

MINUTES JOINT MEETING OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
SEWER AUTHORITY & BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WOODRIDGE LAKE
SEWER DISTRICT, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2013, 6:00 P.M. CONFERENCE ROOM
WOODRIDGE LAKE CLUB HOUSE, EAST HYERDALE DRIVE, GOSHEN, CT

CALL TO ORDER: Raymond A. Turri, Chairman and President of both Boards respectively called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Present Raymond A. Turri, Joan M. Lang, James Hiltz and Jim Mersfelder and Robert Goldfeld by conference phone. Also present Richard Reis Chairman of the Finance Committee. Plant Manager Charles Ekstrom was absent due to knee surgery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting were presented for approval. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Bob Golsfeld seconded by Jim Mersfelder to approve said minutes as presented. There was no discussion on the minutes, **MOTION CARRIED.**

OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR MARCH 2013: In the absence of Plant Manager Charles Ekstrom, Chairman Ray Turri read the report prepared by Charlie Ekstrom and sent to the Board by e-mail prior to the meeting. Said report is on file with the minutes of this meeting. Ray Turri reported that at a recent visit to the Plant that he was pleased to see the excellent job the Plant Personnel are doing in keeping the plant facility well organized and clean.

Covered under said report:

Personnel – Sick days, Jason Patrick 1 ½ days, Mark Theriault 1 sick day and Michael Migaldi 1 vacation day.

Plant Pump & Pump Station #6 Emergency generator access – The fabrication and installation of stairs/platforms to allow for safe access to the controls of the generators has been completed.

Plant Effluent – To eliminate the use of sump pumps and cost of frequent replacement of the pumps caused by heavy continuous work load on the pumps, the Board approved the \$3,750.00 quote received from Colby Excavating to bore holes in the chlorine contact and effluent EQ tanks and install an 8” PVC bypass pipe around the tertiary. The work has been done and it allows the plant to operate even at high flows without overflow or the need for pumps.

I/I Study by Woodard & Curran – Flow isolation and TV inspections began on April 1st. Flow isolation showed little, but TV inspection showed several minor leaks which were described by Dave Prickett of W & C as “death by 1000 paper cuts”. The TV inspection will continue until mid to late May.

Review of Plant and System by Woodard & Curran – Paul Dombrowski spent five hours with Charlie Ekstrom looking at the condition of the facility and do a review to see

if any parts of the system might be used to reduce the cost of upgrade. Woodard & Curran is currently working on projected costs for refurbishing the existing Plant facilities.

March Plant Flows – No report for March. Will be updated at the April Meeting.

Jim Mersfelder reported that in a recent conversation with Dave Prickett of W & C that Dave informed him that a TV revisit inspection during heavy rain of pipes that sediment build up showed water was pouring in, in those areas.

There were no further items discussed under the March Operations report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Treasurer Jim Mersfelder presented the following: Tax Collections – The delinquent tax report shows the number of delinquent taxpayers up over last year at this time. Mainly due to the fact this list includes the delinquent taxpayers who are over the 90 day due date. A letter has gone out to 24 delinquent taxpayers notifying them that a lien has been placed on their property.

Full Year Operating Forecast – Jim Mersfelder noted that there was little change in the reported operations numbers for the month of March. The noted over/under budget line items noted for the past several months remain the same. The operations budget continues to come in under budget. Planned budgeted projects continue to run behind schedule and it is expected they will come in under budget for the 2012/2013 fiscal year. Any billing received from W & C has been rolled over into April.

Noted was the additional appropriation of \$100,000.00 for additional groundwater testing that was not covered by DEEP. It is unknown at this time how the expense will be handled by DEEP. Said expense is currently being carried by Woodward & Curran but will subsequently be submitted to DEEP for funding consideration. The actual amount of the projects remains to be determined and just how and when it will be submitted to DEEP. It was noted that it would be an item presented for discussion at the Monday April 29th meeting of the Planning Committee, which will be held at 3:00 P.M. in the Conference Room at the Woodridge Lake Club House.

Proposed 2013/2014 Budget: Discussed was the date of the Annual Budget Meeting, the time frame in which the proposed Budget will need to be drafted, approved by the Board and mailed to the taxpayers prior to the scheduled Saturday May 25, 2012 Budget Meeting for Taxpayers approval. Discussed was the holding of a Special Board Meeting and the date of Monday, May 6th was set for the special meeting of the Board to review the draft budget and approve same to be presented to the Woodridge Lake taxpayers for adoption. Discussed was the projected mil rate and what if any increase in the mil rate should be considered at this time. In looking ahead to future budget expenditures the Board gave consideration to starting now with a minimal increase in the mil rate rather than hit the taxpayers with a major increase in the future. Jim Mersfelder and Richard Reis would work on the proposed 2013/2014 budget and the Board members were asked

to continue to give thought to what if any increase in the mil rate should be considered.

Annual Meeting: The date of the Annual Meeting of the District for the Election of Officers and Directors of the District and Sewer Authority Boards is set for Saturday April 27th at 9:30 P.M. in the Woodridge Lake Club House. Reviewed was the current slate of officers and directors and their willingness to continue to serve on the Boards. The two Alternate positions remain open on the Sewer Authority Board. The Summer Draft Breezes article drafted by Bob Goldfeld was reviewed by the Board and said article would be used as a guideline for answering any questions property owners might have relative to the status of the Facilities Plan for the WLSD as required by DEEP. Atty. John Wertham and Dave Prickett would be asked to review said draft article for their comments prior to mailing.

Funding Project Funding Responsibility: **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Jim Mersfelder to enter into a project with John Wertham to assess what other Municipalities use as a basis for Capital Expenditures in a Sewer District, the motion was seconded by Ray Turri. There was no discussion on the motion, **MOTION CARRIED**.

Appointment of Auditor: **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Jim Mersfelder, seconded by Ray Turri to use the current auditing firm of Carney, Roy and Gerrol, P.C. for the audit of the financial records of the WLSD for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Other Business: Jim Hiltz informed the Board that during a recent sale of a house on the corner of route 4 and Mill Street it was discovered that the house has a operating sump pump hooked up directly to the line and recommended that a letter be sent to the property owners notifying them of the rules & regulations regarding the illegal hook up of a sump pump into the sewer system and request of them that it be rectified and also request permission to go into the house to inspect it. Also noted was the potential for a sump pump hooked up of a house on Ives Road. Jim Hiltz would inquire as to what house it is and would also inform Charlie Ekstrom of the House on Route 4/Mill Street.

Regarding the results of the inspection of the current plant equipment and its condition, Bob Goldfeld reported that Ken Green had heard from Dave Prickett that the inspection had been done and they were working to put together numbers for the Monday Planning Meeting. Based on time constraints it was felt that the report would not be available prior to the meeting.

Availability of Grant Dollars: It was felt that the District is OK for this year, but looking to the future, under the President's proposed budget, federal funding of wastewater treatment projects would be cut by almost \$500million. If approved, it would limit the availability of grant dollars.

Ray Turri reported that he had been in communication with a gentlemen who represents a company in Colorado called Stellar Energy. It is a company that uses photo voltaic solar

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panels. A search of the website shows that they have done some sewer treatment plants out west. A representative from the Co who was going to be in the area was invited by Ray Turri to see the Plant and its surrounding property and they toured the plant on April 17th. Approximately one acre of the Districts property would be needed to produce enough energy for the plant operations. With the exception of the need to give up one acre of land, there would be no cost to the District and Stellar Energy would flat line the cost of energy of the District for the next 20 years. The Board was in agreement that Stellar Energy be given the opportunity to come in to do a study and present the Board with a proposal.

There was no further business to come before the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT SEWER AUTHORITY
WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

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