

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

Water Pollution Control Authority
May 28, 2008

In attendance:

George Biagioni, Chairman
Donald Aiello
Jack Goncalves
Janine Salvey
Paul Francese
Fred Radford, Alternate

Also In Attendance:

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

PUBLIC HEARING
SEWER USER RATE INCREASE

Pursuant to section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing, Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Court Room, Trumbull Town Hall. A 4.2% increase in the Sewer User Fee will be proposed.

The increase is necessary to offset the City of Bridgeport's proposed increase in Sewage Treatment costs to town residents. The Trumbull W.P.C.A. is co-dependent with the City's West Side Treatment Plant for wastewater disposal and must pass on the increase it inherited when the Bridgeport W.P.C.A. approved a 4.2% increase in the consumption rate budget for Fiscal 2008-09.

The Town's User Fee is developed in two parts: Maintenance Fee, which will remain unchanged, plus Sewage Treatment Costs. The sewage treatment portion of the User Bill is based on the amount of water consumed at each dwelling, measured in hundreds of Cubic Feet (CCF). The Maintenance Fee is determined by the total fixed costs of providing service. This portion of the fee is calculated as "Units." A single-family dwelling is charged one "Unit" each. The number of "Units" charged an Industrial/Commercial account is determined by the square foot size of each building. Residents using well water will be billed an Annual Flat Rate Charge based on the average household consumption.

The new rates listed below will be reflected on the next billing cycle mailed in August, covering the billing period through September.

- Annual Maintenance Fees Per "Unit" \$ 95.30 (unchanged)
- Residential Consumption Charge per (CCF) \$ 4.12
- Industrial/Commercial Consumption Charge per (CCF) \$ 4.48
- Annual Flat Rate Charge \$475.99

Chairman Biagioni called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m., read the public hearing notice, and asked if there was anyone present to address the Commission.

Tony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road

Mr. D'Aquila stated that last year the Board of Finance requested the W.P.C.A. to increase its fund balance to \$1 million. At that time the maintenance fee was increased by 18.8%. Mr. D'Aquila asked for the current fund balance. Mr. Solemene stated that by the end of the fiscal year the fund balance should be close to the \$1 million goal.

Mr. D'Aquila stated that Connecticut State Statutes require a public hearing be held before revising usage fees. The statutes also require a notice of the time, place and purpose of the public hearing should be published at least 10 days before the public hearing. There were two public notices in the Connecticut Post; on May 16th which unfortunately was flawed with a conflict in the calendar day. The second notice was issued on May 20th, and this public hearing is held only eight days after the corrected notice was published. Mr. D'Aquila asked to have the Town Attorney comment on whether or not this public hearing has been properly noticed according to the statutes. Attorney Lieberthal replied yes, it is obvious there was notice in the newspaper of when this public hearing was going to be, that this is considered a "scribner's error."

Mr. D'Aquila next commented on consumption charges. Last year the consumption charge was increased by 10.5%. This year the increase is 4.2%, which averages over the last two years 7.4%, more than twice the cost of living inflation rate. The City of Bridgeport's sewage treatment cost has in his opinion increased excessively. He urged the Commission to become pro-active and seek another municipality to treat our wastewater. Attorney Lieberthal stated that we get a discounted rate (13%) from Bridgeport based upon the current agreement.

Mr. D'Aquila suggested the Commission go before the Town Council and request a bond issue to build a wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Solemene stated we cannot operate a wastewater treatment plant much more inexpensive than what we are paying Bridgeport to treat our sewage. We pay Bridgeport according to our water consumption.

Mr. D'Aquila stated the Town Charter requires competitive bids for all contracts. Would the contract with the Bridgeport W.P.C.A. fall under that requirement? Attorney Lieberthal responded that we have a 20 year contract with the Bridgeport W.P.C.A. and it wasn't a competitive bid because there was no other place to go.

Edith Pearce, 21 Long Meadow Road

Concerned that it is becoming more difficult for a retired person to live in this town. A former employee of the Town of Trumbull, her pension never will increase. Social security went up 2.3%. If it is costing so much go to Bridgeport, why are we putting in more sewers. Chairman Biagioni answered that people want sewers, there is a public hearing for every new area. She said it is getting too expensive. Chairman Biagioni stated that we understand her position and many of us are in the same situation.

Mr. D'Aquila

Mr. D'Aquila stated that Statute 7-255 states any municipality by ordinance may provide for optional methods of payment of sewer use charges by the Water Pollution Control Authority by elderly taxpayers who are eligible for tax relief. Attorney Lieberthal stated that Trumbull has such an ordinance and it is tied into elderly tax relief. Mr. D'Aquila stated it is the Commission's responsibility to communicate this information. Mr. Solemene added we have a program in place for elderly who cannot afford their sewer assessment. Mr. D'Aquila insisted the statute includes sewer usage and said he would investigate.

There being no one left to speak ,

- **Motion (SALVEY) seconded (GONCALVES) to close the public hearing. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES TO PREVIOUS MEETING:

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to accept the minutes of April 23, 2008, as written. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

PROGRESS REPORT:

Joseph Solemene, Sewer Coordinator, distributed a map to the Commissioners and gave the following report: Ninety-five percent of the area is complete. The only portion left of the original contract is Booth Hill Road. We had Beacon Hill Road, Pilgrim Lane, Highmeadow Road and Oldfield Road this month. We finished the cross country easement line from Oldfield Road to Greenbrier Road. We have been getting a number of compliments on that section. It has been restored and it's like a park. Mark IV lost a dump truck in the cross country easement last month. The driver was rushed to emergency but he only suffered minor bruises. We are finishing the two easements from Grayrock to Olfield. Ninety-five percent of the roads are paved with either temporary or permanent paving. Mr. Solemene shared an email from one of the residents who complimented the job. All in all, things are going smoothly.

Mr. Solemene called Spath Bjorklund about the design of the extension, and was informed that they are hoping to deliver part of it by the middle of June.

Commissioner Goncalves asked if Shelton residents who live on Booth Hill will be allowed to connect to the sewer and can they be assessed? Mr. Solemene replied that yes they can be assessed. Two Shelton residents have requested to be connected to the sewer. They must pay one quarter of the approximate assessment to run the lateral to their property, and then they will pay the balance of the assessment in full at the time of the assessment. They cannot be liened.

We will be releasing nearly the whole project next month, after final testing of the line is completed.

INVOICE APPROVAL:

Mark IV Construction Co., Inc. – Phase IV, Part B, Contract 3 – Application #12: \$1,071,985.96
Quantities verified by Clair Garard, Public Works Inspector.

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (SALVEY) to approve Application #12 in the amount of \$1,071,985.96 for payment, based on quantities verified by Clair Garard, Public Works Inspector.** Discussion followed about the amount of change orders. Mr. Solemene explained this is due to relocating storm drainage and storm drain upgrades. Chairman Biagioni asked Mr. Solemene to break out the cost for storm drainage for next month's meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Request for Sewer Extension on Tungsten Circle

Tabled from April 23rd meeting. Maria Coreano of 8 Tungsten Circle made a written request for a sewer extension on Tungsten Circle. Since last meeting Mr. Solemene visited Tungsten Circle. There are seven houses on the street. It might be possible to get a gravity run to the sewer main on Old Mine Road. Chairman Biagioni directed Mr. Solemene to advise Ms. Coreano to petition her neighbors. If the majority are in favor, this area could be added to the South Nichols project.

NEW BUSINESS:

North Nichols Easements

Mr. Solemene reported that two easements have been finalized and closed; 43 and 49 Dogwood Lane. He met with five other homeowners; 26 Kingsbury Drive, 25 Dogwood Lane, 101 Golden Hill, 21 Sweetbriar Road and

20 Columbine Drive. Four of the five seem very receptive; the homeowners at 26 Kingsbury Drive are very upset at the prospect of losing trees.

Irrigation Systems on Separate Water Meters

Chairman Biagioni noted that in the past the Commission has requested contractors put their irrigation systems at condominium projects on separate water meters, and they agreed. The water company is refusing to do so. Mr. Solemene suggested that we require anyone with an irrigation to put in a separate water meter. The downside is the water company won't read the meter.

PUBLIC HEARING

- **Motion (SALVEY) seconded (AIELLO) to approve the 4.2% sewer use rate increase as proposed. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no other business before the Authority,

- **Motion to adjourn (SALVEY) seconded (GONCALVES). Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Francese
Clerk of the Commission