

MINUTES ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE VOTERS OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2011, 10:00 A.M. WOODRIDGE LAKE CLUB HOUSE EAST HYERDALE DRIVE GOSHEN, CT 06756

ELIGIBLE VOTERS PRESENT: There were twenty-nine (29) eligible voters present. a list of eligible voters present is on file with the minutes of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: In the absence of Raymond Turri, President of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLS D), Vice President Jim Mersfelder called the meeting to order at 10:07. A.M.

Jim Mersfelder stated the purpose of the meeting and thanked all those in attendance for coming and that at the end of the budget meeting he would give an overview of what has been happening relative to the general operations work that has been going on and the status of some of the work that is in progress to be in compliance with the DEP requirements.

Item #1: Adoption of the Annual Budget for fiscal July 1, 2011 –June 30, 2012 **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Chip Roraback seconded by John Plummer to adopt the proposed budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012. The motion was open for discussion. Jim Mersfelder noted under discussion on the budget that the total budgeted operating expense for 2011/2012 is \$888,453.40 with budgeted capital expenses of \$295,611.00. A vote by show of hands for those voting in favor of the motion was called. All voted in favor, there were no nay votes. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #2: The laying of the tax for said fiscal year July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012. Jim Mersfelder explained that the budgeted number of \$934,613.76 is the amount to be collected in tax revenue. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Lou Friedrich seconded by Ken Green to set \$934,613.76 as the amount to be collected in taxes for Fiscal Year 2011/2012. No discussion, **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #3: Fixing the tax rate for said fiscal year July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012: Jim Mersfelder noted the Board has approved a proposed mil rate of 3.3, which is the current mil rate for said fiscal year. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Frank Gomes seconded by Judy Armstrong to set the mil rate of 3.3 for fiscal year July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012. Under discussion, Jim Mersfelder noted that it was a decision of the Board to hold the mil rate at the current level. A draw down of reserves under the current budget had been anticipated for this year but it was not needed. To present a flat budget for 2011/2012 a 15% increase in the mil rate would be needed. Based on the fact that the District has approximately 70% of the operating budget in reserves the Board proposed the use of \$179,350.64 from reserves to offset the proposed budget. There was no further discussion under the motion. The voted was called. **The MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #4: A resolution providing for the District and or Authority for interim borrowing in anticipation of taxes. Jim Mersfelder read the resolution and called for a motion. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Joan Lang, seconded by Joyce Daniels to adopt said resolution. Under discussion, it was noted the resolution is a precautionary measure taken by the District to be able to cover expenses in lieu of an unlikely event of uncollected taxes. There was no further discussion on the motion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #5: Resolution for approval and ratification of additions and or abatements in the October 1, 2009 Tax list of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. The resolution was read and explained by Jim Mersfelder. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Lou Frederich seconded by Judy Armstrong to approve the ratification of additions to the 10/1/2009 Grand List in the amount of \$156,618.00. There was no discussion on the motion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Under Item #6: Jim Mersfelder gave those present an update on the following - Plant Projects – Upgrade to the Tertiary System which had been out of service for approximately three (3) years at a cost for the project of approximately \$164,000.00. Plant Pump access Road upgrade and the installation of the pad for the back-up Generator Pad at a cost of \$20,640.00. Risk management issues and general plant cleanup at a cost of \$30,700.00. Ridge & Furrow beds - It was discovered when working on the beds that only two of the potential 84 beds were being used. Extensive work done by Plant Personnel brought additional beds into service by clearing buried valves and installing permanent custom build handles to open the valves. There are now 44 beds that can take the effluent. One bed has been stripped of 30+ years of topsoil so the hydrologist from Woodward & Curran can study the water percolation rates. An additional ten beds have been cleared of topsoil and testing has begun to measure how quickly the effluent soaks into the soil. The results of percolation rate come with guarded optimism. An onsite meeting was held on May 18th with the State DEP, W&C Engineers and Plant personnel to review the short-duration testing and discuss plans for formal testing.

Inflow & Infiltration Study (I&I): Calibration of all pump station flow meters began and collection of daily flow data has begun. Problem areas have been found where the inflow numbers are high and W&C has developed a list of pipe segments where closed circuit television inspection will be conducted. Beginning June 1st, approximately 2.5 miles of sewer pipe will be CCTV inspected as a means of determining where the inflow problems are. There are approximately one hundred (100) homes that have ejector pump systems that pump the effluent up to the sewer line and four areas have been found that have unusual flow and WLSD staff will be doing a visual inspection and possibly request entry into the home to install a small digital date logger to monitor the pump activity that may indicate a leaking pump chamber. House to House inspections which will start in suspect problem areas first will also be conducted by a third party consultant and a member of the WLSD staff. Items that should not be hooked into the sewer system are sump pumps, downspouts, storm drains or swimming pools, water softeners and dehumidifiers are allowed.

Noted and explained was the \$60,000.00 line item in the budget for Environmental Law Firm expense. Jim Mersfelder noted the search that is in progress looking for a Law Firm experienced in environmental issues and one that will be able to well represent the WLSD in any negotiations with the State DEP. Based on the fact that the Ridge & Furrow system is the only one like it in the State, it is believed the District needs to be Assertive so that all issues can be resolved without trying to go beyond doing more Than is necessary to resolve the discharge issues. The Planning Committee has been

working on the hurdle rates for what is reasonable and justifiable for the DEP or any other regulatory agency to ask home owners or taxpayers to mitigate the problems legislated by the DEP.

Questioned was if it had been determined how long only two of the beds were in use. Jim Mersfelder stated that it is not known but the best determination at this time is at least through the winter. Ken Green, Chairman of the WLS D, through the use of a map of the beds, was able to show both the usable and unusable beds and the State approved beds that are used for the dumping of the dry solids. Noted was the testing being done with the use of instruments and test wells and the beds being used for that testing to determine what is happening underground. The state continues to hold that the level of treatment of the effluent prior to the discharge into the beds has no relevance to the DEP position on groundwater separation issues.

Questioned under the proposed budget was the significant increase in the line item for Audit Fees. Jim Mersfelder noted the increase is due to an increase in Auditors Fees and an additional cost to cover the cost of a Financial Consultant from Newberry & O'Rourke from Torrington to come in on a monthly basis to oversee the WLS D accounting procedures used by the District and better train the staff in general accounting procedures. It is hoped that over time, the work that is done in the preparation of the audit will result in a shorter time needed for the Auditor to come in to do the Audit. In the coming Fiscal year, consideration will be taken by the Board seek quotes for future Audit work.

Judy Armstrong gave a vote of thanks and appreciation to everyone who has been involved in working on the sewer problems. Jim Mersfelder also publicly thanked Bob Goldfeld and Bill Daniels for stepping forward to serve on the WLS D Boards.

Identification of the plant staff: Charles Ekstrom, Class III Plant Superintendent, Jason Patrick and Mark Theriault Certified Class I Operators – Joan Lang, Clerk and Laurie Mosley, Tax Collector.

Jim Mersfelder noted that at such time as the Board feels one is necessary, a community meeting would be held to bring the property owners up to date on the upgrade issues and suggested that they read the articles in the WL Breezes and also check the web-site postings for what is happening. There was no other business to come before the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 A.M.

Respectfully submitted

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Joan M. Lang, Clerk