

From: SimsburyCT Postings October 21, 2011 2:12:17 PM
Subject: Water Pollution Control Authority Minutes 10/13/2011
To: SimsburyCT_WPCAMin
Cc:

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 2011
DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Philip Richardson called the regular meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Simsbury Water Pollution Control Facility Conference Room, 36 Drake Hill Road, Simsbury. The following members were present: Warren Coe, Michael Park, Loren Shoemaker, Jay Sheehan and Ed Kelly. Also present were: James Clifton, WPC Superintendent, and Richard Sawitzke, Town Engineer, Alison Sturgeon, Clerk as well as other interested parties.

2. SAFETY BRIEF - Mr. Richardson gave a safety brief which included the location of emergency exits and actions to be taken in the event of an emergency.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – SEWER ASSESSMENT FOR 291 BUSHY HILL ROAD AND PHEASANT LANE PROJECT

Mr. Richardson opened the public hearing by reading the Legal Notice as follows:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
LEGAL NOTICE

The Simsbury Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Water Pollution Control Facility, 36 Drake Hill Road, Simsbury, CT. The purpose of the hearing is to review and possibly vote on the proposed sewer assessments for 7, 11, 17, 20 and 24 Pheasant Lane and 291 Bushy Hill Road. This will be the one and only hearing of the Authority on these assessments. Any affected property owner may appear and be heard.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Philip Richardson, Chairman

Mr. Sawitzke reviewed the assessments for 11, 17, 20 and 24 Pheasant Lane. He stated that the first public hearing took place in November of 2009, at which the WPCA approved this extension of the sanitary sewers to serve these homes. He stated that the total cost was \$57,888.28 which when divided by these four properties results in \$14,472.07 as the final assessment per property. For those that desire to connect to the sanitary sewers, there is an additional \$4,095 Facility Connection Charge (FCC) per home. Mr. Sawitzke stated that each homeowner has the option to pay the assessment, as well as the FCC, over a ten year period at the Town's current bonding rate.

Mr. Richardson asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Ms. Cazzetta, 17 Pheasant Lane, stated her concerns regarding this assessment being a huge burden on her. She also feels that the decision was made to extend the sewers because of one homeowner who was in favor of this. Mr. Richardson explained the sewer assessments process for Pheasant Lane, starting in 2009.

Mr. Beaudin stated that he believes 7 Pheasant Lane should be included in this assessment. Mr. Sawitzke stated that 7 Pheasant Lane was sewered by the prior Route 10 project; the State absorbed some of the costs. The assessment for 7 Pheasant Lane is \$8,502.57, plus the FCC of \$4,095. Mr. Beaudin stated that he was told at the 2009 public hearing that there were 5 properties involved in this assessment. He feels that the total costs should be divided by five, not four. Mr. Shoemaker stated that the WPCA needs to think about the general fairness of this issue as well as the possibility of revisiting how costs were allocated.

Mr. Sawitzke reviewed the assessment for 291 Bushy Hill Road, which totals \$7,573.00 plus the FCC of \$4,095.

Mr. Richardson asked if there were any comments or questions from the public on this assessment. There were none.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to close the public hearing regarding 291 Bushy Hill Road. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sheehan made a motion to approve the sewer assessment as presented for 291 Bushy Hill Road in the amount of \$7,573.00 plus the Facility Connection Charge of \$4,095.00. Dr. Park seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sawitzke stated that he and Mr. Clifton will look at the details of Pheasant Lane regarding how to divide the costs. He stated that there is a possibility of assigning a portion of the extension projects costs to the Town to account for the possibility that the park at the end of Pheasant Lane, which currently does not have sanitary facilities, may add such facilities in the future. He noted other areas in Town where assessments of this type have been made.

Mr. Sheehan made a motion to continue the public hearing for Pheasant Lane until the November meeting. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The WPCA expected to be able to make a decision on final assessments at that meeting.

4. CANTON WPCA PRESENTATION – PAUL DOMBROWSKI – WOODARD & CURRAN

Mr. Sheehan recused himself from all decisions regarding this issue because he is employed at Woodard & Curran.

Mr. Dombrowski stated that the Town of Canton has an interest in sewerage 7 parcels at the corner of Canton along Route 44. He stated that there will be a flow of approximately 10,000 gallons per day. They have already received OPM and DEP approvals. Mr. Sawitzke stated that the simplest way for this to be done, if the WPCA approves, is for Canton to buy a fraction of one percent of capacity from Simsbury. Canton and Simsbury would have their own agreement for flow and buy-in.

The WPCA discussed the plant's capacity as well as future development plans.

Mr. Richardson asked that Mr. Dombrowski come back to the November WPCA meeting to further discuss this issue. Mr. Dombrowski gave the WPCA members a draft agreement for their review.

5. STATUS REPORT ON SEWER EXTENSION PROJECTS, ETC. – R. SAWITZKE

Mr. Sawitzke stated that there are currently two ongoing projects. He stated that 212 Bushy Hill Road has received an easement from a neighbor. This project as well as the project at 99 Deer Park should be completed by next month.

6. TREATMENT FACILITY REPORT – J. CLIFTON

Mr. Clifton stated that Hurricane Irene brought flooding that slightly

exceeded the 100 year flood levels. He will be submitting costs for reimbursement to FEMA.

Mr. Clifton discussed several budget revisions with the Authority. He discussed taking the garage modifications and construction costs out of the budget this year and replacing them with the purchase of pick-up trucks. He stated that he would like to do the garage modifications next year. He is proposing all 4 bays be modified at that time, which would be a cost of \$350,000. The Wolcott Pump Station is also in the budget for next year. He is proposing

to bond \$1.65 million, instead of taking this from the reserves.

Mr. Clifton also discussed changing the classification of the new position from Class I to a Class III operator. Mr. Sheehan stated that he believes this approach would be best.

7. CORRESPONDENCE - Mr. Richardson reviewed a thank-you letter by a student who received a tour of the facility.

8. FCC POLICY REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Park stated that the FCC Subcommittee continues to meet. There are more variables to consider than originally thought. The scope of the work still needs to be finalized. The WPCA expressed some disappointment concerning a recent letter from the EDC, which characterized the FCC issue as a policy dispute. The WPCA believes that there is no dispute and reiterated its commitment to a fair and equitable facility connection policy.

9. SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 AND SEPTEMBER 28, 2011 MEETING MINUTES – POSSIBLE APPROVAL

Mr. Sheehan made a motion to approve the September 8, 2001 minutes as written. Dr. Park seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the September 28, 2011 minutes as written. Dr. Park seconded the motion, which was approved. Mr. Richardson abstained.

10. OTHER BUSINESS - There was none.

11. ADJOURN

Mr. Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Dr. Park seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Philip Richardson, Chairman