

TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION  
2 RENSRAW ROAD - TOWN HALL  
DARIEN, CT 06820-5397  
TELEPHONE (203) 656-7382



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 PM TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016  
ROOM 206, DARIEN TOWN HALL, 2 RENSRAW ROAD, DARIEN, CT 06820**

ATTENDANCE: Robert Riith, Chairman  
Craig Flaherty, Vice Chairman  
Peter Van Winkle  
Rocco Genovese  
M. Reese Hutchison

STAFF: Public Works: Ed Gentile, Director  
Darren Oustafine, Asst. Director

OTHER: Anne Fox  
Lauren Chisholm

1. Call to Order

Chairman Riith called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and stated that the members as listed were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- \*\* MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2015 AS EDITED WITH CORRECTIONS MADE BY MR. OUSTAFINE.
- \*\* MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION
- \*\* MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS (GENOVESE, HUTCHISON)

3. Anne and Mark Fox, 1741 Boston Post Road, Darien  
Request for Sound Attenuation from Stony Brook Pump Sewage Pumping Station.

Ms. Anne Fox was in attendance and provided an overview of the noise levels based on her ten year residency adjacent to the pump station.

There was discussion on the issue with the odor control unit being external and possible causes of the increased noise attributed to the fan. It was agreed to do a vibration

analysis and examination of the fan to determine if a repair is necessary. It was noted that staff would use judgment to initiate repairs within reasonable expense or would report back to the commission in June regarding potential solutions for commission consideration. Reasonable efforts would be taken at the discretion of the superintendent of sewers.

#### 4. Sewer User Fee Appeals:

##### a. Ram Krishnan & Rua Subramanian, 3 Richmond Drive:

Mr. Oustafine provided the supporting documentation and explained that there was a request to waive the interest charges because Ms. Subramanian forgot to pay the bill because of a sick child. Mr. Riith noted that if the request had come in before, interest forgiveness could be considered for period of time while bill was under appeal, but at this time it is not consistent with past procedures.

\*\* MR.HUTCHISON MOVED TO DENY THE REQEUST TO WAIVE INTEREST CHARGES.

\*\* MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION

\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

##### b. Richard Pisani, 2 Saint Nicholas Road.

Mr. Oustafine provided the supporting documentation and explained that there was a meter installed but no hard data to document the reduction as the meter on the irrigation system was installed only a few weeks ago. Mr. Flaherty reviewed the usage comparison and outlined that it was apparent that the usage was attributed to irrigation water.

\*\* MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM RICHARD PISANI,  
2 SAINT NICHOLAS ROAD, FOR A REDUCTION OF USAGE FEES TO \$602.56.

\*\* MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 5. 56 Maple Street Sewer Connection.

Mr. Oustafine reviewed the background on the item as a 3-lot subdivision as presented by Attorney Robert Maslan and with prior approval by sewer commission. He explained that they now are requesting a modification for a lateral on an adjacent property per the easement map in lieu of the 3 lots with extended sewer main as previously approved.

\*\* MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM 56 MAPLE STREET SUB-DIVISION FOR MODIFICATION FOR A LATERAL ON AN ADJACENT PROPERTY PER THE EASEMENT MAP PENDING APPROVAL BY TOWN COUNSEL.

\*\* MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.

\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

\*\* MR. HUTCHISON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO MOVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS ITEM 7 NEXT.

\*\* MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION

\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 7. Settlers Trail, Clocks Lane Sewer Extension.

Mr. Oustafine provided the background in the item and noted that a benefit appraisal title search has been requested but not yet received. Ms. Lauren Chisholm was in attendance. It was noted that the item would be tabled until more information was available.

#### 6. Potential Changes to Article XI – Sanitary Sewer Regulations, Section 1000-6.1.1, Residential Metered Water Sewer User Fee (Continued from April 5, 2016)

Mr. Oustafine reviewed the background on the item. There was discussion on the fact that there has not been an inordinate increase in appeals and the switch has been manageable.

\*\* MR. VAN WINKLE MOVED TO KEEP THE REGULATIONS AS IS WITHOUT CHANGE.

\*\* MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.

\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION (FLAHERTY).

#### 8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Gentile stated that the WPCA has requested to reschedule the meeting and he will get back to them with dates. He explained that there needs to be better communication and issues addressed more timely, in particular when the amount of a dispute is \$450,000. He explained that he has increased the monthly amount by \$20,000 to close the gap in the difference disputed. He added that most of the difference is attributed to administrative costs from increases in pension costs, insurance, and law suits, which are questionable.

There was discussion on whether the Commission should attend the WPCA meetings or have a representative on the Authority as part of the next negotiations.

Mr. Gentile reported recent leaks at Cove Island forced main and West Avenue & Noroton. He noted that Pat was hopeful that both can be repaired without major expenditures.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- \*\* MR. HUTCHISON MOVED TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA:  
LETTER TO THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS THAT CLOG THE SEWER PUMPS.
- \*\* MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Gentile referred to another recent clog and the ongoing issue of 'flushable' labels.

The following letter was presented to be sent to the Noroton Bay Association.

Draft of letter from the Sewer Commission.

Dear Sewer Use Customer,

In recent months the sewer pump station that exclusively serves the Noroton Bay Community has been clogging, and damaging our pumps every few days. We have found so called "flushable" wipes, diapers, socks, towels and feminine hygiene products clogged inside our pumps. Some products labeled "flushable" have been identified as the cause of extensive damage and strain to our municipal sewer system and can cause problems in your own home if a clog occurs on your property.

In an effort to reduce downtime, expenses and possible property damage due to a sewer overflow. Please do not flush these products. Please inform those using your facilities to also avoid flushing these products. Together we can greatly reduce the risk of any problems for all of us and the environment.

Thank you for your immediate attention and cooperation to this issue.

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There was discussion on what other outreach could be done through environmental groups to inform the public on this issue of mislabeled products impact waste management systems. Mr. Flaherty asked if there was a strainer system to catch items before pumps are clogged. Mr. Gentile noted that they will look into what types of open/closure fittings are available.

- \*\* MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO APPROVE THE LETTER TO BE SENT TO THE SEWER USE CUSTOMERS.
- \*\* MR. GENOVESE SECONDED THE MOTION
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

- \*\* MR. VAN WINKLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
- \*\* MR. GENOVESE SECONDED THE MOTION.
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;  
M. Knox, Telesco Secretarial Services