

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

TOWN HALL  
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Palmieri called the regular meeting of the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority to order at 7:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeffrey Wright, Chairman (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)  
Fred Palmieri, Vice Chairman  
Laura Pulie  
Richard Boggs, Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Timothy Hampford  
John Gray  
Paul Whetstone, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT:

Frank M. Smeriglio, PE, Town Engineer/Sewer Administrator, Dennis Kokenos, Esq. Town Attorney, Christine Kurtz of Wright Pierce.

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MINUTES TO PREVIOUS MEETING:

Vice-Chairman called for any modification and/or corrections, hearing none he called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

MOTION made by Pulie, seconded by Boggs to accept the October 28, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

UPDATE - WHITNEY AVENUE PUMP STATION/NEW ENGLAND PUMP & VALVE

Mr. Smeriglio explained at last month's meeting he had presented a proposal for the emergency repair at the Whitney Avenue pump station. A bid waiver was necessary and one of the conditions of this commission was to present the invoice to the commission. The invoice was distributed to the commission at this meeting. There had been no deviation from the proposal. The cost of the emergency repair was very close, if not the same cost as if it had been a scheduled repair.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ury & Moskow Monthly Invoices – None
- Owens, Schine & Nicola, P.C. Monthly Invoices:  
MOTION made by Pulie, seconded by Boggs to approve the Owens, Schine & Nicola, P.C. Inv. #14296, dated November 12, 2015 in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Atty. Kokenos confirmed for the Vice-Chair Invoice #14296 represents legal work done with regard to the commission's discussions in executive session for the past several months.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

MOTION made by Pulie, seconded by Boggs to approve the Owens, Schine & Nicola, P.C. Inv. #14297, dated November 12, 2015 in the amount of \$40.00.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE AUTHORITY.

Vice-Chairman Palmieri noted for the record that a letter from a resident, dated November 13, 2015 regarding her sewer usage bill had been distributed to the commission. Mr. Smeriglio explained the sewer usage bills were mailed out on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The resident called the office to voice her concern about her bill. She felt it was excessively high due to her outdoor water usage. (Chairman Wright arrived at the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

Mr. Smeriglio stated he explained to the resident how the Bridgeport WPCA charges the town of Trumbull based on water consumption and that the sewer usage fees collected by the town of Trumbull goes to the city of Bridgeport. Mr. Smeriglio did offer the resident the opportunity to come before the Trumbull WPCA and/or write a letter to the commission, she chose to write the attached letter. The Chair stated he feels the letter sums up the issue at hand very well. The commission discussed and reviewed the letter.

Bridgeport bills Trumbull on consumption. Atty. Kokenos stated there are user guide books provided by DEEP on how to charge a user rate. It is recommended by DEEP that actual water usage is one of the only ways that one can properly bill someone for a WPCA bill. There are other options such as flat fees. The city of Stratford charges a flat fee. per DEEP measurement for sewer usage is simply best done by water usage. Atty. Kokenos explained they are always looking for ways to best advise this commission on how to better charge the users. DEEP has advised water usage is the most accurate way to do so.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- MOTION made by Palmieri, seconded by Pulie to close the regular session and enter 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

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

The WPCA entered into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. with WPCA members Chairman Jeffrey Wright, Vice Chairman Fred Palmieri, Laura Pulie, Richard Boggs, Alternate, Town Engineer/Sewer Administrator Frank Smeriglio, P.E., Dennis Kokenos, Esq. Town Attorney, and Christine Kurtz of Wright Pierce present.

At 7:20 p.m. the tape recorder was turned off, the clerk left the room and the Commission entered into Executive Session.

At 9:02 p.m. the clerk was called back into the room and the recorder was turned on.

MOTION made by Wright, seconded by Palmieri to end Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. and stated for the record that no vote was taken.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

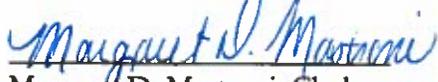
MOTION made by Wright, seconded by Palmieri to reopen the regular meeting at 9:02 p.m.

MOTION made by Palmieri, seconded by Pulie to review the proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule and discuss it at the next meeting (schedule was distributed at this meeting).

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Palmieri, seconded by Pulie the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority adjourned at 9:03 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Margaret D. Mastroni, Clerk

November 13, 2015

Julie Buck  
9 Jamestown Road  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Trumbull WPCA  
Town of Trumbull  
Trumbull, CT 06611

To Trumbull WPCA,

I have been a resident of Trumbull for twenty years. I take pride in keeping my home very presentable which aids the property value of our town. During the summer months, I water my lawn and garden to help them grow and keep my home appealing. Unfortunately, the water used for this purpose is assessed as part of the sewer use tax. My sewer usage cost for 2015 is as follows:

Feb. 2015 \$247.20

May 2015 \$199.60

Aug. 2015 \$271.00

Nov. 2015 \$764.85

The water usage cost for November 2015 increases by 300% which is a direct effect of the water being used for non-sewer use. This billing assessment is truly an unfair and possibly illegal billing practice. I urge the town to advocate on behalf of the Trumbull residents to change the method on which the sewer usage is currently being calculated and to use a fair and equitable common sense assessment.

Respectfully,  
Julie Buck