

TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
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ROBERT A. RIITH, CHAIRMAN
CRAIG J. FLAHERTY, P.E.
ROCCO GENOVESE
M. REESE HUTCHISON III
PETER VAN WINKLE, ESQ.

**TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
4:30 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016
ROOM 206, DARIEN TOWN HALL, 2 RENSHAW RAOD, DARIEN, CT 06820**

ATTENDANCE: Craig Flaherty, Vice Chairman;
Peter Van Winkle,
M. Reese Hutchison III

ABSENT: Robert Riith,
Rocco Genovese

STAFF: Edward L. Gentile Jr., Director, DPW
Darren Oustafine, Assistant Director, DPW

OTHERS: Paul Harris,
Greg Romano

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flaherty called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The following amendments were made to the minutes of the Special Meeting on February 9, 2016.

On page 2, first paragraph add after The "current sewer use fee is" and remove "sewage tax came to".

In the next sentence add after LLC "as the bill has already been paid. The total sewer bill for this year is \$11,000."

In the Superintendent's Report on page 2, add a sentence to the end of the paragraph. "Mr. Van Winkle pondered the merits of a sump pump permit to better control sump pump installations and discharges."

On page 3, first sentence change "it s" to "it's"

Under Mary Pierson Keating, Esq. 85 Raymond Street, after the word main add "once" and delete "and".

Under Sewer Commission Vacancy, change "Hutchinson" to "Hutchison".

**** MR. VAN VINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2016.**

**** MR. FLAHERTY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR (MR. FLAHERTY AND MR. VAN WINKLE) AND ONE ABSTAINED (MR. HUTCHISON).**

Mr. Flaherty introduced and welcomed Mr. Hutchison as the newest member of the Commission.

PAUL HARRIS, COLE HARRIS ASSOCIATES

Mr. Harris spoke about the potential sewer extension and new water line on Settlers Trail. Mr. Harris, who is currently redeveloping two properties, said Mr. Romano has the most challenging piece of property.

Mr. Harris presented a map and documentation that shows popular support for the sewer extension on Settlers Trail and Clocks Lane. Mr. Harris also presented documentation on research he performed relative to ownership of Clocks Lane.

Mr. Harris said the issue is with Ms. Chisholm who has not given consent to the sewer line. He said there is a big drop-off of water from her property into a wetland pond.

He said the most difficult piece of property is a foreclosed piece of property that is owned by a bank and that he has confirmation from the bank that they are in favor of the sewer extension. Mr. Harris stated that a portion of the road is still owned by Mr. Jack Clark. Mr. Clark is deceased and Mr. Harris said his attorney, Al Tibbets, has been in contact with a lawyer for the Estate of Jack Clarke and that attorney believes that his heirs will grant an easement or will transfer property to an adjacent piece of property for purposes of easement.

He said the Schmidt's have signed off on a letter to grant an easement to run the sewer, but he could not get Ms. Chisholm to sign off. Mr. Harris said can run the sewer line straight down the paved road to the end.

Mr. Flaherty asked if Mr. Harris had spoken to Aquarion. He said has spoken to Aquarion and they are ready to do their feasibility studies.

Mr. Flaherty said this is an issue of public health. He said the hurdle to overcome was to get clear title. He said it sounds like good news and asked Mr. Harris to summarize the plan and then the Commission will have a Town attorney look at it.

Mr. Harris asked the Commission for a time line. He said he is working against the clock. Mr. Flaherty asked Mr. Harris to give the costs assessment including tap fees.

Mr. Oustafine said the procedure is to ask staff (Public Works) to proceed with the project. He said then the attorney will get a benefit appraisal and staff would make an estimate of what the project will cost and figure out the assessment cost for comparison with apparent benefit. Mr. Oustafine said at this time an estimate of \$300 per linear foot was used by Mr. Harris per recommendation of town based on other projects. He said Town Council will hire somebody to do a benefit appraisal.

Mr. Harris said Aquarion will have to assume some of the costs whether it is a portion of the paving or the coordination. He said six homes want a new water line and some of the costs will be absorbed by the individuals.

The Commission made a motion to proceed with town counsel review and then with benefit appraisal and to report back to the commission at the April meeting:

**** MR. FLAHERTY STATED BASED ON APPARENT POPULAR SUPPORT OF THOSE THAT WOULD BENEFIT, THE DEMONSTRATED NEED AND THE POTENTIAL OF A PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT, WE MOVE TO DIRECT STAFF TO INVESTIGATE THE PROJECT INCLUDING A LEGAL FEASIBILITY WITH TOWN COUNCIL AND TO DO SO IN AN INCREMENTAL FASHION USING SEWER COMMISSION FUNDS CAREFULLY**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Oustafine said if everything works out the next step will be to schedule a Public Hearing. Mr. Flaherty said it is possible the Public Hearing could be held in June. Mr.

Flaherty said best case scenario hard construction could begin in November or December, but it could be delayed until February or March.

Mr. Greg Romano of 11 Clocks Lane spoke and said he supported the project. He said it would be much better for him to connect to a sewer instead of having septic which could be a time bomb.

Mr. Flaherty called for a vote. The vote was 3-0 in support of proceeding with the project.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Gentile said he had nothing new to report.

The Commission went on to discuss better control of sump pump installations an issue brought up at the last meeting.

Mr. Flaherty said there is a public health component involved. He said the more ground and storm water going into the sewers the more likelihood there are going to be overflows in the sewers and treatment plants.

Mr. Flaherty said plumbing officials have to report the illicit connections when doing reviews. Then the Commission can contact the homeowner and tell them to either start paying for the discharge or remove it.

Mr. Flaherty said the first thing is to let people know the situation. He said in an indirect way it is a public health issue.

Mr. Flaherty said they could create some cooperation with the building department. He said this and FOG are two of the long-term issues to be dealt with. Mr. Hutchison said the Commission should ask Mr. Peter Solheim of the Building Department to help. Mr. Flaherty said the Commission should do a memo to Mr. Solheim and copy Ms. Stevenson that this is a problem and why it is a big problem.

Mr. Gentile said he will draft a memo and bring it to the next meeting for discussion.

Mr. Flaherty mentioned Mr. Oustafine's report on FOG and said it will be discussed in the near future.

Mr. Flaherty addressed sewer expansions. He asked if the Commission has ever taken a proactive approach. He asked why the Commission does not take a proactive approach on areas that are a problem.

He said he heard Tokeneke Association is against it. Mr. Flaherty recommended talking to the President of the Tokeneke Association and asking them to bring it up at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VAN WINKLE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Venuto
Telescope Secretarial Services

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