

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

# Town of Trumbull

CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL  
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

## Water Pollution Control Authority May 27, 2009

### In attendance:

George Biagioni, Chairman  
Jack Goncalves, Vice Chairman  
Donald Aiello, Secretary  
Janine Salvey  
Karen Egri, Alternate

### Also In Attendance:

Joseph Solemene, W.P.C.A. Administrator  
Neil Lieberthal, Town Attorney

Chairman Biagioni called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

### MINUTES TO PREVIOUS MEETING:

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (SALVEY) to table approval of the minutes of April 22 and May 12, 2009 until the June meeting. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

### PROGRESS REPORT:

Mr. Solemene gave the following report:

There are two invoices this month. Invoice #24 in the amount of \$525,386.65 includes \$454,000 for the final curb to curb repaving of the remaining streets of the extension; Marathon Road, Green Acres Lane, Hurd Road, Classic Drive, Ranch Drive. Other cost were for final video inspection and access drive from Marathon Road and Ranch Drive to the cross country greenways. Invoice #2 is for Huntington Road, part of the North Nichols Project, approximately 90% complete. One hundred linear feet of mainline and seven laterals remaining to complete. Hoping to finish Friday, May 29 or Monday, June 1. Question from Commissioner Goncalves: Is retainage in Invoice #24 included in Invoice #2? Mr. Solemene replied no, they are separate. There is approximately \$500,000 retainage in Application #24. After the meeting at the high school and questions regarding the condition of the paving, we will be getting together with Mark IV on the roads before we release any retainage. We can do crack sealing to prevent further damage. Mr. Solemene has not seen a lot of trench failure; most of the complaints have been about cracks and restoration. Commissioner Goncalves asked about the complaints regarding settlement in the roads. Mr. Solemene replied there have been a couple of water main breaks on Oldfield Road which resulted in settlement. One large area was replaced today. Chairman Biagioni asked if there is enough money in retainage. Mr. Solemene replied \$500,000 will go a long way.

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to go out of order of the agenda to New Business. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

Miroslav Gdovin  
215 Thompson St., Stratford  
Permission for force main at Lot #31 Edison Road – Application withdrawn

Tobias Hahn  
46 Barnswallow Drive

Request for consideration of extension – hardship

Mr. Solemene explained the current homeowner has an Extension of Time to Connect to the Sewer. The house is set approximately 200 feet back on a long acre lot. There is a stream that runs along the front and is rather low. The lateral is rather high. Connecting the house to the sewer will be very expensive. The homeowner is asking to allow a transfer of the existing Extension of Time to Connect, following the same conditions when first applying for an Extension.

Heli Hahn, homeowner, gave the following statement:

46 Barnswallow Drive is part of a planned zone with connection to the city sewer system. The subject estate is a lot located in the middle of a cluster of homes all surrounded by public roads. The lot has a long but narrow shape with the house located in the rear end of the estate. Consequently the distance from the house to the public sewer is by far the longest for this house. The driveway leading to the house is approximately 450' long which entails a stone bridge over a creek, and wetlands. A technical and economical issue has occurred with the possible sale of the estate. The current owner has a permit of extension for the usage of the septic system until it is malfunctioning or transference. The future cost to connect to the city sewer is expected to be unusually high due to technical complications. If following the driveway the pipe needs to go under the stone bridge and it is furthermore questionable due to the slope for gravity flow. If required to go further down on the public road due to the gravity flow requirements the pipe needs to go through an extensive area of wetlands and a number of trees need to be cut down in the area. A quoted cost of connection from one of the Trumbull town-approved contractors is expected to be in the range of \$30,000+ if using the driveway. No quotes have been given if going through the wetlands. The request from the Trumbull Sewer Commission, due to technical hardship and related high cost of connection, the current owner of 46 Barnswallow Drive asks the Commission for: 1) Approval to transfer the permit of extension for usage of the current septic system to future owners until malfunction of the current septic system occurs; 2) In case of the malfunction of the current septic system, a new septic system should be an approved option if the technical/economic hardship remains.

The homeowner acknowledged the house is for sale. The prospective buyer, Eric Gomperts, was present and stated that approval would determine if he will buy the house. Commissioner Salvey asked the status of the septic system. The homeowner replied the septic system was inspected one month ago and there are no problems. Commissioner Salvey recommended getting more than one price for connection. There was no one to speak further on the application. The Commission will make a decision this evening. Mr. Solemene advised the applicant to call him in the morning for the decision.

Qualifications for Tax Relief

Mr. Solemene met with the Tax Collector, Brendan McDonough, regarding guidelines for senior sewer assessment relief. Mr. McDonough would like the Authority to come up with guidelines. The following items would need to be clarified: 1) in order to qualify, applicants must be eligible for the senior property tax relief program; 2) assessment relief applies to the principal only, residents would be responsible for the bonded interest; 3) once granted it would remain in force until the ownership of the property is transferred and the balance of the assessment would then have to be paid in full. The Tax Collector recommends that once a resident qualifies, the program remains in place until the ownership of the property is transferred and at that time the balance would be paid in full. Chairman Biagioni asked if there will be a shortfall if the principal is not paid. Chairman Biagioni and Mr. Solemene will meet with the Tax Collector to discuss further.

Old Town Road Pump Station

Mr. Solemene reported he is having trouble at the Old Town Road Pump Station. Paper towels with nylon mesh are getting into the sewer system causing clogs to the point that the pump has to be taken apart on a weekly basis. Mr. Solemene has investigated the schools and businesses in the area trying to find out how these towels are getting

into the sewer system and has been unsuccessful. Old Town Road Pump Station is original. Mr. Solemene got an estimate from Fleet, the company that rebuilt the Reservoir Avenue Pump Station. They will put in pumps that have grinder impellers that will chew up the paper towels.

At its meeting on September 24, 2008, the Commission approved \$47,000 for an inflow and infiltration study. Malcolm Pirnie, the company hired to do the study, has suggested holding off in light of the possible construction of a waste treatment plant, which would solve our I&I problems. Mr. Solemene requested the Commission approve transfer of the \$47,000 for the inflow and infiltration study to rebuild the Old Town Road pump station.

- **Motion (SALVEY) seconded (GONCALVES) to transfer \$47,000 allocated for inflow and infiltration study to the rebuilding of the Old Town Road Pump Station. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Maintenance Fee for Residents Not Connected

Mr. Solemene stated the WPCA had a public hearing and determined that “all Trumbull residents with access to the sewer system must assume a fair portion of the obligation of maintaining the sewers. Eventually all septic systems fail. It is in their best interest that the sewer system will be operating correctly when it comes time to connect their house. In order to insure the effective management of the community sewer system, the WPCA determined that the owner of any building not connected, with access to the sewer system, shall be responsible for paying the fixed maintenance portion of the sewer use charge.” Attorney Lieberthal said this is not allowed under the statute. You can only charge people when they are hooked up. If it is part of the waiver form, however, then it is contractual. Mr. Solemene assured Attorney Lieberthal that such language is included on the waiver form. Item tabled until June meeting.

#### INVOICE APPROVAL:

Mark IV Construction Co., Inc. – Phase IV, Part B, Contract 4 (Huntington Road) – Application #2, in the amount of \$483,762.37.

- **Motion (Egri) seconded (SALVEY) to approve for payment Phase IV, Part B, Contract 4, Invoice #2 (Huntington Road) in the amount of \$483,762.37. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mark IV Construction Co., Inc. – Phase IV, Part B, Contract 3 (Jog Hill) – Application #24 in the amount of \$525,386.65.

- **Motion (GONCALVES) to delay payment of Invoice #24. Motion withdrawn.**
- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to approve for payment Phase IV, Part B, Contract 3, Invoice #24 in the amount of \$71,156.65; the balance of \$454,230.00 for Item No.53 Permanent Paving Repair to be paid after sufficient resolution of paving problems in the Jog Hill Project. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### Bid #5795, North Nichols Project

Mr. Solemene distributed copies of the bid result for Phase IV, Part B, Contract 4 – North Nichols. Mark IV is the low bidder by almost \$3 million. Commissioner Aiello questioned if we have to take the low bidder. Attorney Lieberthal replied no, it must be the lowest responsible bidder. Chairman Biagioni stated you must quantify why you do not accept the lowest bid. Mr. Solemene stated he must go before the Board of Finance and the Town Council for funding and is asking the Commission to award the contract to the lowest bidder. Chairman Biagioni stated we will hold off awarding the contract until resolution of the complaints on the Jog Hill Project. Commissioner Salvey asked how long we can wait until we award the project. Mr. Solemene will ask the Purchasing Agent. Tabled until June meeting.

Bid #5798, Feasibility Study for Waste Treatment Plant

Interview with Wright Pierce scheduled for June 16 at 3:00 p.m. Commission will also interview lowest bidder, Weston Sampson, on the same day. Mr. Solemene will contact Weston Sampson.

Trumbull/Monroe Agreement

Special meeting set for June 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nichols Room.

46 Barnswallow Road – Request for consideration of extension – hardship

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to give permission to transfer Extension of Time to Connect to the Sewer System to new owner. If septic system fails, owner would be required to connect. If house sold, new owner will be required to connect.**

Discussion: Commissioner Salvey, while sympathetic, doesn't understand the hardship. Commissioner Egri stated hardship is cost to connect. Commissioner Salvey – basically new owner will have all the rights that the present owner has until he sells the property or the septic system fails. Are there any risks? Commissioner Egri – do we need to see documentation that the septic system was inspected? Mr. Solemene replied you can grant the extension on the condition that it passes the Trumbull Monroe Health District inspection. Commissioner Goncalves – in the language of the waiver he will sign, he is responsible to pay the maintenance fee. Motion amended as follows: **New owner must apply for Extension of Time to Connect to the Sewer. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no other business before the Authority,

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (SALVEY) to adjourn. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Francese  
Clerk of the Commission