

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016, 9:30 A.M. AT THE GOSHEN CENTER SCHOOL CAFETERIA,  
42 NORTH STREET, GOSHEN, CT 0756**

CALL TO ORDER: Raymond A. Turri, President of the Board of Directors of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE: There were sixty Woodridge Lake Sewer District Tax Payers 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, James Hiltz, Alfred Shull, and Alternate's Richard Reis and John Kelley. Also attending were Tax Collector/Secretary Laurie Mosley, Engineer David Prickett, Bruce Chudwick from Shipman and Goodwin, Counselor at Law.

Excused absence was Board Member Joan Lang.

Before taking action on the items on the agenda Raymond Turri took the time to express his appreciation for all of the volunteers who serve on the various boards and commissions, giving of their time and efforts. This year was a little bittersweet. There was a lot of time spent and progress made in Hartford with DEEP, progress in Torrington, 30% of the facilities plan was completed, and the plan to hook up to Torrington is approaching. The negative of this past year was the passing of board member Bob Goldfeld. Bob passed away last fall. He had been a loyal volunteer of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District for over four years. Ray noted he never missed a meeting (unless on vacation, which wasn't often), was smart, thoughtful and would be sorrowfully missed. In December, long time Board member and Clerk Joan Lang retired. Joan had been at the WLSL since the District's inception, over forty years. In this time she had worked as Tax Collector (for over twenty years) and as Clerk/Secretary for forty-four. Ray commented she was like the postman, she came to every meeting through rain/sleet and snow, nothing stopped her, she was always on time, always a hard worker! The board had a lunch in her honor and gave her an iPad as a retirement gift, so she could stay connected to us. Joan will stay on the Board as an alternate (she owns a home in the WLSL District).

In November, a new Board member was needed with the passing of Bob Goldfeld. Ray noted he was interested in asking Alfred Shull to take the position. Al was always at most WLPOA meetings and many WLSL meetings. Al was very interested and concerned with actions of these boards. After a bit of arm twisting Al accepted the position, he was also asked to take the role of Clerk after Joan's retirement and he graciously accepted. Al has done a great job, and is an asset to the Board.

Ray expressed that the WLSL board and committee members have put much time and effort into not only the Facilities Plan but into the funding of the project. So much has been accomplished in just the past five months. Noted volunteers were Richard Reis, Jim Mersfelder and Ken Green. These board members are brilliant, hardworking, have given much of their time and represent all of the WLSL property owners. Ray thanked them.

**Item#1 on the Agenda** –To elect Officers and Directors to serve on the Board of Directors of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District, all to serve a one year term.

The following members were nominated, all to serve a one (1) year term:

Raymond A. Turri, President  
James L. Mersfelder, Vice President/Treasurer  
Alfred L. Shull, Clerk  
James D. Hiltz, Director  
Richard Reis, Director

There being no other nominations, the vote was called and **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Walter Donahue seconded by Godwin Noell to elect the slate of officers and Directors as presented. There was no discussion on the motion. The Chair called for a vote by show of hands, for those in favor of the motion and those against. There was no show of hands against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**Item #2 on the Agenda** – To elect two (2) Directors and (2) Alternates of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District Sewer Authority to serve a three (3) year term. Term to expire April, 2019.

(2) Directors nominated to serve a three (3) year term for the Woodridge Lake Sewer Authority with term to expire April 2019.

James L. Mersfelder, Term to expire April 2019  
Raymond A. Turri, Term to expire April 2019

(2) Alternates nominated to serve a three (3) year term for the Woodridge Lake Sewer Authority with term to expire April 2019

Joan M. Lang, Term to expire 2019  
John M. Kelley, Term to expire April 2019

Nominations were called for from the floor, there being no other nominations, the Chair called for a Motion. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Walter Donahue seconded by Godwin Noell to elect slate of members as presented to serve a three year term on the Woodridge Lake Sewer District Sewer Authority Board. A call for a vote by show of hands for and against was called. There being no votes against, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**Item #3 on the agenda** – The setting of a date for the meeting of the voters of the WLSD for the purpose of adopting the annual budget meeting, laying the tax and fixing the tax rate for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016.

The date of Saturday May, 28, 2016 was presented for consideration and **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Walter Donahue seconded by Godwin Noell to set the date of Saturday, May 28, 2016, 9:30 A.M. For the holding of the Annual Budget Meeting of the voters of Woodridge Lake Sewer District. There was no discussion on the motion, **SO VOTED.**

**Item# 4 on the Agenda** To discuss with taxpayers the \$15,500,000 appropriation and bond authorization for the construction of a wastewater transmission facility to the City of Torrington's Wastewater Treatment Facility, as proposed by the District Board of Directors, and to discuss the date set by the Board for a Special Meeting of Taxpayers to vote on the proposal.

Raymond Turri introduced Jim Mersfelder to the podium to discuss the project with the aid of a Power Point presentation. There would be a question and answer session after the presentation. The presentation is on file with the minutes.

## Project Presentation

Jim opened with a timeline history of the board beginning with June of 2010 when the new leadership team began. The new board created committees to help with projects. A Planning Committee, Finance Committee, and Operations Committee were started with approximately 20 people volunteers. These people all helped to move this project to where it is today. The Planning Committee team has been made up of Ken Green Chairman, Charlie Roraback, Raymond Turri, Bob Goldfeld James Mersfelder, David Prickett, Lead Engineer from Woodard and Curran, Inc., Bruce Chudwick from Shipman and Goodwin, our bond counselor, John Wertam, our environmental, counselor at Law, and Plant Superintendent Charles Ekstrom. Jim noted that it has been a six year journey to get to where we are today. This project presentation was the culmination of the hard work of all these individuals (the presentation outline is on file with these minutes). Jim stated he would discuss where we are now, what needs to happen next, what is included in the \$15.5 million project costs, what are the funding options, what will it cost each taxpayer, what can be done by the taxpayer to reduce the project cost, and end with a question and answer session. Jim started with a discussion on the history of the timeline that was mailed to everyone (the timeline is on file with the minutes). Originally the thought was to upgrade the current treatment plant. By June 2014, the District spent a lot of money testing the current beds (leach fields) and studying the refurbishment of the current plant. An estimated cost of \$11 million was projected to upgrade the current plant facilities and disposal fields. WLSD had many meetings with the DEEP to discuss the scope of study on how we would upgrade. The DEEP asked that all water disposal be drinkable and be able to stay in the ground for 21 days. When the tests were done, all results failed to satisfy the DEEP's concerns leaving the District to pursue the Torrington regional option. Jim noted that a facility plan had been presented in 2005 to the DEP and Torrington suggesting that we transmit our wastewater to Torrington for treatment. Torrington's engineers rejected this as a viable option because our collection system had not been maintained properly. They indicted that we had infiltration and inflow issues and basically had not followed proper procedures to maintain our facilities for many years. Torrington stated these issues needed to be addressed before they would consider letting us hook up to them. Our board's response was the **Infiltration/Inflow (I/I)**, SCADA and pump station upgrade project which we completed last year. Also most of our pump stations were rebuilt. By December 2014 Woodard & Curran estimated costs for a local option to be climbing steadily to \$17.3 million and there was uncertainty of ever receiving DEEP approval of the local option. At this point the board put up a white flag and decided to put their efforts towards a Torrington pipeline exclusively. In the spring of 2015, a meeting was held with Torrington's WPCA to indicate the WLSD's interest in the Torrington pipeline alternative. There were many meetings held with DEEP, Torrington's staff, and planning and zoning committees in both the town and city. Three alternate pipe routes were considered and one agreed. Torrington then asked us to determine how much flow would be sent. The Torrington plant is in the middle of their own upgrade and was concerned that our potential flow would affect their project. At one time, the DEEP had indicated that certain parts of Goshen may be mandated to hook up to the plant as some time in the future. Torrington wanted a study done on how the potential of additional connections would affect the potential flows going to Torrington. Our district currently has 691 connections with the potential of an additional 186 connections, Tyler Lake could potentially add 100, Dog Pond could potentially add 15 and the center of Goshen (rotary area) could potentially add 85. Torrington wanted an estimated flow, average peak as if all the potential connections were made. The good news was that the resultant hypothetical flows did not impact any of the existing or planned capital needs of the Torrington plant. No redesign was needed. The flows were well below the capability of their plant. When this study was brought to the attention of the Town of Goshen, it was stated that Goshen is not interested in connecting to

the district's collection system and that all of the town, with the exception of our district, is in a sewer avoidance area (which means that Goshen's WPCA will not allow any connections). Within Torrington most of the proposed pipeline is also in a sewer avoidance area. Torrington then agreed that the flow total would be only from the district. The next issue was odor control. When using a forced main piping system, the flows need to travel a long distance hence odor issues arise. A plan was proposed to Torrington to install a bioxid to control the odors. The plan was accepted by Torrington. Another issue was whether the piping would be a forced main piping or a gravity line. The difference is that a gravity line from the City line down Route 4 would require several very deep cuts down to 23 feet underground to maintain the required grade downhill. A force main only has to go around 7 feet underground and wastewater is forced down. The forced main option would save the district a lot of money. Torrington is willing to consider the planned forced main but only down to Lovers Lane, then it is requesting a gravity line to our termination point at Riverside Avenue. (A map showing the route was presented at the meeting). The talks are going well with Torrington and now it is time to get the taxpayers approval on the plan before spending any more funds.

What needs to happen next? The District needs to obtain taxpayer approval to appropriate funds at a Special Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM at Camp Cochopianee on Beach St.in Goshen. We need to complete the Facilities Plan and obtain DEEP approval. We need to receive Inland Wetland Commission approvals in Goshen and Torrington. We need to receive Connecticut Department of Transportation approval for the Route 63 and Route 4 construction. Complete our construction design, currently it is 30% done, by the beginning of June it will be 60% done and by July 90% done, 100% by the end of August. We need to ensure that all easement issues are resolved. An Inter Municipal Agreement needs to be agreed with Torrington for the processing of our wastewater over the next 20 years. This is an important contract between the district and the City which states how much our agreement will cost, the obligations of the parties, what happens if we do something wrong, what are the consequences if our flows are higher or the effluent is stronger than the contracted levels. We still need to receive final approvals from the Goshen and Torrington Inland Wetlands Commission and WPCA. The Connecticut Office of Policy & Management needs to agree with the final configuration. The USDA will be approving our bidding documents (USDA, being our funding group) as well as participating in the bidding process. We are bidding the project in two parts to help eliminate a potential bonding issues for smaller contractors. The target starting date for construction is December of 2016 for phase 1 followed by Phase 2 with a target start date of May of 2017. Completion of construction is forecasted to be November of 2018. Then work decommissioning the existing wastewater treatment plant will be initiated.

Funding. Jim then went over what is included in the \$15.5 Million costs (See presentation sheet) and how we are planning on funding the project. We will be using the USDA to fund the project which will include a \$2,825,000 grant and the balance as a loan. The loan terms are as follows: interest rate at 2.25% over 40 years. To receive the grant we have to spend the amount of the loan agreed, so we need a short term construction loan to finance the project. We are currently talking to three local banks as well as TD Bank and CoBank in Colorado. The range in interest rates are from 3% to 1.5%, so it pays to shop around. With this funding in place and adjusting for the reduction our costs of running our collection system and adding the costs in the Inter Municipal Agreement charges, each taxpayer is estimated at a 7% increase to their current tax payment. Jim then went over how the Ad Valorem tax works and would affect taxpayer's properties. The board will continue the work to try to decrease this 7% increase. The board goal has always been to keep fees flat or no increase. There are ways to reduce the project costs that the board is looking into. First is the reduction of construction costs through a favorable bidding process. Second, we have about \$1.2 million in our reserve fund, which the board will

be reviewing the fund balance after the project is done. Third, we have 98 acres of open land, do we sell or lease it. The Town of Goshen has agreed this is an important project and First Selectman Robert Valentine has applied for a \$0.5 million STEAP Grant through the State of Connecticut for the district, unfortunately it will probably get turned down this year (like most all grants) with the State of Connecticut currently cutting costs from their budget. We can reapply for this grant over the next several years. Taxpayer can continue to lobby for more grant money. There are some negatives that we have to worry about. The final terms with Torrington are still not agreed. Another risk is unknown rock when digging, could be a costly factor. Lastly between our current plant pump (located on Beach Street) and our plant is a very old forced main that will need to have properly inspected. We are planning to use this old forced main to connect to a new pump station to be built near the treatment plant that would pump the wastewater to Torrington. This pipe is very important and for environmental reasons needs to be inspected soon and perhaps replaced.

How can taxpayers help? Jim stated that property owners can contact their State and Federal Representatives to help lobby for us on the importance of receiving grant money for this project.

Jim then opened a question and answer session. Discussion continued on information on the project. Noted was a question on voting for the project. Bruce Chudwick had put together a hand out that stated who can vote in a special district meeting. These guidelines are governed by Chapter 105 of the Connecticut General Statutes. We will strictly follow these statutes. There were many positive comments from the audience. The audience thanked the Board for all their time, effort, dedication, and incredible hard work with a standing ovation.

A question was asked about what would happen if the Appropriation vote is not approved. Jim noted we would lose our USDA funding. Since we are under a Consent Order issued by the DEEP to develop a long term solution acceptable by the DEEP, we could be charged a penalty of up to \$25,000 for each offense.

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