

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM B
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010**

PRESENT: William Brennan, Al Stauderman, Rich Tomasetti, Eric Fanwick, James Newton

ABSENT: Andy McNee

OTHERS: Tom Thirkettle, (Director of DPW), Sandy Dennies, (CFO), Mike Ahern, (Field Engineer, DPW), Harold Alvord, (Director of Public Works, City of Norwalk), Lisa Burns, (Operations Manager, City of Norwalk), Peter Spang, (Dewberry)

Call to Order

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

Approval of November 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made seconded and carried to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2010.

Norwalk Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewage System – Capital Expansion Plans and Projected Costs

Chairman Brennan introduced Hal Alvord and Lisa Burns from the City of Norwalk saying that he feels it's important to know what Norwalk's plans are for their wastewater treatment plant since Wilton is connected to it and what sort of expenditures will be involved in the future. He added that he would like to make this presentation by Norwalk an annual one in order to keep the Wilton WPCA members updated.

Mr. Alvord said that he felt that meeting annually was a very good idea. He said that he wanted to provide the members of the Authority with an overview of what Norwalk is doing and why they are doing it now. He said that Norwalk's plant is permitted for 18 million gallons per day. The average flow right now is about 14 million. When you get to 90% of your permanent flow, the DEP requires that you update your facilities plant. The last time this was done was in the 90's, (1999-2000). In anticipation of being required to update the plant again in the next few years the decision was made to do it now for two main reasons; economics and politics. He said that he would explain the economics later but first, he wanted to point out that Connecticut and New York have entered into goals for discharge into Long Island Sound. The year these goals are suppose to be met is 2014.

Right now Connecticut is having a hard time meeting these goals. What Norwalk has proposed in their facilities plan, and in the project they are in the process of constructing, will provide the State with the opportunity to meet its goal. As a result the State is very motivated to support this project. Norwalk will be receiving a 40% grant on Phase I and anticipates the same grant on Phase II.

As far as the economics are concerned, construction costs are optimal right now.

The bids that went out for Phase I of the project were anticipated to be around \$45,000,000 and instead came in 17% below their estimates. As a result they are looking at a total cost of around \$37,000,000. They are in the design stages of Phase II and they estimate that it will cost \$85,000,000. They are changing the technology in Phase II and going from a biological process to a membrane process that will significantly increase the quality of the water that is being discharged out into the harbor and into LI Sound. Eventually, down the line they anticipate doing a Phase III, which would replace the chlorination, de-chlorination process and replacing it with ultraviolet radiation.

Chairman Brennan asked about the timing on the Phase II design and Mr. Alvord replied that the Phase II design had just passed the 30% mark and they intend to put the bid package out in the spring, (May/June) and get the responses back in June of 2011. Mr. Newton asked if the completion of Phases I and II will take them way above the 18 million gallons of flow per day. Mr. Alvord replied that they would. Ms. Burns explained that they are able to handle wet weather and run-off, which adds to the amount of flow and because they have a component that handles more wet weather effectively, they are eligible for additional grant money. She added this will be the 20-30 year plant upgrade and passed out drawings, photos and illustrations of the plant. Mr. Newton inquired if after Phase II and Phase III are completed will the facility be acceptable to the State and to the Federal government or just marginally alright and Ms. Burns replied that this facility is the limit of technology and the best that you can put in.

She went on to explain that a portion of the debt service, \$37,000,000 on Phase I will be covered by the grant. The project is complete in October of 2011. There will be an increase in debt service but the first real payment will be in 2012. Then for Phase II the goal is to have it completed for 2014 and then the debt service would be hitting in 2015. She said that there will be a 10% rate increase for Norwalk users for the next four years and then things will level out and return to the normal 5% yearly increase.

A discussion ensued around the way that Norwalk handles its fee structure and their rate increases. Chairman Brennan asked if the project was on schedule and Ms. Burns replied that it was. He then went on to say that it would be helpful if Norwalk could provide sufficient advanced notice of projections on the debt service. Ms Burns said that she could provide the projections including what Wilton's portion of the debt service will be and that she would email these to Chairmen Brennan.

Chairmen Brennan thanked Mr. Alvord and Ms. Burns for their presentation.

A Motion was made to change the Agenda and put item 5, (Update from Dewberry) next on the Agenda. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Update on Initial Design Activity of Wolfpit Road/Horshoe Road/River Road Sewer by Dewberry.

Chairman Brennan introduced Peter Spang of Dewberry. Mr. Spang said that things are moving along with the design. Borings will begin on December 9th and GIS information has been obtained from the Town. They are now preparing the base mapping. They have marked the borings in the field and he said that he had asked level 3 to remark their borings on Wolfpit Road. Once they have been remarked Mr. Spang will look at them

again. He noted that David Hughes will be the surveyor and Bill Kenny will be the soil scientist on the project, flagging wetlands and identifying any specimen trees that need to stay. He added that he sees no problem with keeping to the schedule and he anticipates submitting the plan specs early in March but probably sooner. Chairman Brennan and the members thanked Mr. Spang for his update.

Update on the Amendments to the WPCA Rates and Regulations.

Mr. Ahern passed out a working draft of the amendments to the WPCA Rates and Regulations. (Chairman Brennan noted that this draft has not been reviewed by the Town attorneys). Mr. Ahern said two main areas of concern are the fats, oil and grease program and the industrial pretreatment program. He pointed out some of the draft changes that include fees and user limits. He then went on to discuss some of the compliance requirements. He said that a letter had gone out to all of the restaurants and food establishments. Chairman Brennan asked if they had any response to the letter and Mr. Ahern said that yes there had been some questions asked and some establishments were already making certain modifications in order to be in compliance.

Chairman Brennan suggested that the members review the document and become familiar with the suggested amendments.

Ms. Dennies said that with regard to the regulations, Mr. Brennan has asked that they look at how user fees will be determined with buildings that are built to a higher standard and therefore have lower usage.

A discussion ensued of how this might affect the rates going forward, particularly on commercial properties and how assessments might be handled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Mariana Corrado
Recording Secretary