

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 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 9:55 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 Hiltz, Alfred Shull, and Richard Reis and John Kelley. Also attending were Tax Collector/Secretary Laurie Mosley.

Excused absence was Board Member James Mersfelder.

Raymond Turri welcomed everyone to the meeting. He discussed the agenda and the order of items. He ask that a MOTION be made to change the order of the agenda. He asked that Item 4# To update taxpayers on the Torrington Sewer Pipeline Project, be moved to Item 1#. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Alfred Shull, to move Item 4# to Item 1# on the agenda, seconded by Richard Reis, There was no discussion on the motion, **SO VOTED.**

Raymond Turri wanted to discuss and update the taxpayers of what the Woodridge Lake Sewer District Board of Directors have been working on for the past year. The 2016-2017 Fiscal year has been the most challenging year yet for this board. The first challenge was to come up with an upgrade plan for the sewer facility that DEEP would approve. The choices were to upgrade the facility or to route our treatment of sewage to Torrington. DEEP would only approve off premises treatment. A 6.6 mile route to Torrington was approved by DEEP. The engineered mapped route is Route 63, Pie Hill, Route 4 down the hill to the Route 4/Riverside Avenue intersection where it would hook into Torrington pipes. The second challenge was getting funding for this \$15,500,000 project that would make this affordable to all. The Board accomplished that by getting USDA funding. The next challenge was taking this project to the taxpayers for approval. Last April this was passed by the taxpayers at a meeting with a 194 yes votes to 1 no vote. The next step was taking our Torrington Pipe Line Project to the Towns of Torrington and Goshen for approval from the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Committees. Unfortunately, at these meetings, members of the Torrington Water Company attended with their legal counsel to intervene with the proposed application of the route of our pipe line. Subsequent to those meetings, both Towns approved our permit applications. This did not satisfy the Torrington Water Company. Their issue being that of our 6.6 mile pipeline, where the pipe enters Route 4, there is 1,650 feet of pipe line that goes through their Western most watershed (Class 1 & Class2). Their concern is that our pipe would leak or could leak and would possibly contaminate their water source in an area called the Allen Dam. The Allen Dam area is a 2 acre pond off of University Drive area. Our pipe is 1.8 miles from the Allen Dam. The Torrington Water Company does not seemed concerned with the homes adjacent to the dam that have septic systems, or farm land with livestock. For those who do not know the TWC, they are a private water company that provides Torrington and parts of surrounding towns with water. They sent a notice to all water company customers telling them the potential dangers of our pipeline. They got a member of the Department of Public Health to

basically put a halt to our project. The Torrington Water Company's attorneys asked for, through the Freedom of Information Act, for all correspondences or emails that we may have had regarding this pipeline during the timeline of 2010 to present. The Board had to review over 60,000 emails, 20,000 attachments and paperwork. The review resulted in a submission of 2,134 documents to the TWC representatives. To do this, we also had to use our legal counsel Shipman & Goodwin out of Hartford and our Engineering firm Woodard & Curran out of Enfield, CT. To date we have spent over \$380,000 of our money on this and it is not over. We have the approval of DEEP that this is a safe, viable solution. We are awaiting for the approval of the Department of Health. We have been waiting since January. Hopefully we will see something before June. We need to move on with this project for our funding. The USDA guarantees it for five years, beginning on May 2016 to June 2020. We have already used a year in getting approvals and fighting the TWC on the issue. Raymond suggests that everyone get on the TWC website and see who they are and what they are all about. Just this week, the district received a report from DEEP with bullet points that stated interesting facts to back our project. Raymond listed a few: 130 of the 214 public drinking water surface watersheds have pipes going through them. 93 municipalities which have public drinking water surface watersheds have pipes within them. There are even pipes from the Torrington Sewer/WPCA sewers that exist within the Torrington Water Company watershed. Raymond question what makes us so different? The district had many highs and lows this year. Raymond stated they are going to stick with this until it is done.

Raymond noted that this subject will be updated next month at the budget meeting.

Item#1 (originally) 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** Larry Thoms seconded by Louis Friedrich 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 (16), for those in favor of the motion and those against (0). There was no show of hands against the motion, **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #2 on the Agenda – To elect two (2) Directors for the Sewer District Sewer Authority to serve a three (3) year term. Term to expire April, 2020.

(2) Directors nominated to serve a three (3) year term for the Woodridge Lake Sewer Authority with term to expire April 2020.

Alfred L. Shull, Term to expire April 2020
Richard Reis, Term to expire April 2020

Nominations were called for from the floor, there being no other nominations, the Chair called for a Motion. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Ken Green seconded by Larry Thoms 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 (16) and against was called (0). 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, 2017.

The date of Saturday May, 27, 2017 was presented for consideration and **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** James Reiman seconded by Louis Friedrich to set the date of Saturday, May 27, 2017, 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 was presented first.

Taxpayers had a few questions on the pipeline project. A question answer session continued.

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