

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
**Town of Trumbull**  
CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL  
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

**MINUTES**  
**Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting**  
**December 10, 2014**

The Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Long Hill Room, Town Hall, 5866 Main Street, Trumbull, Connecticut.

Members Present:

Fred Palmieri, Vice Chairman  
John Gray  
Laura Pulie  
Timothy Hampford (arrived 7:05; left 8:20)  
Paul Whetstone, Alternate

Also Present:

Frank M. Smeriglio, PE, Town Engineer  
Dennis Kokenos, Esq. Town Attorney (left 9:01)  
Christine Kurtz, Wright-Pierce  
Michael D. Giggey, Wright-Pierce

Members Absent:

Jeffrey Wright, Chairman

Vice Chairman Palmieri, filling in for Chairman Jeff Wright, called the December 10, 2014 meeting of the Trumbull WPCA to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Minutes to previous meetings.**

Vice Chairman Palmieri asked if anyone had any comments, suggestions, corrections or noted any errors regarding the November 12, 2014 Minutes. There being no questions, comments or modifications he asked for a motion to accept the Minutes as presented.

MOTION made Pulie seconded Whetstone to accept the November 12, 2014 Minutes as presented. No discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**2. Contract 4.**

Progress report. Frank Smeriglio said since the last meeting:

It is still the same situation. We have issues with the contract with the ejector pumps and in executive session we will talk more about it. There is one easement left to repair and he again tried to reach out to the owner and he still has not gotten any information back. He is hoping to set up that easement in the winter and then have a game plan of what the scope is going to be for that easement so as soon as the weather breaks we can get it restored.

**3. Wright-Pierce Update.**

Phase 3, Phase 4 & I/I Study. Christine Kurtz said the draft of the Phase 4 study was left with Frank earlier today and a copy is being sent to DEEP for their review. At that point they will have all four SSES documents in their possession and then we will move forward from there with design of the rehab. Frank asked what she thinks the timing is with them reviewing the I&I leaks to see if we should move forward with pursuing the grants. Christine said regarding the 20/80 grant for the I&I we just need to push that for when we're ready to put that on the street we will get the necessary approvals from the State and help them make it a priority to get an approval. Frank

explained we have been funding the immediate repairs through our capital project and we have been paying for that. We have appropriated money to do the leaks repairs for Phases 2 and 3 but, after we appropriated dollars for it the grant came out with a program that they would fund 20 grant and 80 in a low interest loan. It's a new reserve in the clean water fund and there are two potential projects that we are pursuing. Brief discussion regarding low interest loans and bonding followed. Frank explained last year together as a group we separated the projects into ones that we wanted to pay for in that year and then separated the other ones that we wanted to pay for over a twenty year period. He reviewed and explained the Bond Balance Summary sheet that he prepared showing the projects that we are bonding over twenty years from 2013 and then all the projects that we are bonding in 2014. The Wright Pierce Phase II-Recommended Repairs item is the estimated value \$252,000 for the I/I repairs for Phase II. It is his recommendation that the \$252,000 cost for the repairs has a life span of twenty years and that is why we are bonding it. In response to comments regarding bonding and determination for what should be bonded Frank said as they review projects they look to see if it has a twenty year life or is it a project like videoing lines. The cost of videoing sanitary lines would go into the operating account because we want to pay for that because it does not have a twenty year life. We are also doing an analysis of the pump stations and because it is just an analysis to see what we want to upgrade we are paying that and not bonding it. But, if we are actually doing an improvement that lasts twenty years to any part of our structure we would bond that. Christine Kurtz pointed out that this is really just the beginning of Trumbull taking care of their existing system. Frank said another thing to note is he always recommends whatever the depreciation is of the assets you should set aside that amount of money or do that amount of repairs to the system. Ms. Kurtz said the Phase 2, 3 and 4 reports identify the immediate repairs to be taken care of right away and they have already started working on them.

#### **5. New Business.**

##### Owens, Schine & Nicola Monthly Invoices:

The commissioners reviewed the invoices.

Invoice 13869: Bridgeport Regionalization Sewer Agreement - \$3,220.00. There being no comments or questions the Vice Chairman asked for a motion to accept the invoice as presented and to make payment for it.

MOTION made Palmieri seconded Hampford to approve and pay Owens, Schine & Nicola invoice 13869 in the amount of \$3,220.00. No Discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Invoice 13870: Mihaley Assessment Appeal - \$900.00. There being no comments or questions the Vice Chairman asked for a motion to accept the invoice as presented.

MOTION made Pulie seconded Gray approve and pay Owens, Schine & Nicola invoice 13870 in the amount of \$900.00. No discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Invoice 13871: Von Stein – Town of Trumbull WPCA - \$60.00. There being no comments or questions the Vice Chairman asked for a motion to accept the invoice as presented.

MOTION made Gray seconded Pulie to approve and pay Owens, Schine & Nicola invoice 13871 in the amount of \$60.00. No Discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Invoice 13872: Mark IV – Contract 4 Litigation - \$2,160.00. There being no comments or questions the Vice Chairman asked for a motion to accept the invoice as presented.

MOTION made Hampford seconded Pulie to approve and pay Owens, Schine & Nicola invoice 13872 in the amount of \$2,160.00. No Discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

##### Ury and Moskow Monthly Invoice:

Invoice 63321: Contract Dispute – Town of Trumbull v. Mark IV Construction, et al - \$3,175.00. The commissioners reviewed the invoice for Contract 3. The Vice Chairman asked for a motion to accept the invoice as presented.

MOTION made Gray seconded Pulie to approve and pay Ury and Moskow invoice 63321 in the amount of \$3,175.00. No discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

##### Election of Officers.

Vice Chairman Palmieri nominated Jeffrey Wright for another term as Chairman. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken.

MOTION made Palmieri seconded Pulie to nominate Jeffrey Wright as Chairman. No Discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Pulie nominated Fred Palmieri to continue as Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken.

MOTION made Pulie seconded Hampford to nominate Fred Palmieri as Vice Chairman. No Discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Pulie nominated Tim Hampford as Secretary. There being no other nominations, a vote was taken. MOTION made Pulie seconded Gray to nominate Timothy Hampford as Secretary. No Discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2015 Capital Plan approval: Vice Chairman Palmieri asked Frank Smeriglio to give a brief synopsis of the information he provided regarding the 2015 capital plan.

Frank Smeriglio: What the town is doing is we are starting our capital plan approval process earlier this year. In the past we always went through the approval process during the same time as the operating budget and what happens is money is not available until July 1<sup>st</sup> which means we are already half way into the summer before any work can start and we've lost a good part of the season. So the town put together a five year plan for all of their projects and a special meeting is scheduled with the town council on December 11<sup>th</sup> for their approval of the five year plan. This is the first step and is just the approval of the capital projects.

Frank went over the information he provided in the packet and highlighted the 2015 capital proposed plan:

- Town wide repairs - \$500,000:

Requesting an allowance to have money available so as we are videoing our sanitary lines for the roads we are repaving we can make the necessary repairs. This is just to do the repairs because the videoing has already been funded. Frank noted all we are approving is this year's work. The proposed plan is just concept and it recognizes that there is going to be about this amount of work every year and this way we can see it and try to spread it out. Frank also went over the bond balance summary sheet and noted those numbers don't represent one hundred percent completion of the work it's just the balance of where we are right now.

- I/I Phase 4 Study – Leak Repairs - \$350,000:

These are the leaks from the Phase 4 study that Wright-Pierce did. He got an advanced copy of what the list of repairs were and put together an accurate amount of what the I/I repairs are for Phase 4.

- Contract V – Opinion of Probable Cost/Assessment Determination - \$70,000

Contract V – Borings - \$200,000

These two items are really one project that has to do with Contract V. For a good part of this year we have gotten calls from residents and complaints from residents with septic failure. The health department has discussed their concerns about this area with high water table, with ledge, with residents who are not able to design a code complying area for any additions that they want to do or a code complying area or a reserve area for any septic failures. He put together a map that shows which roads would be part of the Contract V project. There are 426 houses and he thinks that is too many houses for one project. He is looking to do borings on the whole project, but he wants to try to separate this project into either two, three or four phases. We have to look at how it can be broken up, what the costs would be with breaking it into the different phases and how much each of the phases would cost just so we can get a better number of what the potential assessments can be. In response to the Vice Chairman's inquiry regarding a probable timetable for commencement Frank said at least two and a half years before we put a shovel to the ground. This year we should see what the feasibility is of breaking it up into three phases, see what the feasibility is for the costs, see what the potential assessments could be, do the boring so we can see where the ledge is and see how the ground conditions are. He recommends potentially having a meeting with the neighbors at some point this year to let them know what we found, what we think and just get input from

the residents and from the health department. If the problems are evenly distributed or are there some areas are worse was asked and Frank said what happens is and how the issues come up are:

- there are 426 houses
- 22 houses are less than a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre in size - on septic systems
- 165 houses are between a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre – properties if they had to do a reserve area for a second system they may not be able to come up with or design a reserve system that meets today's codes;
- 78 houses are between a  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre and  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre – are borderline with septic
- 65 houses are between  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre and 1 acre
- 96 houses are greater than 1 acre

So when we are looking at breaking it up into phases you want to try to have the first or second phase be part of where the smaller lots are. You have to look at the lay of the land and you have to look to see how it can be broken out. Contract 4 was 860 and Contract 3 was 700. Frank said he worked in Stamford for ten years and did all the sewer projects in Stamford and the biggest size sewer project they did was a project that was 80 houses. Commissioner Hampford said our biggest before those was previously around 300, we had more manpower in house and the projects were smaller. The Vice Chairman asked if it is his suggestion that the number of houses makes it unworkable and we're asking for errors or problems down the line. Frank said you want to minimize that and what you want to do is start and finish and be done. What you don't want is start, start, start and you don't finish anything. Additional discussion included lot sizes in prior projects, lot sizes, smaller phases, additional pump station, reviewing the proposed depths and evaluating them, past projects, borings, and the advantages of doing and using borings.

The Vice Chairman asked if there were any other questions regarding this or any other part of the capital plan, hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the proposed capital plan as presented.

MOTION made Pulie seconded Hampford to accept the proposed capital plan as presented. No discussion.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **6. Executive Session.**

MOTION made Pulie seconded Hampford to close the regular meeting and move into executive session to discuss preliminary drafts and/or notes as set forth by C.G.S. 1-210(b)(1) and/or discuss with the Town Attorney strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation as defined by 1-200(6) and/or to discuss attorney client-privileged information as set forth by 1-210 relating to the following:

- Mark IV – Contract 3 and Contract 4
- Regionalization and/or re-negotiation of Bridgeport Sewer Treatment Contract
- 25 Dogwood Lane
- Ejector pump status

No discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Remaining in the executive session will be Fred Palmieri, Laura Pulie, Paul Whetstone, John Gray, Tim Hampford, Frank Smeriglio, Attorney Dennis Kokenos, Mike Giggey and Christine Kurtz.

At 7:34 p.m. the tape recorder was turned off, the clerk left the room and the Commission went into executive session.

At 9:03 p.m. the clerk was called back into the room and the recorder was turned on.

Commissioner Hampford left executive session at 8:20 p.m. and Attorney Kokenos left the meeting at the end of the executive session.

MOTION made Pulie seconded Gray to come out of executive session at 9:04 p.m. No discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice Chairman Palmieri stated for the record that no vote was taken and reopened the regular meeting at 9:04 p.m.

**7. Any other business that may come before the Authority.**

Frank Smeriglio said he received a phone call last week from a resident who complained about the way the WPCA does our sewer usage billing. They are complaining about how we take the water consumption all four quarters including the summer months and bill based on that. His argument was that he used water for his pool and that usage is in the sewer usage bill. Frank explained to him the history of the change and why it changed and how we used to just do the winter months and project that for the summer months, but what happened is we were always at a loss and our contract with Bridgeport was to pay for the actual consumption for each of the four quarters. Frank invited him to come speak tonight and he did not come. Frank did tell him he would talk about their phone conversation to the commission. Commissioner Pulie asked if he understands why we did it and the fact that we have to pay the difference. Frank said he understands why we did it and in his opinion that is our issue with Bridgeport and we shouldn't have had that in our contract because there is the percentage of water used in the summer that does not go into the sewers.

There being no other business before the Authority,  
MOTION made Pulie seconded Gray to adjourn the meeting of December 10, 2014 at 9:07 p.m. No discussion.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by,

*Joyce Augustinsky*  
Clerk of the Commission