

WORTHINGTON FIRE DISTRICT

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A Regular Meeting of the Worthington Fire District Committee was called to order at 5:05 PM on Wednesday, March 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 5:05 PM.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

Sebastian Senia – 8 Dunham Drive

Mr. Senia had three comments he shared with the Committee:

1. Report by Lenard Engineering regarding the potential Webster Heights Sewer Project. His concern is that the infrastructure of the WFD is getting old and starting to “breakdown”. He would like to know if there is a reserve account or additional government funding to proceed with this project without getting a bank loan.
2. East Berlin dissolved and merged with BWCC. Mr. Senia is hoping that WFD will consider merging at some point within the next few years.
3. Will there be a public hearing for the Webster Heights Project?

Ray Jarema – 56 Wildermere Road

Mr. Jarema agrees with everything Mr. Senia commented on. He also added his opinion of how to move forward with the Webster Heights Project and that he pointed out that there may be an error in the Lenard Engineering report.

Chairman Powers asked that Superintendent Pagliaruli look into these comments.

There were no other questions or comments, therefore Chairman Powers closed the Audience of Citizens at 5:13 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A Motion to accept the February 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Joe Pagliaruli reported on the following:

CONSTRUCTION:

- We had a main break on our 12" ductal iron on Lower Lane.

NEW NEWS:

- The Norton Road Meter Pit Project. Update – the new connection is performing well.
- The meters are in place to monitor our sewer flows, I will have more on this for the next meeting.
- This summer we will begin a meter change-out program for residential and commercial customers. We will also inspect for illegal sump pump connections. These new meters have a 90-day data log and will show constant monitoring.

CROSS CONNECTIONS:

- Inspections will begin soon. People are still reluctant to let us in.

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). I spoke to WCC about this issue.

Atty. Sullivan asked how the main break on Lower Lane could have happened and what charges were incurred. Superintendent Pagliaruli mentioned that Focus Physical Therapy had called about a pressure spike of 140 Psi which occurred just a few days before the break. This could have something to do with the water main break. Other causes could have been that a hydrant was left open or that a clay valve opening and closing too fast. Atty. Sullivan asked that we inquire the Fire Department and BWCC to try to recover the costs of the main break.

Atty. Sullivan also asked about the progress of the I/I study. Superintendent Pagliaruli said that we are about 1 ½ weeks in to this study and it will continue for about 8 more weeks. Joe also noted that all meters to monitor the sewer system have been calibrated.

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

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Robert London was asked to report on the Financial Statement of WFD for the Y/E 06/30/2020. The Financial Statement was distributed to the Committee and Mr. London noted that the District is in a very good financial position despite peoples' concerns.

Two corrections will be made, which were found by Commissioner Pajor.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to accept the Auditor's Financial Statement with the 2 corrections made. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 28, 2021. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

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

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV 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 in Place to Adopt 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. This revision has been made.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to adopted the Secondary Meter Procedures. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

- Received correspondence regarding the MDC/BWCC agreement (Deming Road Pump Station):

Atty. Sullivan wants to be diligent to find out if we are due a reimbursement, stating that the Mattabesett bill should show a credit to BWCC. Superintendent Pagliaruli said that we have not received any correspondence regarding this issue. Atty. Sullivan would like to see any bills from Mattabesett to BWCC noting any reductions listed. Jim Horbal commented that he should contact Arthur Simonian of the MDC so that the correct information is provided to WFD.

Superintendent Pagliaruli's concern is the question as to when the last time this meter has been calibrated. He would like to see documentation regarding this calibration. He also asked Jim Horbal who meters the flow, who requests calibration of the meter and if the meter is tagged at the time of calibration. Mr. Horbal responded that MDC installs the meter and it is calibrated on a yearly basis. He does not know if the meter is tagged and stated that Arthur Simonian would know the answer to that question.

- Middletown Road Claim:

Atty Sullivan asked Superintendent Pagliaruli if there is any new news on this issue. Superintendent Pagliaruli stated that he and Michael Walker are working on this and along with Stanley Smolski, they are working on a request of information.

- I/I Study:

Atty. Sullivan asked about the progress of the I/I study. Superintendent Pagliaruli responded that the I/I study is in progress and the State and the DEEP will be getting an accurate report once the study has been completed. Repairs have been made and the District has been diligent for the last 14 years making repairs and it is a fallacy to think that we are not being diligent.

- Other discussion:

Atty. Sullivan asked about the progress of the customers within out exclusive service area that are serviced by BWCC. Superintendent Pagliaruli said that he spoke with Ray Jarema and Mr. Jarema acknowledges that these customers are being serviced by BWCC without an agreement. Atty. Sullivan will be bringing this information to the WUCC.

There was no other business discussed.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to accept the report of the Legal Counsel. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Old Business was discussed under Legal Counsel.

NEW BUSINESS:

Change Order – Norton Road Meter Pit: Earth Contractors conducted extra out-of-scope work that was necessary to complete this job. The change order is an increase in the amount of \$3,311.90.

Superintendent Pagliaruli noted that the operation of this new meter pit has improved water flow throughout the District. It should also be noted that this meter pit project evolved from the quarterly meetings that used to be held between WFD, KFD and BWCC. Atty. Sullivan stated that these meetings were very beneficial and would like to see them commence again in the near future.

A Motion was made by Peter Fliss and Seconded by Stanley Pajor IV to accept the change order increase of the net amount of \$3,311.90. MOTION PASSED 3-0.

Thomas Niedzwiecki mentioned that the budget is almost complete and should be completed in the next few months.

No new business was discussed.

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,

L. Ferrelli

Lynn Ferrelli, Tax Collector