

CROMWELL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015
7:00 PM ROOM 224/225
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Alice Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates

Present: Chairman Alice Kelly, Vice Chairman Eric Zeilor, Timothy Griffin, Kenneth Slade

Also Present: Town Council Liaison Richard Newton, Sewer Administrator Richard Peck, Commission Clerk Sarah Voog

Absent: Robert Jahn

3. Approve/Amend Agenda

Eric Zeilor made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Timothy Griffin.

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

4. Approve/Amend Minutes

a. November 9, 2015 Regular Meeting

Kenneth Slade made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Timothy Griffin.

Vote: Yes: Alice Kelly, Timothy Griffin, Kenneth Slade

Abstain: Eric Zeilor (not present at minutes meeting)

Motion Passed.

5. Report of Chairman

a. Member's Report

b. Staff Report

There were no reports made.

6. Citizen Comments

Mike Lionetti of 6 Walnut Tree Road asked what portion of the sewer lateral to the main sewer line is the homeowner's responsibility. Rich Peck said the portion that goes from the building to the main line connection. Mr. Lionetti asked what would be the case if a tree a few feet off the road, in the right of way, or if a water main failed and caused a blockage/breakage. Rich Peck said that as the current code states that would be the responsibility of the property owner and that the issue comes up very infrequently. He noted that he has looked into and discussed changing the code to include to the property line as the responsibility of the CWPCA. He said that many cities and towns do include that portion in their code/policy and many do not. Richard Newton said if there was a rupture in the street the MDC would take care of it and Rich Peck said that we would do the same. Eric Zeilor said that each circumstance should be reviewed on a case by case basis. Chairman Kelly suggested that they look into the matter more and discuss the existing code.

7. New Business

None

8. Old Business

a. I/I Program – Draft 3 Sump Pump/Inflow Disconnection Financial Assistance Grant Policy - Revisions, Requested Backup Info for Grant Funding and Code Language

Rich Peck said that on page 27 of the I/I Study it shows that \$114,000 was allocated for disconnection of illegal connections to the sewer system. He noted that would cover 38 potential instances for \$3000 each, but he did not see there being that many. Eric Zeilor commented that as a result of the study there are currently 18 known potentially illegal connections. Richard Newton said that offering an incentive to disconnect will make the program much more successful and people will be more receptive to taking care of the matter. He said that in the end compliance is what is most important. Timothy Griffin commented that removing that much flow from the system would benefit all sewer users.

Rich Peck reviewed each of the comments made at the last meeting regarding the grant policy language. He said that he spoke with the Engineering Department and they do have specifications for directing water into the storm sewer. He said in the revisions he addressed the Prior Inspection by changing the language from may to shall in both instances. He said he spoke with the Building Department and a simple disconnect would not require a building permit and that with something more significant he would notify them that a building permit may be needed. He commented that building codes allow homeowners to do almost any work on their single family home themselves and that would include an inflow disconnection.

He handed out a proposal for a revision of the language in the Town Sewer Codes. He said he went on-line to search for other ordinances and found that 193-9 Violations and penalties item F. did not reflect reasonable violation fees. Discussion was held on the amount of time to comply and the fines for non-compliance. Staff suggested in the grant policy within 180 days to comply and then notice of failure to comply (notice of violation "NOV") would be sent, then after 30 days a reasonable fine would be imposed such a \$100.00, then \$100.00 for each week the violation continues as it would be viewed as a separate offense/occurrence.

9. Bills and Correspondence

None

10. Financial Reports

- a. Receivables/Delinquent Assessment & Usage Account Updates
 - b. Budget Update Revenues/Expenditures – Assessment, Usage & CNR
 - c. Bond & SIF Status – January, Pending Final Release of Northwoods Estates 2
- The Authority reviewed with no action items 10 a-c.

11. Miscellaneous

Eric Zeilor asked why Cromwell raised the manholes on the State Route 3 (Shunpike Road) when it didn't seem a requirement. Rich Peck said that the State wanted it done before the winter and that the sewer personnel worked in conjunction with the State to properly match the manholes to the new pavement. He said he is proud that only 7 of the 20 manholes did not match. He said that he did the remaining 7 for the Cromwell residents that live on the Shunpike as unmatched manholes make lots of noise.

Chairman Kelly said the public is very important to the CWPCA. Rich Peck commented that while they had the contractor in Cromwell they took care of a few manholes on Evergreen Road as well. Richard Newton remarked that it is not a requirement to raise the manhole, but that the paving contractors will just pave right over them if it isn't done at the time and that can cause their location to be lost.

Eric Zeilor discussed the relocation of sewer personnel to the Tax Office. He said he is not in favor of the proposal made by the Town Manager. He stated that he wants to see the original proposal to reclassify the Sewer Accounting Clerk's position and to address the very out dated job descriptions. He noted that the Authority has been pursuing the proposal for more than a decade and it has been put off for one reason or another many times. He commented that 75% of what the job entails has nothing to do with taking payments and that there are many other office tasks involved in properly running a utility that are not being considered. He said the proposal has been supported by the Union the entire time. He asked that the matter be put on the January agenda. Timothy Griffin said he agreed with what Eric Zeilor stated.

Chairman Alice Kelly said that Attorney Andrew Lord was contacted by the labor attorney at Murtha Cullina to represent the Sewer Authority in the matter as they stated it would be a conflict of interest for their firm to represent both the CWPCA and the Town. She said that Attorney Lord has been in contact with Attorney Kari Olson of Murtha Cullina and the Town's labor attorney Ken Weinstock to discuss the aspects of the proposal regarding jurisdiction over the Sewer Department employees. She noted that the Authority looks to the State Statutes to determine jurisdiction and that the Murtha Cullina firm issued a written opinion more than 2 years ago regarding the CWPCA as being a separate entity with all the powers and duties of Chapter 103 of the CT General Statutes, which includes jurisdiction over its employees. She said that the Town Manager is saying the bargaining agreement overrides the statutes. Chairman Kelly asked that as this matter is directly related to a personnel matter that the agenda item be placed under executive session.

12. Adjournment

Eric Zeilor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM, 2nd by Timothy Griffin.

All in Favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Sarah Voog
CWPCA Commission Clerk