

# WORTHINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

1400 BERLIN TURNPIKE

P O BOX 8066

Berlin, CT 06037-8066

A Regular Meeting of the Worthington Fire District Committee was called to order at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 1400 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT.

## **PRESENT:**

Stanley Pajor IV, Chairman  
Peter Fliss, Committee Member  
Anthony Letizio, Committee Member  
Joseph Pagliaruli, Superintendent  
Christine Olson, Treasurer  
Lynn Pagliaruli, Collector  
Timothy Sullivan, Legal Counsel

## **ABSENT:**

Stanley Pajor IV, Chairman, opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

## **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**

Liam Mitchell was in attendance and the following was discussed:

- A. Middletown Road water main breaks – Mr. Mitchell asked why there were so many main breaks. Superintendent Pagliaruli said that Worthington only had one main break while Berlin Water Control had three in the last year. Superintendent Pagliaruli asked if BWC was considering fixing this line. Mr. Mitchell replied that BWC wants to form a connection with Meriden to fix their tank. No other information was given regarding fixing this line.
- B. Compensation Package for Worthington Fire district employees – Chairman Pajor explained that the committee is writing up a severance package for the three employees of the District if WFD is taken over. Nothing has been finalized as of yet. Mr. Mitchell, now answering as a Berlin Water Control representative, said that BWC will be receiving a bill for over \$1 million from Mattabassett and is insistent that there are too many issues to fix, for example, the Webster heights Project. Superintendent Pagliaruli responded by explaining how Ray Jarema shut down the Webster Heights Project 2 times in 2018 and 2019. When the project was approved, and we had a loan secured, the State took too long approving the project and the loan agreement. Superintendent Pagliaruli also told Mr. Mitchell how he spoke to any resident who called regarding this issue, as they were told by BWC and State Rep. Donna Veach to call the WFD office and ask why the project was not done. Also, the issue of paving, which the Town thought was an issue, was actually not, as the Webster Heights project we were scheduled to do, only involved one street on the Town's paving schedule.

A discussion then occurred regarding consolidation, Mr. Mitchell being very insistent and loud, saying that BWC would take over the District. WFD operates under their own budget, paying salaries, rent, attorney fees, accounting fees, etc. BWC does not pay these costs as they are to be a separate entity of the Town, but appears not to be this way at all. Their budget is done by the Finance Department, their vehicle repairs are done at the town garage, they use the Town's attorney, etc. Chairman Pajor said that if the Town / BWC takes over the District, then that would be a bigger burden to the residents of the Town, creating more salaries, more pensions, more overhead in general. Chairman Pajor also commented that everyone should do their own jobs and stop worrying about what everyone else is doing. WFD is doing what we have to do and keeping up with repairs and maintenance and he hopes that the other water districts are doing the same. BWC should be running as an Enterprise Fund, which they claim to be and stop running against Charter.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A Motion to accept the October 16, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Anthony Letizio. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Joe Pagliaruli reported on the following:

#### **CONSTRUCTION:**

- Earth Contractors finished repairing all leaks found during the leak survey performed in August and September.
- Service leak at NBT on Woodlawn Road, on the customer side, is being repaired by Drain Doctor.

#### **NEW NEWS:**

- Lead & Copper service line inventory, and all requirements associated with it, have been completed on time.

#### **CROSS CONNECTIONS:**

- Cross connections are going well and almost complete.

#### **ENGINEERING:**

- Monitoring our water purchase and water sales. Our unaccounted-for water seems to be coming down to a very acceptable level.
- I/I study – the study is complete and engineering is prioritizing and developing a GIS layer to identify the areas that will need to go out to bid for repairs.
- Reviewing repair contract for emergency and regular work.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Anthony Letizio to accept the Superintendent's Report. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Christine Olson, Treasurer, distributed the Treasurer's report to all attendees. A report was given for the month ending October 31, 2024. The report, as prepared by Treasurer, Christine Olson, is attached to these minutes as submitted.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Anthony Letizio, to accept the Treasurer's Reports. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:**

The Collector's Report was distributed to all attendees. The report, as prepared by Tax Collector Lynn Pagliaruli, is attached to these minutes as submitted.

A Motion was made by Anthony Letizio and Seconded by Peter Fliss to accept the Collector's Report. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL:**

Timothy Sullivan was in attendance.

1241 Farmington Avenue – follow up. There is no regulation for a water line to come off a hydrant but it is NOT accepted practice. We can require the property owner to flush the hydrant, test the water and maintain the hydrant on a yearly basis.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business was discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business was discussed.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lynn J. Pagliaruli*

Lynn J. Pagliaruli, Tax Collector