

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Water/Sewer Commissioners and Village Trustees

Monday, March 25th, 2013

Waterbury Municipal Offices at Main Street Fire Station

Present: P.H. Flanders, M. Alberghini, C. Parks, Commissioners; Lefty Sayah, Trustee; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; Alec Tuscany, Public Works Director; Bill Woodruff, Staff; Darren Winham, Staff; Courtney Nelson, Staff

Public: Luke Shullenberger

Flanders called the meeting of the Water and Sewer Commissioners to order at 4:30pm.

Alberghini moved to reelect Skip Flanders as Chair of the board. Parks seconded the motion, a vote was held, and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Alberghini moved to approve the minutes of the February 25th meeting. Flanders seconded the motion, and a vote was held. Parks abstained from voting as she was not present at the last meeting. The vote passed with two votes.

PHOSPHORUS UPGRADE:

Tuscany provided a brief update on the Wastewater Phosphorus Upgrade Project. The project is on time with the current schedule, and the 60% design review package will be submitted to the State by April 1. There has been a brief discussion with ANR regarding concerns with organic capacity at the WWTP and a follow up meeting will be held in mid-April.

Shepeluk also discussed public concerns with the proposed bond amortization schedule of 20 years. Currently any municipal bonds supporting water and/or wastewater projects are allowed to follow a 40-year amortization; however the bond bank will not sell bonds in excess of 30 years (as long as the life expectancy of the project matches that of the bond). A longer amortization schedule would have a significant impact on customer rates. Moving forward, the board will research longer amortization options and ideally will look for a possible 30-40 year bond schedule.

PUBLIC WORKS MONTHLY REPORTS:

Woodruff discussed the water department progress report. In response to finding slightly higher levels of lead in 3 out of 20 samples in 2012, sample sites have increased to 40 instead of 20 and are being taken twice a year. The pH levels have been raised slightly, and well water has been added at times in an attempt to boost alkalinity and to prevent leaching of lead from pipes and fixtures. Twenty sample results have been received and none have exceeded the allowable level of contaminants. Woodruff is awaiting the results of the remaining 20 sites and will report a summary of sample results to both the staff and public once they have been received.

Tuscany reviewed the Wastewater progress report and the Public Works Director report. Items of interest included the Phosphorous Project, reviewed above. Tuscany also discussed two locations along Thatcher Brook where concrete encasings are exposed and will need to be either repaired or relocated. A brief discussion of possible relocation options followed.

A follow up on Mr. Pomerleau's concerns regarding base charges at the Village Square was discussed. After further research, Tuscany recommended that the base charges for several businesses within the Village Square and one additional building be adjusted. The Kirby House on S Main is currently allocated for 100gpd per bed, per the board at a previous date. The VT Water Supply Rule Appendix 7A suggests 150gpd per bed. Given its function, Tuscany recommends that the Kirby House, and similarly the Squire House, be allocated at a rate of 75gpd per bed. No action was taken, but the board will revisit at the April 2013 meeting.

A brief discussion of base charges and current water/sewer rates was held. Tuscany stressed the need for the board to revisit and redesign the current rate structure in the near future. He will begin looking at various scenarios in April to help redesign and recommend a new rate structure to incorporate the increase in sewer budget due to the Phosphorous upgrade project as well as ongoing reduction in water consumption and sewer flows. Parks suggested that during the initial process, costs due to the upgrade project be separated from costs due to decrease in overall consumption and flows and the resulting reevaluation of base charges.

TRUSTEES BUSINESS

PROPOSAL FROM GREEN LANTERN CAPITAL:

The board heard and discussed a project proposal from Luke Shullenberger of Green Lantern Capital. Green Lantern works as a developer and partners with investors to help fund solar based projects. They are interested in creating a land-lease agreement with the Village of Waterbury for 18 acres of land at the Sweet Well Field and would use this land to submit a project proposal to the VT SPEED (Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development), and using funds from this project would construct, own, and operate a solar generating facility on the premises. If the Village were to agree and the project would be awarded a contract, the Village would incur revenue from a 25-year land lease contract with the investors, property tax payments, and discounted electric rates based on solar credits. At the end of the lease, the Village would have the option to purchase the facility at fair-market value, or the investors would restore the land to its original condition. All preliminary costs would be covered by the investors, and there would be no up-front cost to the Village. Potential issues would include well-head protection, but with the recommendation that arrays should not be constructed within a 200-ft radius of well heads, it could be constructed safely and without impact to the water supply. Tuscany stressed the importance of the wells as the backup water supply, and discussed that the Village would emphasize well head protection throughout the rest of the project. The developers will begin a fatal-flaw analysis and will discuss the results with the Trustees and Water/Sewer Commissioners next week. At that time, if the project is considered feasible, the boards will provide a decision as to whether or not the Village would agree to enter into the land lease agreement and pursue the project.

DARREN WINHAM:

Winham introduced himself to the board as well as his role as Economic Development Director in Waterbury. Several of project ideas were discussed, including potential expansion of the Village sewer system. No action was taken.

HILL STREET EXTENSION:

Tuscany asked the board to revisit the current issues with Hill St. Extension. It is a private road, with private water and wastewater connections. Due to several issues with the water lines, sewer mains, and storm drains, the road has had consistent issues with their sewer system, and recently appealed a zoning permit issued to build a new house on the road as they were fearful of its impact on their already fragile sewer mains. At this time, Tuscany recommends that it would not be in the Town's best interest to accept responsibility for the street; however he is willing to work with the residents to design and provide cost estimates for the necessary upgrades and repairs. By consensus, the board approved Tuscany to begin work on designing a potential sewer and water line and storm drain upgrade for Hill St. Extension. Tuscany will bring his recommendation to the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting of both boards was adjourned at 6:55pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

Woodruff and Nelson to follow up once all 40 sample results have been received and report a summary of results to the public.

Commissioners to follow up with discussion of base units at the Village Square and Kirby House at the April 2013 meeting and provide a decision on whether or not to reduce current base charges to Nelson prior to the May billing period.

Tuscany to begin designing repairs for the sewer mains on Hill St. Ext and revisit at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Nelson, Utilities Billing Clerk

Approved by: _____ Date: _____