

Waterbury Water/Sewer Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday February 29th 2012
Waterbury Municipal Offices at Main Street Fire Station

Present: P.H. Flanders, Chair; D. Anderson and M. Alberghini, Commissioners; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Tuscany, Public Works Director; and S. Lotspeich, Municipal Planner.

This meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

DOWNTOWN DESIGNATION OF WATER ALLOCATIONS:

S. Lotspeich discussed the "Downtown Designation" reserve of water allocations in regards to its creation, purpose, and the pending renewal of the plan. The plan provides multiple benefits to transportation and private businesses in the "downtown area", but does not directly benefit public projects. In 2006, A. Tuscany originally provided an estimate of 11,250 gallons per day of and water capacity to be set aside for the downtown designation, and Lotspeich is recommending that the Commissioners move to approve and recommend the renewal of this plan in equal amounts. If approved, Lotspeich will apply for the project's renewal through the State of VT by submitting an updated letter as well as information about the original proposal. Tuscany stated that the pending phosphorus treatment project will not affect the hydraulic capacity of the WWTP, but it could cause the state to lower the BOD loading limit. He recommended not changing the amount from 11,250 gpd for each utility. **D. Anderson made a motion to approve reserving an allocation of 11,250 gpd of each sewer and water capacity for downtown designation. M. Alberghini seconded the motion. A vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.**

WATER DEPT. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT:

Tuscany discussed the monthly water department report for February. Water consumption is down to around 225,000 gallons per day. No broken or frozen water lines have been reported. He provided details about key items of interest, including an issue regarding recent E. coli testing. The Village originally was going to test 7 samples, but due to the relocation of the State of VT, only 6 samples were taken. A public letter was incorrectly released stating that the Village did not test any of the required 7 samples, when in fact we only tested 6 of the 7. B. Woodruff is working to have the letter corrected and re-released to the public.

WASTEWATER DEPT. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT:

Tuscany discussed the monthly wastewater department report for February. The Village recently hired Keith Johnson as the new Wastewater Assistant Operator, and is hopeful that he will be prepared to take the Wastewater Operator Certification exam in May. Tuscany is concerned that the preparation course has been lowered from 10 weeks to 4 weeks, and may need to look into alternative preparation classes. Tuscany also reported that the wastewater lagoons have been slightly warmer than usual, most likely due to the warm winter temperatures. Because of this, algae levels have slightly exceeded what is permitted and the DEC has been notified. Pilot testing for the Seimans CoMag testing begins March 2nd. Other areas of interest: One of the aerators at lagoon 1 is having mechanical problems and is in the process of being diagnosed and repaired. Tuscany has been working to analyze potential sewer flow issues that may be present in the Main on Stowe Street from Rt. 100 to Union St, with addition of a proposed new connection to the Salvus development on Blush Hill, as well as the expansion of the Thatcher Brook Inn. P.H. Flanders asked if the grease traps at the Best Western remained an issue in the sewer flow as they have been before, and Tuscany clarified that the grease has not been an issue.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (PWD) REPORT:

Tuscany discussed the monthly PWD report for February 2012. He elaborated on the CoMag project update that was discussed in the Wastewater Report, and reported that the assumed costs for ActiFlo have been submitted and have had no negative response thus far. Tuscany also mentioned that he is working on amendment 7 to the planning Advance Application for Kruger, and asked the Commissioners to recommend the approval of the new amendment to the Village Trustees. D. Anderson asked if this project would be eligible for state reimbursement, and Tuscany confirmed that it is. **Alberghini made a motion to recommend the new amendment to the Village Trustees at their next meeting on Friday, March 2nd. Anderson seconded the motion, a vote was held, and the motion passed unanimously.** Tuscany continued to detail the current Project Worksheets for the Village of Waterbury. He informed us that the Water System Operation Project was

not submitted in time, but will still be considered for federal funding. Flanders asked what the total reimbursement amount would be if all projects were approved. Tuscany responded that if all projects are approved in full, the Municipality would receive roughly \$55,000 from FEMA grants, \$11,000 in state funding, and the Municipality would pay only \$7,400 into the projects.

OTHER ITEMS:

MANAGER TO TESTIFY REGARDING PHOSPHOROUS TREATMENT PROJECT:

B. Shepeluk informed the group that he and Tuscany will be testifying in regards to the pending phosphorus treatment project on March 13th. He mentioned that the purpose of this testimonial would be to provide a status update to ensure to funders that the Village remains on track with the project, cost and otherwise. At that point, some pilot testing will have been completed.

MTB BUILDERS:

MTB Builders, the property that currently houses Jimmz Pizza, spoke with Tuscany about the possibility of connecting to the Village water system. Tuscany mentioned that it is highly unlikely that the current pipe size of the current connection (1") would be sufficient, so alternative methods of connections would need to be discussed. Tuscany asked the Commissioners if this is a possibility that they would like to explore this request, and if so, would they also like to reach out to neighboring properties to see if there is more interest in connecting. By unanimous decision, the Commissioners asked to continue discussion with the property owner and to have Tuscany look into the proposal of new connections.

REQUEST FROM BEN & JERRY'S

At the meeting on January 30th, 2012, the Commissioners made a decision to forgive penalty and interest on the November billing from two local businesses, Ben & Jerry's and the Best Western, provided they sign a direct debit payment agreement with the town. Ben & Jerry's responded that their corporate policy does not allow outside parties to have access to their bank information, and instead proposed that the Village of Waterbury be signed up for their autopay program. The program would involve directly wiring future payments from Ben & Jerry's to the Village account at the time the invoice is received. **By unanimous consent, the Commissioners approved the new proposal.**

REQUEST FROM MICHAEL EARLY:

Michael Early, an Elm St. resident, requested that the Village further credit his account for water that flowed beyond his control in the days following the flood. The bill for the past November quarter was originally 390.40, which was adjusted by our bookkeeper to \$270.46 as a flood adjustment. Early believes that amount was still incorrect and provided tenant dates for further review. Tuscany used the current (February) bill as well as the dates provided to calculate the correct amount that Early should have been billed in November, which equaled \$214.06. **By consent, the Commissioners approved issuing a credit of the difference of \$56.34 to Mr. Early.**

MINUTES:

D. Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 30th meeting. M. Alberghini seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

VILLAGE WARNING FOR BORROWING:

Shepeluk discussed the upcoming town meeting and the issue of the Village borrowing money for the water and sewer departments. Shepeluk recommended that a motion be made asking voters to authorize borrowing \$137,000 for sewer and \$175,000 for water to pay for multiple projects as discussed in the 2012 budget. No action was taken as this was strictly informational for the Commissioners benefit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Nelson, Utilities Billing Clerk

Approved by

