

WORTHINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

1400 BERLIN TURNPIKE
PO BOX 8066
Berlin, CT 06037-8066

A Regular Meeting of the Worthington Fire District Committee was called to order at 5:02 PM on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 1400 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT.

PRESENT:

Arthur B. Powers, Chairman
Peter Fliss, Committee Member
Stanley Pajor IV, Committee Member
Joseph Pagliaruli, Superintendent
Thomas Niedzwiecki, Treasurer
Lynn Ferrelli, Collector
Timothy Sullivan, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Arthur B. Powers, Chairman, opened the meeting at 5:02 PM.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

William Baccaro, 499 Lower Lane.

Mr. Baccaro asked when the secondary meters for irrigation would be available for customers, what costs would go along with the secondary meters and what the rate of the secondary meter water usage would be. Superintendent Pagliaruli responded that the cost associated with the secondary would include installation as well as the cost of the meter and the transmitter. At this time, although, the secondary meter goes against water conservation, there is no talk of a higher rate for the secondary meter usage.

There were no other questions or comments, therefore Mr. Powers closed the Audience of Citizens at 5:07 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A Motion to accept the January 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Arthur B. Powers. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Joe Pagliaruli reported on the following:

CONSTRUCTION:

- Nothing to report.

NEW NEWS:

- The Norton Road Meter Pit Project is complete and in service.
- Is there a decision for relief from a sewer charge for 1169 Farmington Avenue?
- Please see attached quote for the sewer inflow sewer study.
- 56 Ledge Drive is asking relief from their sewer assessment. This would cost about \$5,000. The septic is failing and they are looking to hook into the sewer system.

CROSS CONNECTIONS:

- We completed the annual report for 2020 and have sent it to DPH.

ENGINEERING (Mike & Jason):

- The men and I are working on the list of customers that are in the WFD exclusive area that are being served by WCC. This list is 90% complete. (There may be as many as 50 customers).

The Tax Collector reported that, regarding 1169 Farmington Avenue, the bill was adjusted for sewer usage only. This was done by averaging out the last 3 billing cycles of sewer usage.

Atty. Sullivan mentioned that he will look into the issue of relief regarding 56 Ledge Drive. The Committee does not agree with relieving the customer from paying the sewer assessment. Thomas Niedzwiecki added that the homeowner must prove that they have a financial hardship in order for the Committee to offer relief of the sewer assessment.

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

The Superintendent also would like to have Flow Assessment Monitors, LLC conduct a study of the entire sewer system to search for any inflow within the District's sewer system. This would likely begin in the Spring and continue for approximately 8 weeks. Any issues found will be addressed accordingly in order of seriousness and then turn to a maintenance schedule for budgeting purposes.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss, Seconded by Arthur B. Powers to enter into agreement with Flow Assessment Monitors, LLC to assess flow monitoring of the entire WFD sewer system. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tom was in attendance via teleconference and his report was distributed to all attendees by the Tax Collector. The report, as prepared by the Treasurer, is attached to these minutes as submitted.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Arthur B. Powers to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month ending January 31, 2021. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

Tom also submitted the updated insurance list for Worthington Fire District contractors for the month ended of January 2021.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Arthur B. Powers to accept the Current insurance certificate list. 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 Ferrelli, is attached to these minutes as submitted.

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

LEGAL COUNSEL:

Timothy Sullivan reported on the following, which included Old Business:

- Secondary Meter Procedures:

Atty. Sullivan noted that the revision was approved at last month's meeting. Atty. Sullivan now asks that the Secondary Meter Procedures be adopted by the Committee with the minor change regarding the rates of the domestic and secondary meters and that the Commission can change the rate of the secondary meter at any time.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to adopted the Secondary Meter Procedures with the minor change regarding the rates of the domestic and secondary meters and that the Commission can change the rate of the secondary meter at any time. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

- Agreement between WFD and BWCC (Carrier Agreement) – Ledge Drive:

55 Ledge Drive - This issue is closed, per Atty. Sullivan. If Carrier contacts WFD, we can let them know that we can provide the property at 55 Ledge Drive with water & sewer services.

- Letter from Ray Jarema regarding the Metropolitan District Commission Reimbursement:

It is in question if WFD has been overcharged for sewer flow. A request has been made to find out if WFD is entitled to a reimbursement from MDC. Atty. Sullivan would like more information as to why BWCC is owed a refund from MDC and a breakdown of the reimbursement.

- Other Discussion:

The Governor has extended his Executive Orders through April 30, 2021. At this point, it is unclear as to how the budget will be adopted and how the Annual Meeting will be conducted this year.

Atty. Sullivan also mentioned that the Annual Meeting be moved from June to May for 2022, as it is too late in the year to make this change for the current year. The reason for the change from June to May is to be able to set the mill rate sooner. This will enable the tax collector to have more time to get the bills completed for the July real estate and personal property tax billing. Atty. Sullivan would like to make revisions to our regulations in order to change the month of the annual meeting from June to May.

Lastly, our stance on the October 1, 2020 meeting that was held regarding the BWCC claim for reimbursement on the Middletown Road Pump Station; which the letter and all information was handed out to the Committee, Superintendent and Stanley Smolski, WFD Engineer, still stands that WFD does not owe any reimbursement to BWCC. Superintendent Pagliaruli will talk with Mr. Smolski regarding this matter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Old Business was discussed under Legal Counsel.

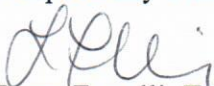
NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to report on.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to adjourn the meeting as there was no further business to discuss. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

The Meeting Adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lynn Ferrelli, Tax Collector