

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

MINUTES
JULY 27, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Wright called the regular meeting of the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority to order at 7:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Wright, Chairman
Laura Pulie
Paul Whetstone, Alternate
Richard Boggs, Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Gray
Timothy Hampford
Fred Palmieri, Vice Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Frank M. Smeriglio, PE, Town Engineer, Eagle Scout Marshall Morris

The Chair read the following public hearing notice into the record.

PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN OF TRUMBULL
JULY 27, 2016
PROPOSED SEWER USER RATES

Pursuant to section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing, Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Trumbull Town Hall, 5866 Main Street, Trumbull, Connecticut.

Sewage Treatment fees:

Residential Sewage Treatment per CCF, currently \$5.95	Proposed \$5.95
Industrial/Commercial Sewage Treatment per CCF, currently \$6.51	Proposed \$6.51
Flat Rate Treatment per quarter, currently \$176.00	Proposed \$176.00

Unit Charges:

Residential Maintenance Fee per unit, per quarter, currently \$33.00	Proposed \$33.00
Industrial/Commercial Maintenance Fee per unit, per quarter, currently \$34.00	Proposed \$34.00

The proposed rates and potential modifications thereof will be discussed by the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority Commission upon completion of the public hearing.

The final rates will be reflected on the next quarterly billing cycle mailed in August, 2016 covering the billing period through September, 2016.

Dated this 15th day of July 2016
Jeffrey Wright, Chairman
Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority

SEWER USER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Chair opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

There was no one present to speak.

Wright moved, seconded by Pulie to close the public hearing.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The Chair CLOSED the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

1. Minutes to previous meeting(s): Moved by Whetstone, seconded by Boggs to approve the June 22, 2016 regular meeting minutes as submitted. VOTE: Motion Carried 3-0-1 (ABSTENTION: Pulie)

2. New Business:

- Ury & Moskow Monthly Invoices- None

- 577 Hawley Lane, Stratford – Proposed Sewer Connection

Mr. James Fritzpatrick of 170 Morning Dew Lane in Stratford, CT was present to request WPCA approval to connect to the Trumbull sanitary sewer system via an existing connection granted by this commission in 2011. All work would be done on private property not touching the roadway. Maps of the area and proposed connection were provided with the agenda. They are proposing to build a small restaurant approximately 2,400 s.f. in size. They will take the drainage to a 2,500 gallon grease trap with a grinder pump and pump through a 1 1/2” force main to another manhole and then gravity feed to a saddle connection on the existing line that is connected to the Trumbull sewer system. Fees will be paid to the city of Stratford and to the town of Trumbull. If approved they will then go to Bridgeport for their approval as well. This is easier and less expensive for them. The alternative is to take a 450’ run down Hawley Lane around the bend and over wetlands with piping to a force main all during regular traffic and having to patch the road. This would not be the right thing to do, which is why he is here to request approval to connect to the Trumbull sewer system.

Mr. Smeriglio further explained they had come to the commission in 2011 and also went to Bridgeport for their approval because this is a Stratford property tying into the Trumbull system. The pipe installation would also be inspected by Stratford. Mr. Fritzpatrick concurred and added that Stratford has already indicated that if Trumbull approves the connection they would also approve but would want to inspect the piping. Mr. Smeriglio stated a sanitary sewer connection permit would also need to be pulled with the Town of Trumbull.

Mr. Smeriglio recommended the commission approve the connection with the following conditions:

- Approvals are received from Bridgeport, and;
- The F.O.G. program, (Fats, Oils & Grease), be monitored by Trumbull and;
- Trumbull will conduct an inspection on the sewer lateral.

Mr. Fritzpatrick explained the property is to left of the entrance to Big Y, it is the property that currently has a house on it directly across from the second entrance to the Marriott. The commission noted this had been approved previously for the office building next to this lot. The connection for the office building does not tie into a manhole as the original plans had shown, it is further down with a saddle. Mr. Smeriglio explained to the commission the force main from the property ties into a manhole on the property but then goes gravity. Mr. Smeriglio confirmed for the Chair the Town will inspect before everything is backfilled, at the time the connection permit is pulled with Trumbull it may be decided that they would want the existing lateral where it connects into the main be converted into a manhole, the details will be worked out. Mr. Fritzpatrick explained there was a reason why they did not go to the manhole but could not recall the exact reason, but believed it was something that was stipulated by Trumbull. Mr. Smeriglio stated those

details would be worked out during the permit process. Ms. Pulie stated the importance of the inspection is due to the fact that Trumbull would not be issuing the certificate of occupancy, Stratford would be. The Chair agreed the inspection by both Trumbull and Stratford will avoid problems down the road.

Moved by Wright, seconded by Pulie to approve the request to connect 577 Hawley Lane, Stratford, CT to the Trumbull sanitary sewer system with the following conditions:

1. Approval of the connection to the sanitary sewer system be approved by the Bridgeport WPCA.
2. The town of Trumbull will monitor the F.O.G. program;
3. A Town of Trumbull sanitary sewer permit be applied for and granted;
4. The City of Stratford approves the connection and a sanitary sewer permit be applied for and granted;

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- 41 Hedgehog Road – Proposed Sewer Connection

Mr. Peter Kaiko of Solli Engineering was present and stated the owner of the property is Paul Sobel, Executor of the Estate of Barbara Joslin. The property has a watercourse and wetlands and has a current application for the Inland Wetlands Commission as well as a subdivision application with P&Z for a new lot on the property. The current dwelling is on septic and well water, the current dwelling will remain on well. The owner would like to connect to the sewer system through a utility easement through the new lot. They have spoken with the other utilities, U.I. will place a new pole on the new lot. The new residence will be on city water while the current house will remain on well. Mr. Smeriglio explained they are seeking approval to connect the new house to the sanitary sewer and the existing house has a lateral which was provided as part of the project when the sewer line was installed. The second lot was not there at that time. We are beyond the assessment period therefore the new house will be charged a \$2,500 connection fee. Mr. Smeriglio recommends approval with the condition that there is a \$2,500 connection fee paid and to work with the Engineering Department to make sure they take out all of the necessary permits to install the line. They will be charged a flat rate since it will be well. Mr. Kaiko stated one of the comments from wetlands was to avoid certain trees, and will make a 45 degree angle with the line.

Moved by Wright, seconded by Pulie to approve the sewer connection at the 41 Hedgehog subdivision subject to a \$2,500 sewer connection fee, and apply for and be granted a Trumbull sanitary sewer permit.

Mr. Smeriglio confirmed for Commissioner Pulie a public hearing is not required.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

- Owens Schine & Nicola Retainer - Re: St. Joseph's Manor

Moved by Pulie, seconded by Whetstone to approve the Owens Schine & Nicola Retainer agreement as submitted.

Mr. Smeriglio stated there is no retainer, there would be a charge of hourly rates. After approval by the WPCA this will go to the Finance department for review. The Chair explained this was due to an issue with the meters that was reading the flow as much higher than the actual flow. Aquarion has admitted the issue. Mr. Smeriglio stated the readings received and charged St. Joseph's Manor accordingly. Trumbull paid Bridgeport based on those readings. ST. Joseph's Manor is seeking reimbursement. Atty. Kokenos has been authorized by the commission to do what he can to mitigate this. The attorneys were to collaborate, but soon after the Town was served a lawsuit and this represents an agreement for OSN to protect the Town on this. They had gone to Bridgeport

and for some reason has been moved back to Trumbull. The Chair stated the commission needs to do what they need to do to protect themselves.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

3. Old Business:

- 48 Skyview Drive –

Mr. Smeriglio reviewed what had taken place at last month's meeting with regard to this. The residents have an outstanding assessment and sewer usage balance and were seeking some relief. Mr. Smeriglio did not believe the commission had the authority to do so. It was put on hold to be able to break out the numbers to what was past due and what was currently due. There is an \$846.38 past due balance on the sewer usage. The new balance is \$2225.77. They have not made any payments to date. The Chair stated the commission had asked for a good faith effort on the part of the residents. Mr. Smeriglio stated he believes the commission does not have the authority to reduce the payments even if they had made a good faith effort. Commissioner Pulie stated if they make a payment it will reduce the interest moving forward. Mr. Smeriglio stated the residents had asked if they could file an extension of time even though they were not the original owners when the sewers were made available. Mr. Smeriglio stated the commission does not have the authority to do so. The Chair stated there is no action to be taken.

- Mark IV Progress

Moved by Pulie, seconded by Boggs to approve Mark IV invoices dated July 27, 2016 in the amount of \$269,625 and the invoice dated July 27, 2016 in the amount of \$50,000 with the condition that revised invoices with invoice numbers and signed by the preparer be submitted.

Mr. Smeriglio stated Mark IV is currently working and have two crews working in the Jog Hill area. To date there has been 26 chimneys completed and 13 point repairs done. Part of the agreement was to make 25% payment once they reach 25% of the chimneys. There is a letter from Tighe & Bond dated July 27, 2016 which indicates they have inspected the invoice and have confirmed that the work invoice represents 25% completion and is in accordance with the agreement. Mr. Mascia of T&B stated the invoice submitted was through July 19th to date they have done more work. They are trying to get Booth Hill, Daniels Farm Road and McGuire done before the end of August. They will be back on Daniels Farm Road in the next week or two to re-saw the temporary patches and putting in the permanent patches. The lump sum is per the agreement. Mr. Mascia stated everything is going as planned, some days they have one crew and other days they have two crews, for each pipe crew there is an inspector. They are pulling out the old chimney and replacing it. There is a plug upstream at the manhole. They are performing the work during the day when the sewer flow is very low. Mr. Smeriglio stated there were two invoices submitted, one which is the subject of this discussion and the other represents mobilization and are requesting payment of the two payments. Commissioner Pulie requested the invoices be numbered and signed by the preparer. Mr. Smeriglio stated there is no retainage per the agreement.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Pulie, seconded by Wright to authorize Frank Smeriglio to sign and approve payment of the Mark IV August 2016 invoice provided 50% is completed.

In the next two weeks Mark IV will have 50 chimneys completed which will represent 50% of the chimneys. The commission does not meet in August.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

Mr. Mascia left the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

4. 2016 Sewer Rate Modification

The Chair explained the public hearing notice included the amount to stay at \$5.95 with the discussion to modify would be vetted at this meeting in a public forum. There are two concepts to be discussed. One is to bill the rate user as Bridgeport bills. The agreement with Bridgeport is to reduce the discount rate to 8% in the first year, 7% in the second, 6% in the third declining to 0 in the year 9 & 10. There is a mind set to charge as we are being billed by Bridgeport. The second is to level the rate at a certain percentage, (3.6%) over a broadcast period of time (10 years). This will give residents and commercial stability knowing what the rate will be. In the beginning there will be a surplus in the retained earnings. At year five this will reverse and will need to use the retained earnings to maintain the 3.5% reduction.

Ms. Pulie suggested the rate match as it is being billed by Bridgeport. If the resident moves out of Town before year 5 they will lose the benefit of an 8% reduction. Mr. Boggs spoke in favor of the stabilized rate and spoke in favor of having a cushion early on in case there is a spike in the rates. Mr. Smeriglio stated he likes the blended rate because he expects instability in the rates moving forward. We do not know what Bridgeport will be charging us in the next couple of years. What has to be considered is what will need to be invested in for our infrastructure. There is a force main that is currently in poor shape and is going to be replacing a 700' section of it. This provides for stability for both the residents and while evaluating the infrastructure. The difference between the 8% reduction and the 3.6% reduction in rates is \$270,000. The Chair stated that reduces in the later years. Commissioner Whetstone stated the commission is only committing to year 1 at this meeting. The Chair stated it is the intent to provide the 3.6% reduction for the duration of the current agreement. Commissioner Whetstone stated each concept has its own merit. Mr. Smeriglio recommended the blended rate with a stable reduction of 3.6%, the \$275,000 will become part of the operating budget. After further discussion the commission identified the average use is 20 ccf's, the difference between the 8% reduction and the 3.6% reduction represents \$5.00 per quarter. This takes the instability out and makes the rate stable. Commissioner Whetstone stated he is almost ambivalent on this since it is such a small impact. Commissioner Boggs stated the commission will look at this annually but it is in the intent to keep it at a certain rate reduction (3.6%). The Chair stated it is important for the residents to keep to a certain rate reduction. Mr. Smeriglio stated there is instability with what the rate will be in the future, there is instability in the infrastructure, and the instability of the rate reduction of the years per the agreement. Whether the commission goes to the 8% in the first year or the blended rate whatever pocket of money is there can be used for the infrastructure which really is unstable. The Chair stated he had spoken with both Commissioner Hampford and Commissioner Palmieri and they had indicated to him that each was in favor of the blended rate. The Chair stated he had spoken with Commissioner Hampford today and Commissioner Palmieri in the morning. The Chair suggested it is time a letter be sent to the sewer users summarizing the legal activity with Bridgeport and where we are going and an explanation of the reduction in the rate suggesting this be done with the next billing in November. In the interest of transparency people need to know why this is being done.

Moved by Pulie, seconded by Boggs to adopt the sewer user blended rates for the 2016-2017 year. The new rates represent a 3.6% reduction. It is the commission's intent that moving forward into the future this discount will be maintained for the duration of the current agreement. The 2016-2017 sewer user rates are as follows:

Residential Sewage Treatment per CCF - \$5.74

Industrial/Commercial Sewage Treatment per CCF - \$6.30

Flat Rate Treatment per quarter - \$171.00

The Residential Maintenance Fee per unit, per quarter, currently \$33.00 and the Industrial/Commercial Maintenance Fee per unit, per quarter currently \$34.00 remain the same.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

The WPCA Commission does not meet in August the next meeting will be held on September 28, 2016.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Whetstone, seconded by Pulie the Trumbull WPCA adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk