

Special Meeting Minutes

Town of Montville Water Pollution Control Authority
Wednesday, June 8, 2011
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall – 5:30 p.m.

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Chairman May called the special meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority to order at 5:30 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Hillman, Schober, Siragusa, and May. Absent was Commissioner Thorn. Also present were Administrator Lynch and Superintendent Michael Didato.

d. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes of speaking time, including questions and answers for information. Debate with Commission members will not be allowed.

Chairman May asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

e. Old Business

1. SAR-2011-022. The Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission Hereby resolves to request bonding from the Town Council for a bonding appropriation of \$1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand dollars) for the planning, design, and construction of capital upgrades to the Montville Waste Water Treatment System.

Motion made by Commissioner Hillman, seconded by Commissioner Schober.

Bond Projects

1) Raise the approx. 300 manholes still covered around town for access to our system. Past bid was for \$550 each **Total cost \$ 165,000**

2) Replace computer program that runs all 6 SBR's. The current software is 1980 technology and is failing more often as parts are getting harder to find. This is a critical component of our plant. Software, installation and engineering work is estimated from our vendor . **Total cost \$60,000**

3) New building for head works. Cost from URS Facility Study (cost \$ 440,000) Automatic fine screen system for headwork's. Greatly need as our current system is original and obsolete. (cost \$ 216,000) Grit removal system. Again needed as our system is original, obsolete and ineffective. Also recommended in the facility study (cost \$ 315,900)

(Check cost with URS) **Total cost \$971,900**

4) Replacement generator at Chesterfield. Current unit is over 30 yrs old and has a compression problem. Generator cost \$ 25,000 Electrical contractor \$5,000 Rigging to move in and out of

building \$5,000

Total cost \$ 35,000

5) Replacement Scrubber meters and pumps. The 2 scrubbers run 24/7 and are 10 years old. Replacement parts will include sensors \$2,000ea. Qty 4 New chemical mixing pump \$7,000ea. Qty 2 ORP/Ph instrumentation \$5,000ea. Qty 2

Total cost \$ 32,000

6) New flow meters for each SBR \$2,800 each

Total cost \$ 16,800

7) Effluent Flow meters for DEP compliance and chlorine flow pacing \$3,500 each

Total cost \$ 7,000

8) New Operators vehicle. Currently we are using old police cars that are constantly needing repair and are not effective in bad weather or when replacing grinder pumps etc. vehicle to be purchased from state bid Apprx. \$25,000 lighting and other outfitting equipment \$8,000

Total cost \$33,000

9) Manual coarse bar screen. Also recommended in the facility study

Total cost \$ 35,000

10) Purchase a portable Godwin pump. The collection system continues to grow and we have an obligation with DEP to provide backup power or pumps in an emergency.

Total cost \$ 35,000

11) Replacement influent pumps. These are the main pumps handling all the flow from our entire system. Also recommended in facility study

Total cost \$ 235,000

Grand Total \$1,625,700

Discussion; Administrator Lynch discussed the list of bond projects, stating that he had originally asked the Finance Committee for immediate needs of the Water Pollution Control Authority and Mr. Didato and Mr. McNally came up with this list.

Chairman May asked for a prioritization of the list of items that are listed from high priority to low priority. Mr. Didato stated that if item #11 did not happen in the next five years he could get by, stating he currently has three pumps and uses two at any given time, and he has another one as a back up. Number eleven would be the only item he would consider omitting from the list. Chairman may discussed the contingency and Mr. Didato stated the estimates given by URS were given in 2008 and he stated the longer he waits the more it will cost depending on how hungry the contractors are. Chairman May stated if the WPCA does not need to bond 1.6 million dollars he does not want to, he does not want to over bond and not use the money because the rate payers have to pay the interest on the bond. Mr. Didato stated that he would really like to see items 1-10 addressed and he stated none of the proposed work has anything to do with the Rand Whitney pipe line, it is a separate issue. Commissioner Hillman agreed with Chairman May, stating from a Council side she can not see the future looking any better and she stated she would rather see the WPCA bond on the lower end than get into trouble four or five years out. Chairman May stated he wants to make sure the bonding is done the right way and the work done really needs to be done. He stated item number three could be a two year plan once after it goes out to bid. Administrator Lynch stated he plans to delay the bond payment and allow the other two bonds to be removed. He stated he has met with Mr. Didato to discuss the needs of the Plant and he agrees the necessity for 1.5 million is accurate and he could do and justify two million dollars worth of work, and it is truly needed. On the administrative side there is sixty four thousand dollars that will be removed at the end of the fiscal year and he has looked at the numbers required and if they bond one and one half million the payment will be approximately one hundred and five thousand dollars per year and the WPCA can absorb the additional forty

thousand dollars in the budget. He anticipates electricity costs going down to make up for some of the difference. He is requesting the 1.5 million based on the needs of the Plant. Chairman May discussed the request for thirty three thousand dollars on a new vehicle, stating he would like Mr. Didato to evaluate the driving needs of the employees to determine the type of vehicle that would best fit the needs in an economic fashion. Mr. Didato stated the water operator has taken over use of the last truck purchased by the WPCA and he stated he is requesting a vehicle to stay status quo, he is not trying to get ahead of the game. He stated he would consider a more economical vehicle than the proposed four wheel drive pick up truck requested. Chairman May stated he understands the utility company needs a utility vehicle but he suggested the WPCA work smarter and not waste rate payer's money if it is not necessary. Commissioner Schober stated the last vehicle purchased was over five years ago. Commissioner Hillman suggested looking into local dealerships for demo models to get a better deal on a vehicle. Mr. Didato stated he would really like to replace the vehicle the WPCA lost to the Water Department. Chairman May stated he has re-evaluated his driving and spending habits to save his company money and time and he would like the assurance that the WPCA is doing the same thing and appreciates and understands the money spent at the Plant is funded by the rate payers. Mr. Didato stated there is no contingency built into the proposal, they are real numbers. Administrator Lynch stated the timing is right to get work done at the plant, the WPCA can afford it and if the dollar can be stretched the extra money could be utilized in the right way and he supports the 1.5 million dollar bond amount as requested for the repairs. Mr. Didato stated the grit, the bar rack and the head works are almost one million dollars and he explained these repairs and upgrades are necessary as the Plant is operating 1975 equipment. He discussed raising the manholes and stated it is a necessity to do so. A discussion was held regarding who is responsible to raise the manholes and pay the bill to do so. Administrator Lynch stated the Public Works budget has been cut and the line items to uncover the manholes in the Public Works budget have been cut and the town is not in a position to help out with the costs. Mr. Didato stated the short list on page 247 of the Facilities Plan says that on the short term the WPCA needs to spend three hundred and thirty five thousand dollars short term with a total of six point four million dollars on the long term. He systematically went through what they recommended to come up with the short project list as presented. Commissioner Siragusa discussed the three hundred thousand dollar payment the Town is requesting from the WPCA for payback of a loan and he suggested using this money toward projects instead. Administrator Lynch discussed what would happen if there was a line break and where the money would come from to fix the break. He stated the WPCA is in a position to take four hundred thousand to pay for this should it happen, the bonding is for larger projects the WPCA can not afford to do at this time. The requested bond money will give the WPCA the jump start necessary and allow the WPCA to keep the fund balance available in case there is a line break they can pay for it themselves without having to go the Town or out to bond for the repairs. A discussion was held regarding the request for a large payment to the town this year and Commissioner Hillman stated the bond rating for the town will be lower if the payment is made because the fund balance is lower. There is one million dollars in the WPCA checking account and fourteen thousand in the stiff account. From the one million dollar checking account the WPCA will give the town a payment toward its loan in the amount of three hundred thousand dollars leaving six hundred thousand dollars in case of emergency. A discussion was held regarding establishing a Capital Plan for the WPCA and Administrator Lynch stated so much money has gone to legal fees in the future and Chairman May stated a Facilities Study acts as a Capital Plan for the WPCA. Administrator Lynch stated once the WPCA has stability and the MOU's are signed it would be a good idea to do so. Chairman May stated the Facilities Study is sufficient and the WPCA does not need a Capital Plan at this time but in the future he would like to see a plan for vehicle replacement and equipment replacement.

Roll call vote, 3-1, voting in favor were Commissioners Hillman, Schober and May, voting in opposition was Commissioner Siragusa. Resolution adopted.

Chairman May requested Mr. Didato attend the Town Council meeting to explain the bonding with them at their meeting on Monday, June 13, 2011.

f. Remarks from the Public – Each speaker will be limited to three minutes of speaking time, including questions and answers for information. Debate with Commission members will not be allowed.

Chairman May asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Commission.

g. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Siragusa inquired regarding the WPCA contracts and the legal bills that are attached to them.

h. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Hillman, seconded by Commissioner Schober to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville