

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE
SEWER DISTRICT HELD SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017 AT IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE WOODRIDGE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING AT THE WOODRIDGE LAKE CLUBHOUSE LOCATED AT 260
EAST HYERDALE DRIVE GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT**

CALL TO ORDER: Raymond A. Turri, President of the Board of Directors of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District called the meeting to order at 10:32 A.M.

ATTENDANCE: There were twenty Woodridge Lake Sewer District Tax Payers signed in attendance. A head count of 32 were in attendance. The list of those present is on file with the minutes of this meeting.

Board members serving at this meeting were Raymond Turri, James Mersfelder, Alfred Shull, and Richard Reis.

Excused absence was Board Member James Hiltz.

Item #1 on the Agenda – The adopting of the Annual Budget for the fiscal year to run from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018: Presented for adoption was the proposed operating budget of \$1,099,921. The said budget is filed with these minutes. Raymond Turri discussed the changes in the budget. There was an increase in the Health Insurance for the employees and an increase in payroll. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Louis Friedrich seconded by Robert Rose to adopt the proposed operating budget of \$1,099,921 for fiscal year July 1, 2017/June 30, 2018. There was no discussion. The President called for a vote by voice, for those in favor of the motion and those against. There was no voice against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #2: The laying of the tax rate of \$1,051,920.83 to be collected in taxes for Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jim Withstandley seconded by Frank Gomes to lay the tax rate of \$1,051,920.83 to be collected in taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2017/June 30, 2018. No discussion, The President called for a vote by voice, for those in favor of the motion and those against. There was no voice against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #3: The fixing of the tax rate of 4.3 mils for said fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 based on the October 1, 2016 Grand List of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Jim Withstandley seconded by Frank Gomes to set a tax rate of 4.3 Milis for fiscal year July 1,2017 through June 30, 2018 based on the October 1, 2016 Grand List for the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. No discussion, The President called for a vote by voice, for those in favor of the motion and those against. There was no voice against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item 4#: To approve a resolution to provide for the re-appropriation of previously approved capital funding for the completion of the planned projects and engineering for the final long term solution to the disposal of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District wastewater. That number is \$3,588,145. **MOTION WAS MADE BY** Louis Friedrich seconded by Robert Rose to approve a resolution to provide for the re-appropriation of

previously approved capital funding for the completion of the planned projects and engineering for the final long term solution to the disposal of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District wastewater. No discussion, The President called for a vote by voice, for those in favor of the motion and those against. There was no voice against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #5: To consider a resolution providing for the District and or Authority for interim borrowing in anticipation of taxes. **MOTION WAS MADE BY** Louis Friedrich seconded by Ann Green to approve a resolution providing the District and or Authority interim borrowing in anticipation of taxes. No discussion, The President called for a vote by voice, for those in favor of the motion and those against. There was no voice against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item 6# To transact any and all other business proper to come before said meeting.

Ray Turri reported that there were amended minutes from the April 22, 2017 Annual meeting for distribution at the meeting. They were amended to correct data reported at the meeting. When he had stated that there were 30,000 emails reviewed for the FOIA request, the correct number was 60,000 emails for example.

Jim Mersfelder then presented an update on the Torrington pipe line project. Jim reported that the project has been halted for almost a year and that we are now waiting for a ruling from the Department of Health (DPH). DPH is has been asked by the TWC to make a determination as to whether the proposed project represents an imminent threat to the TWC's drinking water supply. The District developed this budget with the assumption that we will get a "go ahead" approval in from DPH in June. The current project costs have been moved from the 2016/2017 budget with added adjustments to some engineering and legal costs into the 2017/2018 budget. This 2017/2018 budget does not include any additional funding if we receive a negative ruling from the DPH or anticipate any additional actions taken by the Torrington Water Company (TWC). In addition to getting a positive ruling from DPH we also need the approval from the Torrington Water Pollution Control Association (Torrington WPCA) that runs the sewer plant in Torrington. As part of their approval we need to have a multi-year inter-municipal agreement in place defining the responsibilities of the parties to including our costs of connecting to the Torrington collection system. The Torrington WPCA will be holding a public hearing to let the residents understand the project and to provide Torrington residents an opinion to voice any concerns. At this time we assume the Torrington Water Company will voice their negative support for the project.

Jim noted that that on June 20, 2016 the District was notified by the Torrington Water Company about their objections to our project. Since then we have had at least six interventions by their lawyers trying stop the project. In August we presented our project to the Inland Wetlands Commissions of both Goshen and Torrington. In September received a unanimous approvals from both commissions. The DPH asked both the District and the TWC to submit papers in November arguing why they felt our project was good or bad. The District has produced over 300 pages of engineering reports to explain the details of the operation and safety of this project. There were many rebuttals to the submissions from both sides. After these issues seemed to going in circles and were not being resolved, Ray and Jim asked the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to step in and help move the project along. The DEEP has taken a proactive position to support the benefits of this project. They produced a PowerPoint presentation which they delivered to DPH that pointed out why this project was a safe, viable and an affordable sewer project. On May 11th the TWC attorney sent a letter to the

DPH stating that many of the statements presented in the DEEP presentation were inaccurate. The District then wrote a short letter to the DPH stating that the District has sent hundreds of pages of engineering documents explaining the operation and safety of the project and have implemented the recommendations of TWC's engineers to address their concerns. We basically pleaded for a decision on the merits.

Jim then discussed the rationale for continuing to support this project. If we were to redesign the project as the TWC has suggested the \$15.6 capital project would increase by three million dollars. To the taxpayers who accepted an 8% increase in the annual costs with the current project the TWC route would raise the annual costs by 34%. A short question and answer discussion continued to deal with taxpayer concerns.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. **A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS CALLED** by Alfred Shull seconded by Richard Reis and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Alfred L. Shull, Clerk

Laurie Mosley, Recording Clerk