

MINUTES OF THE WPCC MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2016

The regular meeting of the West Haven Water Pollution Control Commission was held on Wednesday, September 14th, 2016. In attendance were Commissioner Brian Reichert, George Monahan, William Canning, Stuart Rosenkrantz, Michael Blagmon, & Abdul Quadir.

Public Session of the meeting came to order @6:45, with Chairman Reichert asking if anyone from public wishing to speak, and there was , a Joyce Menacherry. She has property on 11 Wharton St, townhouse, 2 family home, and she bought this property in 2011, and was inquiring about her sewer bill. She was billed for 3 units, when in fact it was 2 units. They tried multiple times to get it corrected. She was given a rebate check for \$408, for 2013-2014. There was an over payment of \$658. She paid \$1066. She is also Pensco Trust, and is looking for a rebate for \$658. She has gone to City hall several times to get this rectified. Brian Reichert, Commissioner told her he would get back to her on it. She presented letters which we took copies. Commissioner Reichert asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak, asking 3 times and we exited out of Public Session.

Regular Meeting, Bill Canning made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from June 8th, 2016 Michael Blagmon seconded it. George Monahan mentioned that the minutes were great and Patty Dahlgard did a great job on the minutes.

Old Business, there was a lull over the summer. George Monahan mentioned a statement for the record, it was very disappointing that there was hiring activity, even if it was just interviewing, after we were very proactive, we interacted with the staff, we were going to be there and we had a committee formed and for us to be ignored and not to be contacted at all to be part of the hiring process was very disappointing. I ask that the Chairman Reichert remind the Mayor and Commissioner of Human Resources. Brian mentioned he did, and it was duly noted. City went ahead and hired someone without the Commission. Our committees were formed and they were ignored. Brian Reichert duly noted. Brian said it was something that happened quickly he was in town on a Wednesday, and received a call with a ½ hour notice to meet new superintendent. According to Beth Sabo they were juggling between two candidates, as to who was in and who was out. Again the Commission should have been represented, and observe the process. George Monahan asked, are they trying to tell us that we are really puppets, my time is very valuable, if they don't want US, (the Commission) they should not waste our time, again Brian Reichert duly noted. Brian mentioned the New Superintendent who is from Bridgeport plant, has accepted the position, with a class IV, he has been in business for years, he is coming with, I don't want to say conditions, but they are looking for a support layer. Brian met him and his personality, his demeanor and how he interacts with the folks, he knows the players. He knows what he is doing. He mentioned that where he came from in Bridgeport, he had to put on a scale they place he came from was two times worse than here. Fiscally, we are saving \$25,000, so we are going to be able to hire another person according to Beth Sabo. George said maybe there is a \$25,000 surplus since we have had no one in the position to pay a salary to. Abdul Quadir mentioned we are paying Anastasio Marnerakis money as superintendent, in the interim. Brian Reichert said we are looking to budget \$50-60,000 for a middle management person of our choice, I would think they would not be in the union. The person they hire would be in the other union, they would have to be in the administrators union. Bill Canning mentioned they should work on a job description. Brian agreed we should work up a job description, and submit to Beth Sabo and she brings to the next City Council

meeting and gets it passed. It will be a January 1st, 2017, hire. Abdul doesn't think we are going to get a person for \$ 50-60,000 to be an assistant when the person under him is making \$75,000-80,000.

Brian went On to New Business and the only new business on the table is the new hire, he was going to create a check off on qualifications, does he need certification? Bill Canning asked if he had to have a class III. Do we need help in collections? They want this new hire in the office helping with the same stuff that we discussed with Terri Pelletier. Is there someone here that we can move up? Do we promote from within, George asked. Abdul said we need someone to deal with the people here, if we promote anyone they cannot deal with the people here. George said that's why we need to hire an outside person. The union will have to be involved in the creating of a new position under their umbrella. Brian asked that the Personnel Committee write the job description. Bill Canning & George Monahan will do the job description for the new hire. Bill & George also mentioned gathering data from other plants, as to their job descriptions, visit other facilities, get some ideas. Maybe even ask the new Superintendent, Jack Crosby, his ideas. Abdul mentioned that Jack Crosby is working in Jewett City right now. He went on to say he was offered the job and accepted, then refused. And after a few weeks, called and said he was interested.

Bill Canning asked Abdul if we are Compliant now with the State? Abdul said yes... The state gives us one year. Abdul said he had called the State and told them Jack Crosby refused the job, but I think the State called Jack Crosby and then he changed his mind. Brian said the State really likes this Jack Crosby, that DEEP went to Jack and asked why he turned the job down. Brian mentioned that Jack Crosby will be starting on Oct. 3rd, 2016. Maybe we can all meet with him this week so you can get a formal introduction. George Monahan made a motion that the Personnel Committee will do a fact finding mission in the efforts to prepare a job description for the new middle management position, do we have a second, Bill Canning seconded it, all in favor, anyone opposed? We have 5 in favor.

New Business, George said, regarding the woman, Joyce Monacherry, someone will have to reach out to City Hall and find out what is the actual requirement, if they acknowledged in that letter, and apparently they did, that it is a 2 family house and were over billed. Abdul said we never go back over a year. Brian asked Abdul, if they already got a refund of \$408, and they are looking for the balance of 658, is this doable? Abdul said it's the question of policy, if you do it for one person you have to do it for all, there are other people who are asking the same thing, at 80 Knox Street, apartments, they are asking for 3 years rebate, \$800 per year, \$2400. They were over charged, incorrect units, sewer use. Bill asked who send Bills out. Abdul said the City sends the bills out. Abdul said they put these people on the list in 1994. A master list was created in 1994, for sewer bills and it was adjusted if they didn't have sewer or had septic, or wrong number of units, we had to do an audit. We came up short. Maybe 4 or 5 over billed, most were under billed. Joyce Monacherry was given a rebate but wanted us to go back 3 years. The audit was done for the whole City not just because she complained. George said if she complained in 2011, 2012, 2013, and the first time we ever did anything was this year? Abdul said we never got a complaint. If they go to council they tell them to come to us. They usually go to tax office first. She got the \$408, back but did she ever make the complaint.?? George said the policy is that we really only go back one year, and we don't have proof that you filed a formal complaint in 2011, but we will compromise, in good faith, we will go back one year instead of \$658 we will give you \$329. That would be fair.

Stuart said if he had a complaint he would go on the internet to the Water Pollution Control. George had mentioned this to Brian we are guilty we are not doing our part, the template of City Web site has

all departments, some use it, some don't. City Council publishes their meeting agendas and their meeting minutes, so people can go on the web site and review it. The Police Commission does the same thing, Board of Education does the same thing. Our link, when you click on it has no new activity, no new agendas, no meeting minutes, no instructions if you have any issues regarding your sewer fees or any water pollution issues contact water pollution Commission. We have to go to Michael Walsh.

Abdul mentioned he had a list. George mentioned Knox St. doesn't know what this woman presented in documentation. They can get the minutes on record. George said we can word this that based on the documentation presented we are offering you a one time 50% settlement. Knox St. is a corporation and Abdul said wanted a three year rebate. All Due to the audit. Dept. of Revenue Collections is giving out the letters to fill in. This was all from the City sending them a letter saying that our audit determined that you have been over billed. George asked who made the decision to send these letters out after the audit. Abdul said, the tax collector because we were 1.3 million short. Bill Canning said we should get all that information before we do anything. Brian asked how do we get a check cut and sent to this woman. Abdul said you have to notify the tax collector, Brian asked Abdul can he do this as a notification for the tax collector to cut a check. Abdul is concerned that if we do that in this case how many people other people can we do this for. Abdul said we have to make a policy has to be followed for everybody, we go back one year for everybody or two years whatever we decide. George said maybe we should rethink the payment. We need to find out how many letter did the city send out. Abdul will find out how many letters were sent out, if it's a bank they won't care. Abdul said they gave you a credit on your next bill. Do we pay the City to do this for us? Brian said let's retract the Motion to pay and table this. Abdul said we have to table 80 Knox St. also. George said we can't make a decision on one until you know how big a can of worms this is. George said it doesn't matter we are going to collect 1.3 Million more than we would have, and people were unfairly billed. Everyone got credit for one year. At Surfside, the company went out and counted as one unit. They got records from Water Co. they have 4 quarters, and they only took 1 quarter, ¾ were missed. The company corrected and they didn't charge us. Abdul said we collected \$800,000 in revenue. We are looking at 3-4,000 in over charge. Bill said if they are due the money, they should get it. Abdul said they got credited the one year. Abdul has a list other addresses with similar problems. One unit vs. two units...previous owners gone, and now new owners stuck with the bill. Abdul said whatever decision is made its going to be policy. George said if we are going to make a policy decision he would like to know why we are making a policy decision and we need more facts. We need to know how many people were sent letters for overpayment and we are not going beyond the 3 years of this cycle involved. Abdul needs to confirm this, how many letters went out and what dollar amount it was, then we will establish a policy then. Abdul checked with Corp. Counsel also. Abdul needs to get this information to Brian before the next meeting so he can send out emails. The apartment buildings are complaining they should be billed on commercial property based on water use and not how many units. Bill Canning said that is wrong and you know it. Residential based on units and Commercial based on water use. There may be other towns that use water usage differently and that's how they charge. George made a motion to deny 35 Claudia Dr. to change property from residential to commercial. Stuart Rosenkrantz seconded it. All in favor unanimous. George made a make motion to correct the property classification from two units to one unit, 80 Peck Ave. and Stuart Seconded. All in favor. Abdul said 96 Platt Ave. two family house guy has been living there for 6 years and uses it as one family, he needs to go to Assessor and get changed its on the books. We can't change that. George made a motion to temporarily deny 96 Platt Ave. until such time he officially changes the records in Building Dept., Stuart seconded. Stuart made a motion to deny 470 Main St. to change to commercial, and George seconded, all in favor, unanimous.

Abdul said 53 center St. billed for 2, one is on sewer and one is on septic. George made motion to approve reduction from 2 units to 1, Bill Canning seconded, all in favor, unanimous. Abdul said 18 Blohm St. is one family house and it used to be two family and it has been changed to one family verified it's a one family wants to change to from 2 units to 1. George made a motion to and Stuart seconded. All in favor unanimous. 61-63 White St. this is not an issue.

Abdul said big issue Housing Authority, 605 units, in 1968, low income subsidized housing cannot be taxed more than 10% of the net rental of the property, or the property tax and sewer use, there is a statute that states it. This comes out to be 170,000. The total tax paid per year is \$149 per year. And sewer use. This is a big problem. Corporation council is working on this. I would hope that Corp. council would come to one of our meetings, since he is on this commission. We can't go back to previous years. Table this matter for West Haven Housing Authority. All in favor, unanimous.

George made a Motion to adjourn, Stuart Rosenkrantz seconded @ 8:30 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted.