

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM B
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012

PRESENT: William Brennan, Eric Fanwick, Rich Tomasetti, Al Stauderman, Andy McNee,

ABSENT: Don Grunewald

OTHERS: Sandy Dennies, CFO; Tom Thurkettle, Director of Public Works; Mike Ahern, Field Engineer; Pete Lucia; Finance (please see other attendees on list attached herewith).

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Chairman William Brennan called the Public Information Meeting to order at 5:03 and said that Mr. Thurkettle would explain the plans for the Wolfpit Sewer and answer any questions regarding same.

Mr. Thurkettle, Director of Public Works, referred to a map illustrating the sewer's planned location and answered questions from the public. He began by explaining that it would be cheaper to install the sewer all at once rather than in sections. He said that everyone along the sewer line would be charged with a capital assessment whether or not they connected to it, adding that there might be exceptions to the yearly user charge payment if the owner was released from connecting to the sewer, but the owner would have to come before the WPCA and make this request. He said that the capital assessment amount presented is based on the assessed value as of today. He went on to illustrate how the capital assessment would be calculated and explained that there would be annual user charges and a connection fee (to connect the owner's home to the sewer line). He explained that there are four parts to the assessment. It's the assessment which is \$27.50 per \$1,000 value + \$300 per acre and a user fee (which is set each year by the WPCA), \$1,050/user unit (note a residence is one unit), and an \$840 connection fee. The cost of the connection from the property line to the owner's home is the owner's responsibility.

Someone asked what the interest rate would be on the capital assessment and was told that it would be around 2.75% over a 20 year period (which is the same amount that the Town pays on bonding the project.) Chairman Brennan added that this was an excellent time to bond a project because the interest rates on the bonds are lower than inflation.

Mr. Thurkettle was asked if the sewer pipe would be sized for the future, in the event that they wished to extend it later on. He said that it would be. He was also asked about the timing for the installation and he said that they planned on beginning the project shortly after the schools were out this year and that it would probably take close to a year for completion. Someone asked if the project would interfere with the school buses and Mr.

Thurkettle said he didn't anticipate any problems and the Town would be working with the schools to establish a schedule so that there wouldn't be any interference.

The Public Information Meeting adjourned at 5:50.

WPCA REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Brennan called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:50 PM

2. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of February 8th and the Special Meeting March 29th.

Mr. Fanwick made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 8th regular meeting and the special meeting held March 29th. The motion was seconded by Mr. McNee and carried.

3. WPCA Budget Discussion.

Ms. Dennies said that Mr. Lucia would be walking them through the calculations for the budget. Mr. Lucia handed out documents on the proposed budget for FY'13 and possible rate comparisons. Ms. Dennies said that they would like to create a sewer maintenance fund so that funds would be available for repairing/replacing sewer lines. The current fund balance of \$6 MM in the sewer fund can only be used for acquisition of land or construction of a new sewer by State Statute.

Ms. Dennies added that as of now the general operating fund has about \$500,000 in it, but all the costs haven't been assumed yet that have been incurred for the year. Mr. Lucia gave some examples of increased rates to fund a repair/replacement account. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Tomasetti said that we seem to be planning for a possible event that something might happen to one of the sewer lines, but we don't know what the risk is and when something might happen. A discussion ensued.

Chairman Brennan suggested looking into buying sewer insurance to cover pipe breakage. Ms. Dennies said that she would look into it. Mr. Thurkettle asked that they look into insurance for \$1 million. Chairman Brennan added that they look into the cost of the insurance and then compare it to the cost of self funding the account. Chairman Brennan also said that he would like to know what other towns in the area are doing to build funds from user fees, as opposed to including them in the taxes. He asked if Mr. Ahern could reach out to the other towns in the area and find out how they would handle a problem with their sewer lines if one occurred. He said that these items would be on May's Special Meeting Agenda.

4. **Wolfpit Road Sewer Project.**

Chairman Brennan said that the timing for the Wolfpit Road Sewer is very close to being on schedule. Mr. Thurkettle said that they would like to get the bids out sometime in mid May so that construction could begin after the schools get out about the first week in July.

5. **FOG Program.**

Mr. Ahern reported on the FOG program saying that 74% of the facilities are registered and 59% are in compliance. The DPW just received an initial compliance form from the DEP asking for varying levels of compliance (i.e. people who have registered, people who are in compliance, and people who haven't complied at all). The names of those who haven't complied at all will be sent to the DEP.

6. **Further Business**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mariana Corrado
Recording Secretary