia, 15 Meg Way: He did a little research on the increase in the sewer rate and minimum charge over the last three years. Mr. Ciarcia did not want to get all tangled up in the numbers but he did state that at the end of the day whether those percentage increases are 5%, 8% or 17% it is just too much. The increases cannot continue on forever. He did speak last month at the selectmen's meeting and some of the things he said were repetitive but he thought it was important that the full WPCA board heard about them. There were three items that he wanted to get on the table so that the WPCA might keep them in the front of their mind going forward. The first thing was that in Windsor Locks over 40% of the children in the school district are eligible for free or reduced lunch. His opinion was that this is extremely high. This is what the households are like in Windsor Locks. Secondly, almost 200 households out of 5,000 households in Town are eligible for the weekly, free food bank program. That is almost 1 out of every 25 households in Town. He doesn't have a problem with either of the two programs he just mentioned but he asks that the WPCA keep it in the front of their minds when they are talking about tax increases. The final point is that while he believes that the professionals' (i.e. the Superintendent's or the Director of Public Works') input is valuable when it comes to the maintenance and repair of the facility, he would like the WPCA to keep in mind that the majority of these individuals do not have "skin in the game" i.e. they are not taxpayers in Town. So while the WPCA definitely needs to listen to what they say and be serious about it, when it comes to the funding options Mr. Ciarcia would like to see some push back as it relates to these tax increases. He hopes going forward the WPCA will take these comments into consideration when pulling together next year's budget because he feels whether it is 5%, 8% or 17% increase it is all too much for this Town.

Paul Harrington, 10 Meg Way: Mr. Harrington compared last year's budget and this year's budget. The budget this year is roughly up 12.8% from last year yet the tax rate increase was 17%. He was wondering why? When Mr. Harrington was reviewing the WPCA minutes from their March and April meetings, he saw that the WPCA was considering at that time a \$6.24 increase in the rates and that Mr. Kervick asked a number of questions as to what was driving this increase. And then in May, it went up to \$6.48 increase. There was a proposal in May to take \$60,000 out of the operating fund to help lower the rate increase. The whole board voted against this proposal in May. Mr. Harrington stated that the Board of Finance and townspeople voted on a budget that was roughly going to save the average homeowner about \$20 to \$30 a year on their property taxes. What the WPCA did, according to Mr. Harrington, was completely take away these savings and charge homeowners more money. He would like the WPCA to keep in mind when putting together a budget that Windsor Locks cannot pay anymore. He asked the WPCA to look at the State's financial climate as the State even decided this year that layoffs and all kinds of other cuts were necessary because people simply cannot pay anymore. The WPCA came out with a 17% increase coupled with a 6% increase the year before. That is a 23% increase in two years. Mr. Harrington stated that is a lot of money.

Ronald Chester Wozniak, 15 Rachel Road: Mr. Wozniak wanted to speak more for the elderly, seniors and those that are sick. The elderly get a break from the regular taxes if they do not work anymore and are under a certain income. Mr. Wozniak qualifies for this tax break. But there is no break on the sewer tax. When he moved in over 40 years ago, there was no sewer tax and they got by somehow. According to Mr. Wozniak, sometime after the war (around 1946), the sewer was put in on Rachel Road. He is only voicing his opinion on how cost will affect him. He voiced that the WPCA has to be very careful on what they chose to do and how they do it.

Doug Hamilton, 5 Ahern Avenue: In Windsor Locks, 1630 students attend the school system out of which about 137 students are program choice students that get transported to Windsor Locks for school. So there are roughly 1510 students from Windsor Locks. Out of those 1510 students, 640 are eligible for free and/or reduced breakfast and lunch. In addition to that, there are 79 homes for sale in Windsor Locks and there are 51 under a pre-foreclosure or foreclosure. As for the seniors within this community, their social security has been frozen as there has not been an increase over the last two years. So an increase from residential property tax or sewer use is significant to them because it is coming out of their only income. For those that are fortunate to have pension plans, they have seen money go down the drain over the last year. Mr. Hamilton shared that personally he took a beating in his 401K and pension plan last year. Mr. Hamilton has to borrow money from his 401k to pay his taxes each year. He stated that a 17% increase is significant for those that are not gainfully employed. He shared that the unemployment rate is staggering in Windsor Locks.

Malcolm Hamilton, 41 South Elm Street: Mr. Hamilton stated that he is 84 years old, has a pension plan but also gets social security. He would like to know what part of this 17% increase, which looks like a wish list, could be cut so the rate could be reduced this year and the increase could be done in increments over the next few years.

Mr. Kervick asked if there was any other public input. With no other input, Mr. Kervick asked the members of the public that were in attendance at the meeting questions pertaining to the age of their homes, when were the bathrooms last renovated and what type of fixtures (specifically toilets and shower heads) were installed. Mr. Crochetiere asked Mr. Harrington, who has drilled a well, how many people in Town have drilled wells in Town which has caused a loss of income for the Plant. Mr. Crochetiere claimed it was a great amount. Mr. Harrington then questioned why the WPCA is funding more in the chemical line if the Plant is treating less waste. Mr. Crochetiere stated it was due to the price. Mr. Kervick did not want to engage in a back and forth discussion, but did have some questions before he responded to the comments. He continued to question homeowners on the age of their homes and the types of fixtures installed in the bathrooms and then he stated that he can assume (since many of the older homes had been renovated recently) that they all have the more modern 3.5 gallon toilets and modern 3.0 gallon/minute showerheads. Homeowners can now get a 1.6 gallon toilet and a 1.5 gallon/minute showerhead. Were these two minor changes performed, Mr. Kervick estimated that the average homeowner would save \$336/year on water alone (based on the CWC charge) and would save \$609/year on combined water and sewer. Mr. Kervick stated that the homeowners claim it is a 17% increase but it is not really a 17% increase because it is like the mill rate where if the grand list goes down then the mill rate needs to increase to get to the same amount. Mr. Kervick asked why advice is being given on an increase of \$45.00/year in sewer charges when there is a potential \$609 in savings that is being left on the table. Mr. Hamilton clarified that his water usage is down and he has been conserving on it. But through

conservation of water, he is paying more than when he wasn't conserving. Mr. Kervick stated that the Town is facing a problem where more people are conserving water which has caused the total water consumption to go down. The Town has to be responsive to the fact that though consumption has decreased, the majority of the WPCA's operating cost does not decrease with reduced consumption.

Mr. Jeffrey Ives stated that he fully understands why the members of the public are at the meeting. There has been an increase over the last three years that residents may see as excessive. He does not want to go into all the reasons how the WPCA got to that point. But he suggested, that the WPCA would welcome all of the members of the public in attendance to the WPCA meeting at the beginning of the year when they start budget discussions. Each and every line item is discussed at these meetings. It would not bother the WPCA at all to have input from the public every single meeting. Mr. Ives mentioned though that no one ever comes. It is too late right now to change the budget/rate for this year but it is not too late six months from now because that is when the process starts all over again. The WPCA has gone into studies on how to raise the fees that are needed in order to operate the Plant. Engineers and consultants have been involved in it. It has been a big process. The WPCA has been told that, in order to operate the Plant efficiently, they need a certain amount of revenue and capital in the background. He suggested all come to the meetings because they would then hear firsthand the budget discussions and have input through the whole process. Mr. Ives would personally enjoy having them come.

Mr. Doug Hamilton asked if the Town ever considered getting into Metropolitan District for sewer. The Authority stated that they did look into it a long time ago. Mr. Ives and Ms. Balboni stated that at that time MDC did not want to have any part of the WPCA. Mr. Paul Dombrowski stated that MDC is in the midst of more than \$2 billion of expenditures in capital improvements to deal with all their deferred work separating sewers. It is not trending to be less expensive. There is also a wet weather capacity problem that is substantial in Hartford.

Mr. Kervick did want to thank the members of the public for coming tonight. He stated it was a good sign and was important. He wants them to feel welcome here in the future. There are two things that has impressed him about the WPCA. First, the amount of homework the Authority has done prior to Mr. Kervick's service on the WPCA. And secondly, in his opinion, it is completely nonpolitical. The members of the WPCA just show up to do the job and try to do it well. The WPCA was ambitious in getting the information that they needed to make informed decisions about the looming problem that Windsor Locks faces in keeping pace with necessary equipment upgrades and maintenance. The point was looming on the horizon where there was going to be an explosion of necessary upgrades to the system. Ms. Balboni stated that the WPCA put off a big increase because they wanted to do this in a steady, reasonable, responsible way. At the same time, one cannot ignore some serious deficiencies with the infrastructure here. Mr. Dombrowski, who works with a number of municipal run sewer treatment facilities, has been guiding the WPCA along the way. The WPCA is doing everything they can to minimize the increase. The increase is not due to salaries or benefits, it is simply on services and on the infrastructure.

Mr. Ives stated that on the WPCA there are some members that have previously served on the Board of Selectman and/or the Board of Finance. Mr. Ives believes the members of the public are sincere in what they are saying as he hasn't heard anything that is unreasonable. That is why he would really encourage them to attend the WPCA meetings.

Mr. Harrington said thank you for what Mr. Ives said and that he will plan on attending more meetings. WPCA is now something on his radar where for many years it was not. Mr. Harrington brought up two items. One, there is a capital budget of \$417,000 this year. Mr. Harrington agrees there seems to be things that need to be taken care of. The Town just did a \$7.5M window upgrade project for the schools. When they went out and bonded it, the bond council said that it would not impact their mill rate at all because it will be paid off over 20 years. Did the Board look at putting together a couple million dollars in capital improvement projects to bond? Mr. Harrington stated that the \$417,000 in capitals increases the bottom line when last year the capital budget was \$100,000. This is driving the 17% increase. He reiterated that Windsor Locks simply cannot continue increasing the rate. Mr. Harrington also stated that he would like an answer sometime this meeting hopefully as to why the budget went up 12.8% but the rate went up 17%.

Mr. Kervick said that when the rate study was conducted a plan was made to bond upcoming capital improvements. Since more bonding is coming already, the WPCA thought it best to pay as much as possible out of the operating fund this year.

With no further public input, Mr. Kervick prepared to move on in the agenda. The Authority thanked the members of the public for coming and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting. Mr. Doug Hamilton stated the average water bill in Windsor is \$52.36 this year. They get their water from MDC. Mr. Ives agreed that Windsor Locks' water service is expensive.

Mr. Ronald C. Wozniak left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. **June 12, 2016 Cash Reports:** Jeffrey Ives made a motion: **TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 2016 CASH REPORTS ALONG WITH THE CD INVESTMENT REPORT** – Seconded by Robert Crochetiere. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 5 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed with one abstention for Ruth Cate.
- b. **CD Investments – update and changes:** Please see item (a) under Financial Reports for the related motion.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Dexter's & Halfway House Rd update:** Mr. Dombrowski informed the Authority that the projects are being split up and done separately due to the Route 75 project. He is currently working with staff to go through and solicit their comments on the features that will go into the improvements at Dexter's and the ultimate configuration for future proficient operation. Mr. Kervick has heard from the State that they do not anticipate having the funding to do the Route 75 project for at least 5 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Sewer User Bills:** The bills were mailed out June 30th. The process went very smoothly due to the new server.
- b. **Infrastructure Improvement Project Approval:** A resolution was handed out to the Authority at the meeting. Jeffrey Ives made a motion: **TO APPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SANITARY SEWER INSTALLATION, REPLACEMENT, REPAIR AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT THAT WE ALL RECEIVED** – Seconded by Denise Balboni. Mr. Kuczarski stated that the Authority just needed to approve this for the Town Meeting because these funds come from Town's budget. The WPCA's approval shows that the WPCA is aware of the projects that are going on. Without any further discussion, the motions passed with 6 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed. Mr. Kervick asked that the document Resolution 1 dated 7/12/16 be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:05 p.m., with no other business to discuss, Jeffrey Ives made a motion: **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING** – Seconded by Robert Crochetiere. Without further discussion, the motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 0 votes opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Kane
Recording Secretary

ADDENDUM 1

07/12/16 Resolution 1:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,535,000 FOR VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED,

1. That the Town of Windsor Locks appropriate ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,535,000) for infrastructure improvements consisting of: (i) sanitary sewer installation and replacement along portions of Wicklow Street and Whiton Street, and manhole replacement and sewer main repair on Garry Road and Bel-Aire Circle; (ii) drainage and flood control and erosion control improvements in the area of Dibble Brook running through Tracey Circle; (iii) reclaiming, grading, and resurfacing portions of Gaylord Road, Garry Road, Preston Road, Lownds Drive, Bel-Aire Circle, Juniper Drive, Pine Hill Road, Whiton Street and Wicklow Street; and (iv) sidewalk installation and repair in these areas. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, land and easement acquisition, site improvements, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Board of Selectmen is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the project; and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified, provided, however, that no funds shall be expended under this appropriation for any portion of the project until such portion has been referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report pursuant to Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

2. That the Town issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,535,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-245 and 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project or the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,535,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a and 7-378b of the

General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

4. That the First Selectman and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

6. That the First Selectman and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

7. That the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town, is authorized to apply for and accept state grants to finance the project and state loans to finance the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by the State, and that the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer and Water Pollution Control Authority are authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-479 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, or to any other present or future legislation, or to implement such grant or loan agreements.

8. That the Board of Selectmen, the First Selectman, the Treasurer, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to finance the aforesaid appropriation.