

WPCA Meeting
May 4, 2023, 2023 7:00 PM
Old Lyme Library
2 Library Lane, Old Lyme, CT
APPROVED MINUTES

Type of meeting: Public Hearing -Regular

Secretary: Joan Lanzo

Attendees: Will Szeszakow, Bud Phelps, Angelo Chysoulakis, Dick Hrinak

Remote: Helen Francis, Norb Church, Bill Griffin,

Absent: Andrew Stifel

Will Szeszakow called the public hearing meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He asked for public discussion regarding the proposed annual Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Use Charge to \$575.00/household for sewer users and \$115/household for non-sewer users. There was no discussion from the public.

Will called the WPCA regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Approve Agenda:

Dick made a motion to approve the agenda and Bud seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

Bill asked for clarification in the April 13, 2023 minutes for the Rte 156 report and said the State has asked the WPCA to find the approximate original cost of material in order to make a calculation cost on the depreciation portion of the sewer line that will be replaced.

Will also asked to include the 9% cost increase to the Town of East Lyme that had been omitted from the April 13, 2023 minutes.

Bud made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and Dick seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Helen stated the April budget numbers remained relatively the same as the March numbers. She also said that Unplanned Expense stayed the same and expects the budget to be \$15,000 better than anticipated. Helen said the April lien invoices have been received and will be processed and that at this time 5 residents remain past due from the October lien invoices. She also said that she has been actively working with these residents for payments.

Angelo made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Dick seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

WPCA Vote to set the rate for the 2023-24 Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Use Charge

Bud made a motion to set the rate for the 2023-24 Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Use Charge to \$575.00/household for sewer users and \$155.00/household for non-sewer users. Dick seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Bioxide Report:

Will reported on behalf of Andrew and said April usage was 364 gallons; the third highest month since tracking began. He said this was due to the removal of Evoqua equipment and manual dosing being done instead and said the average daily bioxide dosing was 12.14 gallons. Will also reported that there is \$2,884.00 left in the budget for bioxide costs.

Pump Report:

Angelo reported that the average flow of the central pump station is 200-250 gallons per minute. (Our new Bioxide pumps and Control panel for the dosing are operational.)

Storage Records:

Dick reported his search for financial info regarding pipe construction costs was unsuccessful. Will stated he is checking with the original contractor for information and Helen said she is checking with the auditors for past financial records with details.

Chairman's Report:

Will stated he has checked with other local town officials for their water usage fees. He said the fees ranged from \$535.00 to \$800.00/yr/household, considerably higher than that of the POW WPCA.

Will stated the CT DEEP sent a survey requesting information on related costs of the WPCA pumping station and electricity costs. He said he has completed the form and submitted it back to the DEEP.

Correspondence:

Will said he received an email from Mr. Robert Sirkin that stated the following:

"I find your board's vote to increase our WPCA taxes by a staggering \$140.00 to be reprehensible! Why isn't this action to be openly discussed and voted on by the entire POW population at the upcoming annual meeting. Where is the transparency?"

Will stated he had answered the email and said that the sewer rate increase is to maintain the service level to the residents of POW.

Will also said that Mr. Sirkin emailed Norb Church regarding this matter and Norb responded by stating that per the POW charter and WPCA by-laws, the decision on setting the sewer user charge is made by the WPCA after a public hearing meeting and that discussion happens at that meeting rather than the annual POW meeting.

Will reported he received a letter from Jim Barton, 23 Champion Rd, who stated that his electric bill increased in January due to the high water table flooding his property by leaving the control panel on during the winter as recommended by the WPCA. After discussion, Will recommended shutting the pump during the winter and restarting in the spring.

Adjournment:

Bud made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dick seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.