

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

# Town of Trumbull

CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL  
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

**Minutes**  
**Water Pollution Control Authority**  
**Special Meeting**  
**July 7, 2010**

In attendance:

Ennio De Vita  
Jack Goncalves  
Paul A. Kallmeyer, Vice Chairman  
Jeanine Maietta Lynch, Chairman  
Laura Pulie  
Karen Egri, Alternate  
Tim Hampford, Alternate

Also In Attendance:

Joseph Solemene, Assistant WPCA. Administrator  
Stephen M. Savarese, PE/LS, Town Engineer/WPCA  
Administrator  
Dennis Kokenos, Esq., Town Attorney  
Timothy M. Herbst, First Selectman  
Maria Pires, Finance Director  
Daniel Nelson, Chief of Staff

Chairman Lynch called the special meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Review of Public Hearing Comments

The Commission reviewed a list of comments from the July 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing prepared by the Clerk. A number of questions were addressed directly at the Public Hearing while several were emailing the First Selectman's office with direct questions. The Commission questioned the change in linear feet from last year. Mr. Solemene stated the reduction in linear footage is due to the removal of Wildfire Lane, which will become part of a future project. Mr. Solemene assured the Commission that the total linear feet is correct. The Commission discussed 27 Marigold Lane, the homeowner who claimed the Contractor did not place the pipe deep enough in the street causing a pumping system to be required at extra cost. Chairman Lynch recalled the First Selectman asked the homeowner to email him directly to discuss the problem.

The Commission reviewed a breakdown of costs for Jog Hill Contract 3, proposed reductions to the assessments, and unaudited statement of accounts for the 20 and 59 accounts presented by Maria Pires, Finance Director.

Discussion – Reduction in Assessments

Chairman Lynch stated the second page of the handout was a breakdown of the items which, depending on the Commission's vote, could be taken out of the current assessments, based upon extraordinary change orders and work that was done on this project. The Commission discussed which account would be used to reduce the assessments. Ms. Pires explained the 59 account includes sewer assessments, fixed assets (infrastructure), debt, and the \$500 unit charge; the 20 account is operations. The unaudited balance in the 59 account is \$2,642,129; the unaudited balance in the 20 account is \$1,917,310 as of June 30, 2009. The Commission discussed the new policy of collecting the \$500 unit charge separate from the assessment. The Tax Collector is currently unable to separate the payments but it should be implemented for the next contract. Attorney Kokenos gave the opinion that either account may be used to reduce the assessments. Mr. Herbst stated that since the Charter Revision Commission is assembled, it needs to be specified in the Charter what authority the WPCA has in spending money on its own and what authority requires Board of Finance or Town Council approval. All Commission members agreed that the 59 account would be used, not the 20 account. After extensive discussion of finances, the Commission went over the costs relating to the construction of the cross country easement. There being no further discussion;

- **Motion made (LYNCH) seconded (PULIE) to reduce the total cost of the Jog Hill Project that is currently in the amount of \$21,986,119.69 by the total amount of \$2,080,340 to be paid out of the WPCA 59 fund. Discussion followed.**

Commissioner Kallmeyer asked to confirm that the costs on the spreadsheet all relate to the cross country easement only. Commissioner Pulie concurred as did Mr. Savarese. Commissioner Kallmeyer stated he believes the number is too high and we ought to reconsider it.

- **Motion made (KALLMEYER) seconded (GONCALVES) to amend the motion to reduce the \$2,080,340 by \$400,000, the value of an extraordinary expense in some projects. Discussion followed.** Discussion of the cost of pump stations in other projects. Commissioner Kallmeyer stated he is not opposing the concept, he is opposing the dollar value because he was under the impression that the 59 account was about \$4.5 million, and there were extraordinary expenses in other projects. **Two in favor (KALLMEYER, GONCALVES), three opposed (LYNCH, PULIE, DEVITA). Amendment denied.**

**Three in favor (LYNCH, PULIE, DEVITA) two opposed (KALLMEYER, GONCALVES). Motion carried.**

- **Motion made (LYNCH) seconded (KALLMEYER) move the term of the amortization schedule from the standard 18 year term to a 20 year term. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion of the interest rate. For the record, Chairman Lynch stated the Commission is in agreement that given the advice of Bond Counsel at the July 1, 2010 Public Hearing, the interest rate is a blended rate equal to 3.804% based upon two bonds; one bond of \$17,374,000 at a rate of 3.91% and a second bond of \$4,150,000 at 3.36%.

- **Motion made (LYNCH) seconded (KALLMEYER) that the July 1, 2010 installment will be due and payable without penalty on November 1, 2010. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion of separating the \$500 unit charge from the assessments.

- **Motion (LYNCH) seconded (PULIE) to rescind a prior motion approved by the WPCA to segregate and separate out the \$500 unit charge initially included in the assessment but to be billed separately to be paid by the homeowner over a two year period rather than including it in the assessment over an 18 year amortization schedule. This change is for the Jog Hill Project only. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion (PULIE) seconded (LYNCH) to assess the homes in the Jog Hill Contract 3, also known as Phase IV, Part B – Contract 3, and to recalculate the assessments by the reduced amount of \$2,080,340 from the total cost of the project of \$21,986,119.69, for a new total of \$19,905,779.69. Discussion followed.** Commissioners Kallmeyer and Goncalves stated they are opposed because this is an excessive amount of reduction. **Three in favor (LYNCH, PULIE, DEVITA), two opposed (KALLMEYER, GONCALVES). Motion carried.**

#### User Rate Increase

Hand-out from Joe Solemene. Mr. Solemene received notification from Peter Harris of the Bridgeport WPCA that the new rate effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 will be \$4.272 per CCF. Mr. Solemene stated we have no alternative but to follow suit with our rate. The Commission also discussed raising the maintenance charge from \$23.83 to \$24 per quarter. Mr. Solemene stated the maintenance charge has not been increased the last three or four years, and asked the Commission to consider an increase. Commissioner Kallmeyer stated the maintenance charged is based on all the units divided by the operating budget less the cost to Bridgeport, calculated based on our actual cost. Is the \$24 the actual cost? Mr. Solemene replied no, the rate hasn't changed because things have been staying status quo. He thought it was something to consider since we've just taken a large reduction from the 59 account. Commissioner Goncalves asked if the maintenance charges go into the 20 account? Chairman Lynch

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replied yes, as far as she knows. Commissioner Kallmeyer explained the reason for the maintenance charge. The principal reason it was separated at the time was there are people who are not connected and this is for the maintenance and upkeep of the system, expenses that whether you are connected or not the system has to afford so it can operate when you want to connect. It should be based on a real number. Commissioner Kallmeyer asked Mr. Solemene to provide the current operational budget divided by the number of units.

- **Motion made (KALLMEYER) seconded (PULIE) to include in the next meeting, July 28, 2010, a public hearing to approve a new user fee. Discussion followed. Amended to include discussion of the maintenance charge. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no other business before the Authority,

- **Motion made (LYNCH) seconded (GONCALVES) to adjourn the special meeting. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Francese  
Clerk of the Commission