

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Minutes of Special Meeting of May 21, 2014

Members Present: Paul Anderson, Tom Davis, Chuck Riggott, Dave Tyler and Kirk Montstream

Others Present: Superintendent E. Arthur Enderle III and Recording Secretary Laura Michael

Time and Place

Paul Anderson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Hill Meeting Room, 1A Park Hill Rd, Broad Brook, CT 06016

I. Public Hearing Scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

Proposed Revision to Sewer User Charges

Motion: To open the public hearing on proposed revision to sewer user charges, as published.
Tyler/Riggott
Passed unanimously

Motion: To dispense with the reading of the individual revisions as itemized in the legal notice published in the *Journal Inquirer* on May 9, 2014.
Tyler/Riggott
Passed unanimously

Mr. Anderson read the opening paragraph of the legal notice. Mr. Jim Barton, 158 South Water St, was present for the public hearing. He explained that he is opposed to the consistent raising of the rates. Mr. Barton spent many years on this board and historically they've kept the rates low because only part of the town is responsible for the sewers when the whole town benefits from the sewers. The WPCA had a commitment from the Selectman to take care of big ticket items. The entire town benefits from the sewers and should be responsible. Mr. Barton stated that the sewer user fee is for operation and maintenance not for capital improvements. Mr. Anderson replied that it is not the intent for the sewer user fee to cover capital improvements. Mr. Tyler stated that the entire town benefits from sewers and the sewers need to be expanded. The development in town is the result of the sewer system. The WPCA is putting a plan together to fund the CIP through bonding, grants and FCC money. Mr. Tyler explained that the plant is 20 years old; it is not a new system. The WPCA doesn't want to have a huge catastrophe. Mr. Barton asked if other towns are in this hybrid situation. Mr. Enderle explained that many towns fall into that category. The sewer use fee is borne by those who use the system; the ones who are connected. Mr. Tyler feels the town needs to eliminate the non-sewer service area.

Katherine Kneeland arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Barton stated that last year the WPCA had 30% rate increase for capital improvements. The sewer user fee is for O&M; the user shouldn't be saddled with the big ticket items. Last year there was a \$76 increase and this year a \$30 increase. It doesn't sound like much but it is; some people can't afford it and some object to it. Mr. Enderle explained that the state mandates that the sewer user fee covers operations & maintenance and repair & replacement. Mr. Barton explained that he didn't want to see a \$700 - \$800 sewer use fee as was presented by the engineering firm. Mr. Anderson explained that the capital improvements won't be coming from the sewer use fee; they will do what they can and the projects will be prioritized. State grants and no interest loans will be looked into. Mr. Barton asked if the fence at the Rte 5 pump station could be fixed. Katherine Kneeland explained that it could not be fixed; the state won't allow them to tie it to the guard rail. Mr. Enderle reported that they will be making site improvements and replacing the valves and check valves at the pump station. He plans to do one station per year.

Mr. Anderson explained that the number of billable units is down which causes the cost to users to go up. Commercial users are conserving water and installing meters on irrigation systems. Mr. Tyler explained that the WPCA is in the process of rewriting the ordinance requiring properties with the sewer in front of them to connect within a certain amount of time. Mr. Anderson explained that the current ordinance requires connecting within 90 days; that is not enough time. The new ordinance will require connection within one year. A waiver will be available for new septic systems. Mr. Anderson reported that the FCC's will be reviewed; there has not been an increase in 20 years. Mr. Barton feels the WPCA needs to come up with a plan to raise the FCC's and to extend the sewer service area. Mr. Anderson explained that there are areas within the sewer service area that need sewers. Wells Rd is in need of sewers but it would need a pump station to extend the sewer further.

Mr. Barton asked if the WPCA is looking to recruit new members. Mr. Anderson reported that they can't have alternates; it is not in the ordinance. The ordinance needs to be rewritten. Mr. Barton feels the board needs 7 people's opinions not just 5.

Katherine Kneeland explained that she is an operator at the plant and has lived in town since 1989. She pays a sewer use fee; it isn't bad when you break it down, it's only \$1 a day for sewer service. Until she got this job, she didn't know what went into running the facility. She has been taking pictures of the work the operators are doing and is proposing putting together a presentation for Community Day to show what is involved. She thinks her job is really cool. If people could see what is being done, where the money is going, they would be okay with the charge. She is volunteering her time to do this presentation. Mr. Enderle supports Ms. Kneeland and her endeavor.

Motion: To close the public hearing on proposed revision to sewer user charges.
Tyler/Riggott
Passed unanimously

II. Public Information

Mr. Enderle provided a hand out of the budget highlights.

III. Action on Revision to Sewer User Charges

Motion: To adopt the proposed revision to the sewer user charge as published.
Tyler/Riggott
Passed unanimously

Motion: To impose a rate of \$356.00 per sewer user unit based on 4,908 sewer units, for a billable budget of \$1,747,089 for the FY 2014-15.
Tyler/Montstream
Passed unanimously

IV. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 7:43 p.m.
Tyler/Davis

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Michael
Recording Secretary