

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

Minutes of Meeting of May 25, 2022

Members Present: Paul Anderson, Jim Richards and Steve Smith

Others Present: WPCA Superintendent E. Arthur Enderle III, Chief Operator Edward Alibozek, WPCA Attorney Michael Lanza, Deputy First Selectman Marie DeSousa and Recording Secretary Laura Michael

The on-site meeting was restricted to vaccinated commissioners and staff. The public may participate via the remote video conferencing platform Zoom.

Time and Place

Paul Anderson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the WPCA Admin Building, 192 South Water St, East Windsor, CT

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Added Agenda Items

No items were added to the agenda.

III. Acceptance of Minutes of April 27, 2022

Motion: To accept the minutes of April 27, 2022, as submitted.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

IV. Communications

Mr. Anderson provided a draft of the EW WPCA Mission Statement. Mr. Anderson had several items of communication. The 1st was the East Windsor WPCA – WPCF submission to the Five Village Voice for the Summer of 2022. Mr. Anderson stated this was better than outstanding. Mr. Enderle gave credit to Mr. Alibozek for the fine work. Mr. Richards felt this was a team effort. The 2nd item was an article published in the JI on 4/9/22 regarding the Town of Manchester's possible take over the 8th District's sewer service. The system is failing due to lack of staff and management. On 4/20/22 the Town of South Windsor published a legal notice of Proposed Revisions to Apartment Development Sewer Rates. Also, on 4/20/22, the Town of South Windsor published a legal notice regarding the proposed budget and sewer use schedule for FY 2022/2023. On 5/13/22, the Town of Suffield WPCA published sewer use fee for residential, and equivalent units, Kent Farms Community Sewerage System, \$370 and the rate per 1,000 gallons in excess of 46,000, \$8.89. Their rate for 50,000 gallons of use is \$405.56 which is comparable to our rate. The Town of Ellington held a Town meeting on 5/25/22 to discuss and vote on spending \$2,500,000 for a Vernon pump station. Mr. Anderson pointed out that in the meeting packet was a letter from Attorney Lanza reporting the collection of fees for a delinquent account.

V. Visitors

There were no scheduled visitors.

VI. Public Participation

Mr. Anderson asked if anyone was present on Zoom; no one was present. Mr. Richards asked if someone would look into putting the meetings on YouTube.

VII. Receipt of Applications

There were no new applications.

VIII. Approval of Applications

There were no applications to be approved.

IX. Legal

Not discussed at this time.

Motion: To suspend the regular meeting.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

X. Public Hearing

Motion: To open the public hearing for revision to Sewer Use Charges.
Smith/Richards
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 13, 2022.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

Mr. Anderson read the legal notice that was published in the *Journal Inquirer* on May 13, 2022, without the individual revisions. Mr. Anderson asked if anyone from the public was present on Zoom; no one was present.

Motion: To close the public hearing for revision to Sewer Use Charges.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

Motion: To resume the regular meeting.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

XI. Action on Revision to Sewer Use Charges

Motion: To impose the Revision to Sewer Use Charges in accordance with the legal notice as published.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

Motion: To impose a rate of \$416 per sewer user unit, based on 4,950 units, for a billable budget of \$2,001,163 for the FY2022-23.
Smith/Richards
Discussion: Mr. Richards asked what the rate was for last year. Mr. Enderle replied \$404. Mr. Richards asked about the reason for the increase. Mr. Enderle replied that they had held the rate steady for two years. Prices are skyrocketing due to the economy. Mr. Richards asked if we didn't have inflation, would the increase be smaller. Mr. Enderle reported that they were subsidizing the rate with \$50,000 which equates to a \$10 savings to the rate payer. Mr. Richards hopes that next year they can take steps to stabilize the rate to alleviate stress on the rate payer. Mr. Richards asked if any complaints were received regarding the legal notice; the reply was no.
Passed unanimously

XII. Unfinished Business

IT Status

This was not discussed.

Paving Contracts

There wasn't anything to report.

Benefit Assessment Policy

This was not discussed.

XIII. New Business

Bill Sheet Review

Mr. Anderson reported we are 92% through the year and 71% of the money has been spent.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Enderle explained that in lieu of a Superintendent's Report, he has a State of the Plant report. He is looking ahead to Capitol Projects. CIP projects, \$200,000 each year, are funded through the FCC fund and don't have an impact on the sewer use rate. Most plants at 20 years are looking at doing a facilities plan and upgrade. It has been 27 years since our last upgrade. Facilities plans and upgrades cost tens of millions of dollars. The debt service on \$25,000,000 is \$1,500,000 per year. Plants in the area are doing \$50 to \$70 million upgrades. If East Windsor did that, the sewer use rate would go from \$404 to \$740 because of the debt service. The WPCF is taking on many projects, rebuilding the Perri Ln pump station, replacing pumps at the Mill St & Scantic Pump Stations, rebuilding the septage facility and switching oxidation ditches. By not using a consulting engineer, we are saving more than half the cost of the projects. The WPCF staff appreciates the support of the WPCA. The staff has many valuable skills, such as welding, fabricating, mechanical, IT, GIS, customer service and financial. Mr. Enderle explained the sewer use rate was held at \$404 for two years and the increase to \$416 is justified and fair. Capitol projects and infrastructure can be funded through the FCC. The WPCA has no debt service. Mr. Richards stated that community development is up which benefits the WPCA. Mr. Enderle explained that the available capacity at the plant gives the Town the ability to expand and develop. Mr. Enderle reported that they are switching oxidation ditches because they are being told that the rumors of development are about to come to fruition. Mr. Richards told Mr. Enderle he provided a good report. Mr. Anderson thanked Mr. Enderle.

**Attorney Lanza arrived at 7:30 p.m.*

Transfers

There were no transfers.

XIV. Sewer Line Insurance

Mr. Richards explained that he ran into someone who owns a business and was unaware that the sewer from the building to the street was their responsibility. Mr. Richards asked if we could provide information to sewer users about sewer line insurance. We would not want to promote one company but perhaps could give two or three options. Mr. Enderle reported that CT Water has a line backer program for their customers. He doesn't know if you can buy into the program if you are not a customer of CT Water. Mr. Enderle will call CT Water to ask if you need to be a customer to enroll in the line backer program. Attorney Lanza reported that he looked online and there is home warranty insurance that would cover sewer line repairs. It was felt information could be provided but not a recommendation. The homeowner would need to research.

XV. Executive Session

CPI and Union Contract Pay Level

Motion: To enter into Executive Session to discuss CPI and Union Contract Pay Level, including WPCA, Superintendent and WPCA Attorney.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

Out of Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

Motion: The WPCA does not wish to open the existing union contract to adjust section 10.2 based on the request presented.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

Motion: To process a bonus to each employee in the amount of \$2,000 to compensate for inflation and to show appreciation of their value to the WPCF.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

XVI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.
Smith/Richards
Passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Michael
Recording Secretary