

MINUTES REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE  
SEWER DISTRICT SEWER AUTHORITY & BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT, MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014  
5:00 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 5:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Raymond A. Turri, Jim Hiltz, Joan Lang and by conference phone, Jim Mersfelder and Bob Goldfeld. Also present Richard Reis, Chairman of the WLSD Finance Committee. Excused absence, Plant Manager Charlie Ekstrom who is recovering from bi-pass surgery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting were presented for approval. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Jim Mersfelder seconded by Joan Lang, to approve said minutes as presented. There was no discussion on the minutes, **MOTION CARRIED.**

The minutes of the May 24, 2014 Budget Meeting were presented for approval. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Jim Mersfelder seconded by Joan Lang to approve said minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PLANT SUPERINTENDENTS MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORT: In the absence of Charlie Ekstrom, Ray Turri gave the monthly operational report which had been prepared by Plant Operator, Jason Patrick. Ray Turri stated that he had talked with Jason and had complimented Jason for providing the Board with what was considered to be a thorough report.

Items noted under said report: Jason Patrick has completed a state sponsored sampling course and Mark Theriault has completed three out of four classes preparing him for his class III exam scheduled to be taken on July 9, 2014.

Projects: The deep cut repairs on Brynmoor and Wellsford Drive with the exception of repaving the road has been completed. The Wellsford Drive cut was found to be approximately 5' deeper than originally quoted which increased the deep cut expense by approximately \$7,000.00. There were chimneys found on both deep cuts. The work was inspected by Rich Caulkins and the repairs were also checked by video. In talking with Ed Wright, he stated there is a need for the cuts in the road to settle and at this time it is expected that the repaving road work will be done right after July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Generator maintenance: The repairs to the portable generator have been completed by Power Generator and all generators have also been serviced.

Tractor: The front wheel seal was leaking and was sent to Stanton for repair. Repairs were completed and the mowing of the beds has begun.

Plant stairs: Plant personnel have repaired the front entrance stairs to the plant. Minor repairs to the back stairs remains to be done.

**Somat Press Repairs:** The Somat Press had a bad bearing, worn screen and brushes and the repairs were made by plant personnel.

**Pickup Truck:** There have been problems with the brakes on the F-250 pickup. With the near future proposed purchase of a new pickup, the decision was made not to have the truck repaired at this time and the decision was made to drive the flatbed truck. Ray Turri noted that he had given Jason Patrick the job of going out to three dealers and come back to the Board with the specifications on three light weight vehicles with a smaller engine for better fuel consumption and an extended cab. Joan Lang reported that Jason had gotten quotes from two dealers and would be going out for the third. Discussed briefly was the lease vs. purchase. It was decided to wait to see what the numbers were before giving further consideration to leasing of the vehicle.

**Plant Flows:** The average daily flow for May was 139,000 gallons per day with a maximum daily flow of 230,000 gallons per day and rain fall of 5.23". To date for the month of June the average daily flow is 94,000 gallons, for a maximum 126,000 gallons per day with a rain fall to date of 2.6".

**FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MAY 2014:** Financial reports for the period ending May 31, 2014 were presented by Treasurer Jim Mersfelder. The report on the collection of delinquent taxes continues to show that collections are down from last year. The total delinquent taxes due as of May 31, 2014 are \$24,247.00. No lawyer's letter was sent to Tom Attea based on the fact that the property is in the hands of the bank with the prospects of a short sale being held on the property,

**FULL YEAR OPERATING FORECAST:** The May forecast shows the operating expenditures to be \$77,893.00 under budget with the projection that it could be lower if the \$25,000.00 contingency is not spent. At the end of June preparation work will start for the 2013/2014 fiscal year audit of the financial records of the District.

**CASH FLOW:** There was little change in the cash flow from what was reported for last month. There are two projects remaining to be approved, one the Coordination with DEEP and the WLSD on technical details. Woodward & Curran has been asked to submit any outstanding bills for work they have done over the past few months of the 2013/2014 fiscal year.

**EMPLOYEE MEDICAL BENEFITS INSURANCE RENEWAL:** Reviewed and open for Board consideration was the health insurance renewal coverage for the plant personnel. The Current coverage through Anthem Blue Cross has been cancelled and under CBIA Health Connections the employees were given four (4) carriers to choose from for health insurance coverage. The carriers were Oxford, Aetna, ConnecitCare and Harvard Pilgrim. Two of the Employees went with Aetna and one with ConnecitCare for a total cost per month of \$4,445.40 or an annual cost of \$53,344.80. When the 2014/2015 fiscal budget was prepared no medical insurance numbers were available so an estimated dollar amount of \$48,908.00 was approved for 2014/2015. Leaving a Budget delta of

approximately \$4,905.84. It was noted that all of the plans provided the same basic coverage, but not the same doctors, the major difference was in the doctors who accepted the plan. The employees went with the plans that provided coverage through the Doctors they were currently using. Questioned was how the Board would handle the approximately \$5,000.00 budgeting shortfall error for Health Insurance. Currently, the District pays 100% of the total health insurance coverage. Questioned, what is the norm for Employee contribution toward the cost of their coverage. Some employees ask the employees to pay a percentage toward their coverage, if multiple plans are offered, the employer offers the lower cost plan and the employee is given the option to buy up. It was felt at this time that the employer paying 100% of coverage in today's economy is no longer the norm. Based on the fact that no base plan, with numbers, had been offered to the three employees and they had been given the option to choose their carrier and had already done so, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ray Turri, seconded Jim Hiltz that the District cover the delta cost for the plans accepted by the employees for the 2014/2015 fiscal year and that Ray Turri would meet with the employees, showing them the cost numbers and inform them that in the future they employees will be sharing in the cost for health coverage. There was no further discussion, **SO VOTED.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE: It was noted that all had received the notes from Ken Green, Chairman of the Planning Committee on the results of the May 15, 2014 meeting with the DEEP to discuss the April 10, 2014 response from DEEP to the July 2013 Preliminary Summary Report and October 2013 Disposal System Report. Ray Turri reported that no date has been set for the next Planning Committee Meeting. Some positive feedback was received from John Wertam after his meeting with DEEP and is looking for a report from W & C as a result of their meeting with Joe Wettemann

A discussion was held on the cost of going to Torrington and what preliminary work could be done relative to taking test borings on the two projected routes for going to Torrington. Question, was does the District want to consider spending more money to tighten up the number for piping to go to Torrington. After further discussion on the issue of spending money on Test Borings, the decision was made that Jim Mersfelder ask Dave Prickett to see if he could provide an estimated cost for doing the test borings and see if DEEP under grant dollars would pay the 55% share of the cost with the possibility the cost could be covered under the approval for the #5 project amendment. Noted were the time element and the fact that the District continues to operate a 40+ year old plant and system.

USDA DOCUMENTS: For the record, it was noted that Ray Turri had signed off on the USDA Waste Water System Rehabilitation Project, for a loan of \$685,850.00 / Grant of \$561,150.00, with a delta of \$150.00. The signed document was given to Clerk Joan Lang to be placed on file in the Office of the WLSD. It was reported that Michael Rendulic has not been able to talk with George Hicks of the DEEP Clean Water Fund office so it remains unknown at this time if the District is actually on the priority list for available funding in 2014/2015. The signed USDA document is being reviewed by the USDA engineer and Michael Rendulic is waiting for the engineer to sign off on the final

documents. Once approval from the Engineer is received along with an approval statement from DEEP, the District is looking to go out to bid on the SCADA and I & I projects. The Board was in agreement that once the bid documents are approved by the USDA Engineer that the District should go out to bid with or without a confirmation statement from DEEP.

CONFERENCE WITH APPRAISALS: Discussed was the conference call to be held on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> with three appraisers discuss on the issue of the decision to be made by the Board relative how revenue is raised to cover the cost of upgrade by ad Volorem or benefit assessment or both. The Board was looking to get help from an appraiser to look at the impact of having sewers affects the value of the property at Woodridge Lake. Jim Hiltz felt that the value is already covered by the assessed value of the property as it appears on the Grand List of the Town of Goshen. Jim Hiltz requested to be included in the conference call with the appraisers and Jim Mersfelder would provide him with the information needed for the conference call. The Conference room of the WLPOA club house would be used for the conference call with the three appraisers.

Noted was the fact that the numbers being looked at are not solid numbers makes it difficult to make any decision at this time. Bob Goldfeld felt that the Board should make a decision on what form of taxation the District should use to for the SCADA & I/I prior to the informational meeting with the taxpayers on July 26, 2014. Looking at the humane element involved, Jim Hiltz noted that we have a responsibility to each other and to maintain the integrity of the community.

Reviewed was the Agenda for the special meeting of the WLSD Board scheduled for Saturday July 26, 2014 and the slide presentation on the Capital Project Funding Issues prepared by Richard Reis, Chairman of the WLSD Finance Committee.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. Ray Turri asked for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

WLSDSA/WLSD

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