

TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
2 RENSHAW ROAD - TOWN HALL
DARIEN, CT 06820-5397
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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
DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
4:30 P.M. June 7, 2016

ROOM 206, DARIEN TOWN HALL, 2 RENSHAW ROAD, DARIEN, CT 06820

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

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

OTHER: Greg Romano
Rama Veeturi
Michael Murray, Esq.
Paul Harris
Thomas Murphy
Corey Fogg
Lauren Chisholm
Leah Mink

1. Call to Order

Chairman Riith called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

** MR. VAN WINKLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF MAY 3, 2016 AS EDITED WITH CORRECTIONS MADE BY MR. OUSTAFINE
** MR. HUTCHINSON SECONDED THE MOTION
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Sewer User Fee Appeals. Attachments. Discussion and Action.

a. Joseph and Caroline Hanley, 32 Wakeman Road.

The Hanleys were not present. Mr. Oustafine outlined the data provided in the packet, noting no leaks were found in irrigation.

The Commission discussed the issue and Mr. Flaherty concluded enough data had been provided to prove the issue an anomaly and moved to grant to an adjustment to reflect costs of the previous lowest year.

- ** MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO GRANT A ONETIME ADJUSTMENT AND TO ADJUST BILL TO \$710.16
- ** MR. HUTCHINSON SECONDED THE MOTION
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Mark Miller, 52 Relihan Road

Mr. Miller was not present. Mr. Oustafine briefed the Commission that Mr. Miller discovered his original basement sump pump was water-powered and has since been switched to electric and would like his appeal to be reconsidered.

Mr. Riith asked if the sump pump water discharges into the sanitary sewer. Mr. Oustafine advised this was not known. Mr. Riith and Mr. Flaherty agreed this information need be known before a decision could be made and the issue should be tabled.

- ** MR. VAN WINKLE MOTIONED TO TABLE THE ISSUE
- ** MR. FLAHERTY SECONDED THE MOTION
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Rama Veeturi and Radhika Kadiri, 156 Hecker Avenue

Mr. Veeturi was present and spoke to issue after Mr. Oustafine's introduction. Mr. Flaherty took time to calculate the changes of the bill after hearing Mr. Veeturi's stance that the Sewer Bill should be based on his consumption and not previous homeowners.

- ** MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO GRANT A ONETIME ADJUSTMENT OF MR. VEETURI'S BILL FROM \$860.00 TO \$645.60
- ** MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Ronald Thomas, 26 Red Rose Circle

Mr. Thomas was not present. Mr. Oustafine recapped the data submitted stating that it is not a full year's worth of information.

** MR. FLAHERTY MOTIONED TO ADJUST THE BILL TO \$538.00** MR.
HUTCHINSON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Anne and Mark Fox, 1741 Boston Post road. Request for Sound Attenuation from Stony Brook Pump Sewage Pumping Station. Discussion and Action.

Mr. Oustafine read aloud an email received from Anne Fox thanking the Commission for fixing the noise issue. Mr. Oustafine went through what actions had been taken to rectify the problem.

5. 68 Salem Straits. Thomas Murphy. Appeal of Technical Standards. Attachment. Discussion and Action.

Mr. Murphy was present along with Judge Murray who spoke with and on his behalf. Mr. Oustafine gave the overview of the issue: work on a pool house sewer had been completed without the proper permit being pulled.

Judge Murray presented their facts, asking for relief as the plumber passed away in middle of project. Both Mr. Murphy, Contractor and Plumber were working under the assumption that the work completed was under the Building Permit.

The Commission reviewed the file at length, asking for clarification on several points including observation points in both the Pool House and Main House where work could be seen.

Mr. Flaherty would like to observe the forced main from the pump pit in the Pool House and going into main. He also noted a conversation should be had with Mr. Solheim to inquire if he was considering the forced main in his inspection. Mr. Flaherty also asked that full-sized pictures be sent that were labeled with what they were showing, who took picture, when they were taken and where they were corresponding on the map.

** MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO TALBE THE ISSUE UNTIL ABOVE SAID ACTIONS WERE
TAKEN
** MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Settlers Trail, Clocks Lane Sewer Extension. Attachments. Discussion and Action.

Mr. Oustafine provided background mentioning the Benefit Appraisal Report had been received although not all the title searches had been collected. The Appraisal report prepared by an independent appraiser shows a \$50,000 apparent benefit to the home chosen for analysis, if sewer were available and feels information is present to go towards the design phase, survey phase and approach the owners for easements.

Mr. Flaherty commented that two hurdles before considering continuation had been cleared: the Appraisal Report clears the rule that a project cannot engage that will assess property owners more than the benefit, and it appears property rights will be in place to engage in project. There are no further technical obstructions.

Mr. Oustafine advised the next step would be to schedule a public hearing.

Ms. Lauren Chisolm was present and asked a few questions regarding the “boring” of the land, to which Mr. Flaherty explained and described it’s process.

Mr. Paul Harris was also present and advised he represented those in the neighborhood in favor of running the sewer. Mr. Flaherty asked Mr. Harris what his intentions were regarding two new builds that were affected with the outcome of this decision. Mr. Harris advised the water lines could not be run until sewer lines are decided and if he needed to wait until the sewer was available, he would. Otherwise they planned to install a septic system that is already approved. Mr. Harris responded to Ms. Chisholm’s concerns and addressed the commission explaining that he would provide financial assistance to Ms. Chisholm relative to sewer assessment.

** MR. FLAHERTY MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING

** MR. HUTCHINSON SECONDED

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Superintendents Report – Ed Gentile

a. Stamford – Darien Invoice Reconciliation

Mr. Gentile advised he met with Stamford WPC after the annual invoice had been received with a \$600,000/year increase (\$230,000/month fee up from \$180,000/month). Mr. Gentile expressed his concerns and disappointment during the

meeting in how the increase was handled and succeeded in having several fees removed which reduced the monthly fee to \$193,000.

b. Residential Backflow – Check Valve Purchase and Contractor List

Mr. Gentile advised this item referred to a resident asking the Commission to supplement those who could not afford to do the suggested backflow. Mr. Gentile advised there were about 140 people on the tax abatement list that fit the description.

Mr. Flaherty noted he would like to know how many of 140 are likely to need the backflow adjustment.

c. Cove Island Pipe Repair

Mr. Gentile reported the cost to repair the cracked flange was \$19,000.

8. New Business – None.

9. Adjournment

** MR. VAN WINKLE MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. FLAHERTY SECONDED THE MOTION
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;
Leah Mink
Telesco Secretarial Services