

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT SEWER AUTHORITY & WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015, 2:00 P.M., CONFERENCE ROOM
WOODRIDGE LAKE CLUB HOUSE EAST HYERDALE DRIVE, GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT

CALL TO ORDER: Raymond A. Turri, Chairman and President of both board respectively called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE, Board Members, Ray Turri, Jim Mersfelder, Bob Goldfeld, Jim Hiltz and Joan Lang. Also present members of the Finance Committee, Richard Reis Chairman and Lou Freidrich.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Board review and approval of the proposed 2015/2016 budget to be presented to the tax of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District annual budget meeting, Saturday, May, 13, 2015.

Treasurer, Jim Mersfelder presented the proposed 2015/2016 Budget and thanked Richard Reis and Lou Friedrich for all the work they did in putting together the proposed budget and letter to go out to the taxpayers prior to the Budget Meeting.

The Board reviewed the letter to go out with the budget. Due to minor errors found in the numbers that appeared on the budget spread sheet, corrections will be made in the letter going to the taxpayers. Jim Mersfelder working with the Finance Committee will make those changes in the letter and e-mail the final draft letter to out to the taxpayers.

Proposed capital budget project: Budgeted for 2014/2015 was \$2,267,252.06, with the projected actual spend of \$267,987.55. With \$1,456,027.93 projected to be spent in the 2015/2016 fiscal year. None of the work scheduled on the Pump Station SCADA and I/I projects for 2014/15 has been done so it is pushing those projects out into 2015/16.

Discussed was the Loan drawdown for the SCDA and I&I projects which will be funded by a USDA 45% grant with 3.25% at closing or less if the rates continue to go down. The District will start to receive the grant as soon as the District has spent 55% of the total amount that the District is going to borrow. The first payment will be due one year from the date of closing. November of 2016 is the target date for the completion of the two projects. Once the final number is known, a determination will need to be made relative to the mean of taxation for the pay down of the loan, benefit assessment or ad valorem.

Operating Budget: It is estimated at this time, with the current spending rate for 2014/2015, the District should end up the fiscal year with a fund balance of approximately \$943,984 and looking ahead, that money will be used to cover the cost for the planning construction of the big project, on site plant upgrade or pipe line to Torrington.

Grand List & Mil Rate for 2015/2016: The October 1, 2014 Grand List for the Woodridge lake Sewer District is \$242,547,530 up a little over \$2,000,000 from last year. Discussed was the mil rate for 2015/2016 Fiscal Year and the board was in agreement to keep the mil rate at its current level of 4.3 Mills. Reviewed were the projected expenditures for 2015/2016 with the exception of Insurance there was little change in the major line item expenditures. Insurance is up due to the change in length of term for environmental insurance from of \$30,000 over three years down to one year. The line item for professional legal, accounting and computer remained at 118,200 with the legal expense to date of

approximately \$93,000 for 2014/2015. The proposed operation budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 is \$852,961. Noted was a minor change in the personnel line item which would leave a net surplus of \$57,652 for fiscal year ending 6/30/2015. Noted were the budgeted percentages used in determining employee salaries and other employee benefits.

Discussed was the issue of the need to re-appropriate funds previously approved by the taxpayers for capital funding for the completion of the planned projects and engineering for the final long term solution to the disposal of the WLSD wastewater. State Statutes require at the end of each fiscal year if money that has been appropriated to be spent for a specific projected during the year for which it was appropriated has not been spent, that it is gone. It can't be rolled forward and in order to be used it must be re-appropriate for what you want to spend it on in the next fiscal year. The amount being re-appropriated for 2015/2016 is \$1,456,028. Discussed was the writing and wording of a Resolution for the re-appropriation of funds to be acted upon by the taxpayers at the Annual Budget Meeting.

In looking ahead to 2016/2017, the plan is to spend \$463,000 in Engineering and \$2,700,000 in construction and would have paid the first installment of the loan for the SCADA / I & I project. Looking ahead to 2017/2018, the District will spend another \$6,000,000 and based on the proposed schedule the project should be completed in October of 2018.

The Board members gave their approval of the proposed 2015/2016 Budget and recommended that it be presented to the taxpayers of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District for adoption at the Saturday, May 23, 2015 annual budget meeting of the District. Jim Merfelder will make any Board approved changes to both the Budget and letter prior to the mailing of both to the taxpayers, before the budget meeting.

The Board again discussed the issue of the method or methods to be use for the taxation for the I & I and SCADA projects and keeping the use of ad volorem for Operations. Still needed are the actual numbers on which the taxation will be based and what the implications will be for the taxpayers of the District. If at this time, means of taxation was decided upon, for the SCADA and I & I, It would need to be made clear that the method used would not be a determining factor relative to the taxation method used for the cost of onsite or Torrington upgrade. Discussed was the connection fee method and when it should be charged based on, the ability to connect or at the time of connection. Ray Turri would check with Torrington to see what method is being used by Torrington. Clarification needs to be sought from Legal Council on two connection charge issues, Lien once or Pay when the property is transferred at time of sale or build out.

Shelbourne Drive Laterals: Presented for Board approval was a quote in the amount of \$13,500.00 received from Colby Excavating, LLC for the installation of laterals on Shelbourne Drive for three lots currently not hooked into the system. The work would be done prior to the Town repaving of Shelbourne Drive. It was noted that the owners of the lots would be liened for the cost of installation of the lateral and said lien would be due and payable at the time of connection or sale of the property. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ray Turri seconded by Jim Mersfelder using the quote of \$13,500.00 received from Colby Excavation, the Board gave authorization to proceed with the installation of the laterals on Shelbourne Drive. No further discussion, SO VOTED.

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Noted was the meeting to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 with DEEP and the May 23, 2015 Annual Budget Meeting of the District.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT SEWER AUTHORITY
WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Joan M. Lang, Secretary & Clerk respectively of both Boards