

Waterbury Water-Sewer Commissioners
September 14, 2015
4:30 p.m.
Minutes

Present: P.H. Flanders, C. Parks, Commissioners; W. Woodruff, Public Works Director; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager

P.H. Flanders called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m., having waited to see if others expected might arrive.

Flanders asked if there were any modifications or additions to the agenda. There were none. C. Parks made a motion to adopt the agenda as printed. Flanders seconded the motion that was then passed on a 2-0 vote.

There being no public present, the commissioners discussed the discount on the allocation fee for long-term customers of the system. Flanders expressed his opinion that the voted discount of 10% (\$3.38/gallon vs. \$3.75/gallon) was intended for customers whose property was in the village. Shepeluk explained that if that was the case, it has been misapplied since 1998, if not before, as he has discounted fees for all customers of the village system who had been connected to the system for at least 7 years. All agreed that staff should do some research to see if the minutes of the vote that occurred prior to 1998 could be found to look at the original language to determine its intent.

Flanders opened a discussion about the wastewater allocation for the laundromat. He explained that former PWD Tuscany had conducted experiments by weighing loads of finished laundry before and after they were dried in the driers. This was done to determine how much water did not flow out the drain to the sewer system, but was evaporated in the drier instead. **Tuscany already instructed the utility billing clerk to discount the sewer flow by % to account for this.** C. Parks made a motion to ratify this change retroactively to the date it was implemented. Flanders seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Flanders asked for an update on the status of the sewer and water lines at Waterbury Commons, wondering if testing had occurred to start the clock ticking toward the time when the village might take over those mains and appurtenances. Bill Woodruff reported that he met with Mr. Arnot, owner of the system, and his contractor T J Kingsbury, along with Alec Tuscany and Pete Krolczyk to review what needed to be done to the water and sewer mains in the development before the village could take them over. The water system is in relatively good shape, but a hydrant needs to be straightened up and all curb stops need to be located and must be in good working order. A mandrel test on sewer mains must be completed and better access to manholes must be established so they can be clean, flushed and maintained.

The commissioners discussed the concerns expressed by neighbors about reflections from the solar array at Sweet Field. Woodruff reported that a landscaping firm from S. Burlington had visited the site a few weeks ago to determine whether plantings could be installed there to

mitigate the glare. The neighbor most impacted has declined to allow trees or other screening to be planted on his property, which would be the least expensive option, as trees there could be of a smaller size than are necessary if they were to be planted on the village's parcel. The landscaper indicated to Woodruff that conifers 25-30 feet high would be needed to screen the array if they were planted on village land near the road. No formal report has been made by the landscaping company to AES, the owner of the array. Initial estimates are that the cost to purchase and plant one 30 foot nursery grown tree may be in the \$8,000 range. All agreed that was not feasible. The commissioners asked staff to continue to work to find some means to mitigate the impact of the glare.

By consensus, the commissioners asked staff to coordinate a "ribbon cutting" or a dedication of the new buildings at the wastewater treatment plant that were constructed to treat phosphorus. The target date for the event is November 10th, mid to late morning. The public will be welcome to attend this event, but an open house and tours for community members will be scheduled in the spring of 2016.

Staff reports for August from Bill Woodruff, new public works director, and Scott Guyette, new water superintendent, were distributed and discussed (attached). No wastewater report was presented.

The commissioners considered the minutes from their last meeting held on June 29, 2015. C. Parks made a motion to approve the minutes of that meeting. Flanders seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

The commissioners asked staff to invite Jeff McDonald to their next meeting to discuss his firm's findings concerning the feasibility of micro-hydro generation using head pressure within the transmission mains. Due to scheduling conflicts the board agreed to hold the meeting on October 19, 2015 at 4:30 rather than the regularly scheduled October 26th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Approved
Nov 5, 2015
P. Howard Flanders