



## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The City of Ansonia  
253 Main Street  
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401  
(203) 736-5908

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*Elizabeth Lynch*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting

January 3, 2024

Present: Sean Masi, Chairman  
Michael D'Alessio  
Dana Haigh  
Dan King, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman  
Anthony Levinsky, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman  
Gary Parker  
Chicago Rivers, 5th Ward Alderman

Absent: Frank Heusser  
Charles Stowe, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman

Others in Attendance: Richard Bshara, Consultant  
Jason St. Jacques, Supt. WPCA  
Rita St. Jacques, Sewer Admin.

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Masi.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

All present pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**DISCLAIMER:** The minutes of the WPCA provided by the Secretary are not verbatim and are the best effort of the Secretary to capture all of the conversations taking place during the meeting.

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## **Minutes**

Chicago Rivers made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the December 6, 2023 regular meeting. Gary Parker seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

## **Financial Report**

Mr. Bshara gave everyone a copy of the Financial Report.

Mr. Bshara reviewed the report stating the Collections are down a little due to COVID. The Grand Rate Books are attached to the report, the Payroll and Insurance costs are listed and a copy of the revenue and expenses is included. The bank information is included and they are moving some of the funds to the STIFF fund which has a higher interest rate.

Mr. Bshara gave a brief update on the data he is reviewing to recreate the billing. He has tried to recreate the billing by adding \$100 to the bill and the billing is going one way and then the other way. He is looking at the system by creating a minimum billing and leaving the rest or by splitting it – residential and commercial - so he is still working on the billing and will have more information for the Board next month.

Dana Haigh made a motion to accept and close Mr. Bshara's report. Anthony Levinsky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

## **Public Session**

Chairman Masi asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in Public Session. He asked three times.

Bart Flaherty  
28 Pinecrest Ave.  
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Flaherty commended the Board for meeting in person and giving the public an opportunity to participate in the meeting. He asked about the sale of the WPCA plant and if there would be a decision on the sale of the plant. Thank you.

Chairman Masi said he thought the walk through was for appraisals and that they were not making a decision at this time.

Supt. Jason St. Jacques stated WPCA gave permission for an appraisal, not a sale. The RFQ/RFP walk through is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Plant.

There was discussion on the Plant Tour that is to take place tomorrow. Supt. St. Jacques invited all of the Commissioners to attend the tour tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

A discussion continued on the sale of the WPCA plant and what it will entail.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to close the Public Session. Dana Haigh seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Chairman Masi closed the Public Session.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Masi said we have the collection fees for sewer permits for discussion.

Mr. Bshara stated that he is working on the Rates with Supt. St. Jacques.

Supt. St. Jacques stated that he and Mr. Bshara met yesterday and are in the beginning states of getting all the numbers together. He said next month they will have an actual typed sheet showing the new rates, application fees, permit fees, etc. He said Ansonia fees are less than Derby fees even after the increases. He said Ansonia is being fair and they are working on the rates and fees and will present a written proposal.

Alderman Rivers asked when WPCA has to have the fee schedule.

There was discussion on the fees being considered for an increase. The commissioners agree that Ansonia's fees are much lower than other municipalities and that an increase is needed, with 10 to 12 sewer lateral repairs per year – the costs add up. Supt. St. Jacques stated he is working on the fee schedule for consideration by the Board. He will have it ready for next month.

There was discussion on the hiring of additional personnel for the WPCA Plant. Supt. St. Jacques stated they are running the Plant with three (3) people. They need to hire a new person. Supt. St. Jacques said the person should be a Class 1 or Class 2 Certified person. The SOP for the Plant is for eight (8) people. He asked if the Board would like him to develop a job description for next month's meeting. Mr. Bshara stated that the classification is in the Union description. It is noted that there will be one person retiring and there is a need for his replacement also. Supt. St. Jacques stated he will have the job description for next month's meeting.

There was discussion on whether John Tomasella was finished working at the WPCA Plant. Former Supt. Tomasella is still in the process of training Supt. St. Jacques regarding the three reports (MOR, ATMR, DMR) that are required by the State. Supt. St. Jacques stated that he still needs training on the MOR report. He is waiting for Mr. Tomasella to show him the MOR report. He said he could contact Brian Capozzi and ask him to come down and help him.

## **New Business**

None

## **Bills**

Mr. Bshara said he has signed off on the Purchase Orders that will be paid.

## **Sewer Administrator Report**

Ms. St. Jacques is present.

Ms. St. Jacques stated that she doesn't have a formal report this evening. She gave everyone a copy of correspondence between Pierre Dziubina and herself regarding the billing and water usage for his company on Fountain Lake. She said that Mr. Dziubina is adamant on the percentage he should be paying for sewer usage. She said he calculated the amounts and it is at 57%. Mr. Dziubina has included all of the meters with their calculations and usage in the packet given to the members this evening. She said that Supt. Jason St. Jacques had estimates of a 50% reduction. Ms. St. Jacques stated that Mr. Dziubina is not pleased with the 50%. She said she has no problem with Mr. Dziubina as he has always been honest and courteous. Former Supt. Tomasella and Jason St. Jacques checked the totals and approximately half of the water is not being treated by the WPCA plant but there are additional costs for WPCA to verify the meter readings, etc.

Ms. St. Jacques is suggesting that the WPCA invite Mr. Dziubina come to a WPCA meeting and give his proposal to the Board members. She said WPCA has given him a courtesy for the landscaping people's work. She said she doesn't know what to say to him with regard to the percentage. She said WPCA can ask him to come here and the Board members can hear his proposal and decide what they want to do. She said Mr. Dziubina is adamant about this and he is correct but we do not have to give him anything. WPCA gave him the landscaping reduction and he is very precise. She said she doesn't know what to say to him.

Alderman Rivers asked Supt. Jason St. Jacques what his opinion is on this.

Supt. St. Jacques said Mr. Dziubina is accurate. It is down to – is there an actual formula. All this figuring, etc. takes time out of the Office personnel's day to figure the numbers and he has to go there and check. He said WPCA doesn't have to give them a break. To make it easy just make it 50%. They pay WPCA half, if the bill is \$10,000, then pay \$5,000. It is a good compromise, but if they want 57%, WPCA doesn't have to discount the bill. The discussion continued on discounting the bill. Supt. St. Jacques said that Mr. Dziubina hasn't been under 56% since he has been auditing the usage, however he has always been up front and honest.

Alderman Rivers made a motion to invite Pierre Dziubina to come before the WPCA. Dana Haigh seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

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Rita St. Jacques updated the Board on the Bella Vista account. She said 153 Main St. was partially billed. Their bill did not get loaded into this years system. 165 Main St. encompasses 60+ apartments. She sent letters advising them of his pro-ration and he never responded. A letter was sent in September and there was no response. The owner contacted the Administration because he thinks there is no bill. She asked the Board how they want her to handle this situation.

Dana Haigh made a motion to authorize WPCA Office to aggressively pursue collection measures for 153 Main St. and 165 Main St. Bella Vista. Alderman Rivers seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

There was discussion on an outstanding WPCA bill owed by the former WPCA Superintendent. He stated that once he received his lump sum from the City of Ansonia, he would pay the bill, however the bill has not been paid. The WPCA Board agreed to actively pursue collection of this outstanding bill.

Anthony Levinsky made a motion to close the Sewer Administrator Report. Alderman Rivers seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. James Galligan is not in attendance this evening.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Jason St. Jacques was present. He gave everyone a copy of his report.

Supt. St. Jacques reviewed his report with the Commissioners. He said there were two major rain events. There were 5.6 million gallons the first rain event. There were 28-29 sludge trucks a month and 29 hours of Over-time. He said he checked and Derby's gas turbine is not connected to Ansonia. He said West Brook St. alarm was repaired and the Bart Station required by pass during the storms. He said he needed help during this time and Public Works Supt. gave him a few guys to help out. The work went smoothly until 2:30 p.m. on 12/16/23 and there was discussion between PWD Supt. and himself regarding OT payment. Supt. St. Jacques stated that WPCA has to hire more employees as he was left by himself that evening. There are three sewers needing repair (Partridge Rd., Westfield Ave. (Stelray) and S. Westwood Rd. He asked the Board if they wanted to go out to bid or have the contractor who is doing the paving on those roads do the sewer repair. He will get prices from the contractor already on site.

Supt. St. Jacques said there will be a walk-through at the Plant on January 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. with people who are potential buyers. He is inviting the Board members to the walk through at the Plant. He also advised the Board that he will be taking the DEP exam for the Class 4 in the middle of January 2024.

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Supt. St. Jacques asked the Board if they want him to contact Jim Galligan, Engineer to get a bid package prepared for the repair work to be done on S. Westwood Rd., Stelray, and Partridge Rd.

There was discussion on the repair work to the roads and the work that must be done in the sewer line and the solicitation of bids. Supt. St. Jacques stated he will meet with Mr. Galligan and discuss the work and cost and the possibility of a bid. The Board members agreed to have Supt. St. Jacques discuss this project with Mr. Galligan regarding going out to bid.

There was discussion on WPCA using other contractors for the job. It is noted that this is not an emergency project.

Gary Parker made a motion to accept Mr. St. Jacques report. Dana Haigh seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

**Any other business to come before the Commission**

None

**Adjourn**

Dana Haigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Anthony Levinsky seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary