

MINUTES OF THE WPCC MEETING

JUNE 8TH, 2016

The regular meeting of the West Haven Water Pollution Control Commission was held on Wednesday, June 8th, 2016. In attendance were Commissioner, Brian Reichert, George Monahan, William Canning, Stuart Rosenkrantz, Michael Blagmon, Michael Betz and Abdul Quadir.

George Monahan mentioned that the last meeting there was a lot of information and talking and he commented it was a difficult one to take notes. He made a motion to accept the minutes and Bill Canning seconded it, all in favor, two abstained, Mike Betz and Mike Blagmon, as they were not present at that meeting.

Chairman Reichert opened the Public Session of the meeting @ 6:45 pm, asking if anyone from public wished to speak, and Nick Loussides spoke. He resides in Branford but owns two properties in West Haven, @ 165-167 Center Street, three family, and 1046-1048 Campbell Avenue, two family house. He heard there was an error in the bills that were sent out. He went to the City Council and addressed his concerns about the \$400 per unit, unless it's a business, commercial goes by gallons, and was told he should come and address this board. He presented Regional Water bills, for both properties. The Center St. property was \$550 and the Campbell Ave. property was \$672 for a year for water. He lives in Branford in a 5 bedroom Colonial home and he pays \$130 for sewer tax every year. The same State & federal regulations apply to both cities. If the city needs more money they should raise the mill rates if they need more taxation. There are no schools nearby they were all closed so there are no big families in the area. He claims there is not a lot of water usage. Bill Canning asked if he had his tax bills, which he did provide copies. Bill Canning asked how long he owned properties, he said since 2000, Center St. he inherited and Campbell Ave. in 1987. Chairman Reichert said they would look into this and get back to him with an answer in a formal reply. We don't charge by the gallon. Abdul mentioned he got 10 calls since the bills went out over two weeks. Every town in state of Ct. has a different fee. Commissioner Reichert asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in Public session, he asked three times and closed the Public Session @7:00 pm.

Old Business, George Monahan stated that a Committee was formed for Personnel Issues, consisting of Bill Canning, George Monahan and Brian Reichert. We met with the staff which was well attended. We discussed the expectations and let them know the commission was here for them and we appreciated their services, there was good dialog. We had an incident take place on property, which could have resulted in a disciplinary nature, and then personnel went storming down to city hall which resulted in our former Superintendent Terri Pelletier, submitting her resignation. Basically that request to resign was tabled, we asked her to think about it and spend some time, which she did, and we brought her back, and the committee, George Monahan & Bill Canning, Brian Reichert, met with Human Resources and the Mayor, and it resulted in us accepting her resignation. Word got out through social media, and we came back down and met with the Staff so they could hear it from us. We told them we were taking the proper amount of time to fill that spot, to depict the most talented person we could find that would utilize the skill set of the staff that's here and move forward to make the facility a better facility. The committee for personnel is up and running and we have reported back to the commission at the last meeting. At the last meeting we established a committee for Finance, to go back and look at the contracts that were put in place to see if the contractors and vendors, that came in to do upgrades on the facility and see what the scope of work was, was the work completed to a satisfactory level, before signing off on and the vendor was paid and if anything was done wrong.

The Finance Committee consisting of Bill Canning & Stuart Rosenkrantz, will review the documentation and report back to the Commission. Mike Betz was asked to be on the Finance Committee, because of his financial background, he agreed to.

Going forward the Agenda should have Public Session, Regular Monthly Meeting, review of previous minutes, Old Business, report of the committees, New Business and adjournment, and executive session would be added whenever necessary. Changes will be made.

Mike Betz asked if Terri Pelletier quit right away, George Monahan said we asked her to sleep on it, there was a two week delay, we discussed with Beth Sabo, Human Resources, and the Mayor, and many phone conversations, we brought her back in discussed it and allowed her to leave without an answer and this was after this Commission sent strong messages that we were here for her. We were going to be proactive. She didn't have to feel the challenges & frustrations she was feeling on a daily basis, and she could ask for our assistance. We made it very clear in the meeting with the staff prior to her decision that we would support her and she decided not to stay. That position of hiring and firing is the choice of the Mayor and Human resources, we can have input, since we do have a committee on personnel, they agreed to allow us to be at any meetings that discuss those issues. We are going into executive session.

Executive session ended @8:15 pm, and Commission went onto New Business. George Monahan, mentioned Bill Canning has reminded us of an action that George Monahan spoke to the Mayor & Finance Director about, our garage and the concerns we had, both financial and safety and logistical on how employees had to access the equipment at the Forest Road garage, and at the decision of the commission George Monahan will contact Corporation Counsel who is a member of this Commission as well, and have him draft up a formal resolution on behalf of the Commission notifying Public Works that we expect them to vacate our garage per their agreement on July 1st, 2016. Brian Reichert mentioned he talked to the Mayor about the vacancy on the Committee and he had someone in mind, Peter Bontempo, as alternate. We don't know when he will start; we imagine he will be here for the next session. We don't have a meeting in July & August. The Charter defines this commission to have 5 full time commissioners appointed by the Mayor and 2 alternates. Stuart Rosenkrantz is an alternate, and there is one vacant spot, alternate being filled by Peter Bontempo, former deputy Police Chief, West Haven, active in the Community. Mayor was looking at the structure of this Commission as to permanent/ alternate. If all 7 show up for meeting only the 5 primary vote. If a primary is absent then the alternate have full voting authority. Brian Reichert moved to make that change and it's in the works. There are defined terms at the discretion of the Mayor. The terms are 2 years, consecutive with Mayor, as long as Mayor is in office. If the Mayor leaves and new Mayor comes in everyone is subject to change. The Mayor is ex-officio and Corporation Counsel and Public Works Commissioner, and Finance Director, and member from City Council are ex-officio.

Abdul Quadir mentioned some mistakes in the billing; they should go back to the Tax Assessor for explanation. He had a bill with him, for 285-787 Washington Ave. #13367, Mike Betz made a motion and George Monahan seconded the motion to deny. This is a 3 family house and if they want to change to a 1 family, they need to go to the Assessor. Let the Tax Assessor answer. This is the same thing with Mr. Nick Loussides, his stands as well. Should he desire a lower bill, you need to change to a single family.

Bill Canning had a question on Budget, other rental, what is that for? Other rental is Eagle Leasing; we keep equipment in a trailer. He asked why don't we own it? I will look into it getting prices. We have to go out for bid over \$2500.00. Let's see what Eagle says. Friendly purchase price.

If anything comes up in July & August we can call a meeting.

Stuart Rosenkrantz made a motion to adjournment, George Monahan seconded it.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted.