

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
MINUTES ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2012

Call to Order: Raymond Turri, President of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District called the meeting to order at 9:45 A.M.

Board Members Raymond Turri, Jim Mersfelder, Jim Hiltz, Bob Goldfeld and Joan Lang along with nineteen (19) WLSD Tax Payers which included Richard Reis chairman of the WLSD Finance Committee and Ken Green Chairman of the WLSD Planning Committee were present at the meeting.

Item #1 – The adoption of the annual budget of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District for fiscal year July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Chip Roraback seconded by Jim Mersfelder to adopt the proposed Annual Budget of the WLSD for fiscal year 2012/2013. Under discussion on the Budget Treasurer Jim Mersfelder gave a brief update relative to the current planned expenditures being under expended due to delays in the Scope of Work project being done by the Engineering Firm of Woodward & Curran. The delays come as a result of DEEP insistence on an extremely rigorous test of the ground water capabilities of the beds at the Sewer Plant. The lower operating expenses resulted from less than anticipated maintenance work being done under the current budget. The DEEP Scope of Work Project will continue under the 2012/2013 fiscal budget and it is expected to be completed within the 2012/2013 budget cycle. Noted was the cost of \$459,625.00 for the planned Inflow & Infiltration Remediation work to be conducted on the collection system with repairs being made where significant inflow and infiltration is detected. It was noted that the I & I work was started this spring but was terminated due to low ground water levels. Noted was the work that has been done on the clearing of the 6 miles of WLSD Right of Ways that abut taxpayer lots. The remaining Right of Ways to be cleared have been surveyed, staked and trees marked that must be cut down. Noted was the \$75,000 budget expenditure for additional groundwater testing that currently is not being funded by the DEEP. With a Plant Manager and three fulltime employees, the WLSD is now fully staffed. On a question received from a taxpayer related to the State position on the bed testing, Jim Mersfelder gave an update on the current bed testing conducted and although the test results are preliminary, they show that the disposal fields can absorb the base wastewater flow. The DEEP has given an affirmative signoff on the test results of three of the four beds being tested. As of this date, DEEP has not signed off on the test results of the fourth bed and a more comprehensive engineering study of the testing results of the fourth bed is being conducted by the engineering firm.

There were no other questions or comments on the budget; Ray Turri called for a vote by a show of hands. The motion to approve the 2012/2013 Woodridge Lake Sewer District Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$1,381,572.00 passed unanimously.

Item #2- Laying the Tax for fiscal year July 1, 2012 thru June 30 2013:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Thomas McKiernan seconded by Jim Hiltz to set the amount of \$940,946.75 to be raised in taxes for said fiscal year July 1, 2012 thru June 30,

2013. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was called and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item #3- Fixing the tax rate for Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 thru June 30 2013:

Ray Turri noted that based on the fact that it remains unknown at this time what the financial needs of the District will be for future upgrade of the collection system either of the plant or going to Torrington and the current state of the economy that is was the position of the Board to hold the Mil rate at the current 3.3 Mils.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Frank Gomes seconded by Tom McKiernan that based on the Town of Goshen October 1, 2011 Grand List of \$285,135,389 for the Woodridge Lake Sewer District that the Mil rate be set at 3.3 Mils. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Item #4-A Resolution to provide for the District and or Authority for interim borrowing in anticipation of taxes: Ray Turri noted that this is a precautionary measure. The District in the past has not had to borrow money to cover any uncollected taxes. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Dwight Kellogg seconded by Richard Reis to approve said resolution. Questioned under discussion was the current level of taxes in arrears compared to previous years. No number was given but it was noted that due to aggressive measures taken by the Board as recommended by the Finance Committee for the collection of taxes and the use of a State Marshal that the level is improved over previous year levels. There were no other comments on the motion. A vote on the motion was called and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #5- A Resolution to provide for Board approval and ratification of corrections made in the October 1, 2010 Grand List of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Richard Reis seconded by Frank Gomes to approve said resolution. Clerk Joan Lang explained the purpose of the Resolution is to provide approval for any additions or abatement in property assessments to the October 1, 2010 Woodridge Lake Sewer District Grand List due to new construction or Board of Assessment Appeals adjustments. There was no further discussion on the motion and the Resolution to approve an Add on Increment of \$1,640.00 to the October 1, 2010 Grand List of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District was unanimously approved.

Addressed was the approved the Board approved action taken under the proposed 2012/2013 budget to proceed with the I & I Remediation and the efforts being made by the Finance Committee and the Board relative to the borrowing of \$500,000.00 as interim short term bridge funding so the District can complete the application for DEEP Clean Water Funding for the duration of the project which would be a 20 yr note at 2% interest. It was noted that at such time as the need for the District to enter into the DEEP funding process that a special meeting of the District Tax payers would be held.

Ray Turri complimented the members of the Board, and the Committees for their time and efforts in putting together the articles for the Breezes and informational letters that have gone out to the property owners to keep them informed as to what is being done and how it is being done. Credit was also given to the WLSD Plant Superintendent Charlie Ekstrom for the excellent job that he is doing. The good work being done by Class II operator Jason Patrick, Class I operator Mark Therialt who is working on Class II certification and new employee Mike Migaldi who is working toward his Class I certification. The efforts of Office personnel Clerk Joan Lang and Tax Collector Laurie Mosley work to provide support to the Board, Plant Personnel and the District as a whole

There was no other business to come before the meeting. A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY Tom McKiernan seconded by Jim Mersfelder. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Joan M. Lang, Clerk