

MINUTES ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE TAXPAYERS  
OF THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT, SATURDAY,  
MAY 25, 2013, 9:30 A.M. WOODRIDGE LAKE CLUB HOUSE  
EAST HYERDALE DRIVE, GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 9:36 A.M. by Raymond A. Turri, President of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District.

Members of the WLSLD serving on the Board and present at this meeting were, Raymond Turri, Jim Mersfelder, Joan Lang, Bob Godfeld and alternates Cindy Barrett and John Kelley. Absent was board member Jim Hiltz.

Seating of Alternate-**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** and seconded to seat John Kelley as a regular member for this meeting, **SO VOTED**.

Call of the Meeting: Item # 1 – Adopting the annual budget of the WLSLD for fiscal year 2013/2014. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Frank Gomes, seconded by Al Schull to adopt said budgeted operating expenses in the amount of \$825,178.00. The meeting was open for discussion on the motion and Jim Mersfelder, Treasurer for the District gave an overall review of the proposed budget. Noted was the 9% increase or \$78,934.40 over the current budget. Noted were the following capital balances of \$914,940 as per June 30, 2012 audit results. The projected amount of \$983,000 is forecasted as of 6/30/2013 and if the proposed budget is adopted the projected capital for the year ending June 30, 2014, would be drawn down to approximately \$475,777.00.

The \$805,275.00 spending for Facilities Plan Project of which the District's share of \$408,412.00 is being funded under the current tax rate budget. In 2013/2014, the District is planning to spend \$1,751,216.00 to finish the Facilities Plan and to begin to get ready for the next cycle. Some of those dollars will come out of Capital and from a Clean Water Fund loan which will be carried at \$983,000.00 by the end of the year.

The big capital Items for 2013/2014 are Facilities Plan w/amendments in the amount of \$154,576; the I & I, Pump Stations, SCADA and Engineering in the amount of \$960,000; the completion of the Facilities Plan process upgrade (Torrington Pipe or On-Site Upgrade in the amount of \$600,000 and Clean Water Fund Debit Service in the amount of \$24,500 for a grand total of \$1,751,216.00.

Operating Revenue: In 2012/2013 the District had \$990,946 in operating revenue through taxes, cell tower rent and permit fees. The projected operating expenses for 2012/2013 are \$751,243 00.leaving a surplus of \$239,703. The surplus will be applied to the planned projects for next year. Based on the fact that there were long negotiations with DEEP over testing and slow completion of projects by Woodard & Curran only \$219,277 of the planned \$1,320,309 was spent in 2012/2013 for the Facilities Plan. Any unspent money is being rolled over into the 2013/2014 projected budget.

The \$79,000 spending increase for 2013/2014 was noted and explained as follows: - \$89,000 for Personnel, (the District now has four full time, State certified plant personnel): Operations is down by -\$17,500: Office down by \$1,000: Insurance up by \$2,700: Professional Fees down by -\$1,800 and Revenue down by \$5,000 due to timely collection in taxes reducing the interest amount to be collected in back taxes as well as

fewer new connections.

Noted was the approximately 17% reduction in the assessed property value due to the October 1, 2012 Town Revaluation and the need to adjust the mil rate to raise the same revenue as last year.

There were no comments from the floor on the proposed budget and Ray Turri asked for a vote on the motion to adopt the proposed 2013/2014 budget as presented, by a show of hands. There was no opposition, the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Item #2 - The laying of the tax rate for said fiscal year July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014: A **MOTION WAS MADE BY** Richard Reis seconded by Tom McKiernan to approve the tax rate of \$1,029,441.29 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. There was no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken by a show of hands. **THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #3 – Fixing the Tax rate for said fiscal year July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. A **MOTION WAS MADE BY** Barry Donaldson seconded by Ray Turri to set the tax rate of 4.3 mils for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014. There was no discussion on the motion. A vote was called for by a show of hands. There was no opposition, the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Item #4 – Consider a resolution for interim borrowing: Said resolution was read and explained by Raymond Turri. A **MOTION WAS MADE BY** Tom McKiernan seconded by Richard Reis to approve said resolution. A vote was called for by a show of hands, there was no opposition the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Said resolution is on file with the minutes of this meeting.

Item #5 – Resolution providing for approval and ratification of corrections made in the October 1, 2011 Grand List of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. For the record, there were no additions or corrections made in the October 1, 2011 Grand List for the WLSD.

There was no further discussion on the Budget and the meeting was turned over to Ken Green Chairman of the WLSD Planning Committee who gave a presentation on the status of where the District stands as of this date on the Facilities Plan after a meeting on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, with the State DEEP. The Planning Committee update details the extensive work that has been done by the Planning Committee since early 2011 is on file with minutes of this meeting.

Ken reported that on Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>, that he along with the District's environmental lawyer John Wertam and Jim Mersfelder with three members of DEEP management Betsy Wingfield, the Bureau Chief of Water Protection; Denise Ruzicka, the Division Director of Planning and Kim Hudak, the Assistant Division Director of Permitting. At that meeting the District briefed DEEP at a management level on the findings of the

project work on the District's Facilities Plan. It was reported that the meeting went well and it was felt the District had achieved its objective of gaining the commitment of the DEEP to be open-minded about an on-site option. Ken noted that John Wertam is the Environmental Legal Council for the District and comes with experience in Environmental council and litigation.

The next step to be taken is for Woodard & Curran the Engineering Firm being used by the District to complete a summary of the Facilities Plan and deliver it to DEEP by June 20<sup>th</sup> for their technical staff to review the details of the estimated to be a 40 to 50 page document. A follow-up meeting with DEEP management and staff is being planned for mid-July.

Ken Green expounded on the result of the work done to date on the Facilities Plan and it has been concluded that an on-site option is viable based on the following:

- The new treatment plant will treat the wastewater effluent to near drinking Water quality and provide more treatment than DEEP's 21 day guideline.
- The disposal fields test results show them capable of handling an average 125,000 gpd.
- Planned I/I reduction in the collection system will offset any future planned flows.
- The District has demonstrated that it can meet the intent of DEEP's disposal guidelines by enhanced treatment from a new plant with member and bio-reactor technology followed by UV disinfection.

It has also been concluded that an on-site solution is significantly less expensive than building a pipeline to Torrington. Although DEEP has not reviewed our plan, the District is prepared to advocate and defend an on-site solution as the most reasonable and viable option. The challenge facing the District in securing a new permit, is that although the District believes the District meets DEEP's standards for water quality it is not done in full accordance with their Design Guidelines. Due to the geology of the disposal beds, it is hard for the District to prove that we meet all the standards on DEEP's technical guidelines. In order to get the permit limits to operate an on-site plant with our existing disposal beds the District needs DEEP's cooperation and flexibility.

The various options have been costed, but until such time as the District comes closer to some agreement with DEEP on the options no real numbers are available. As noted in previous District meetings, any solutions being considered are expensive and remain broadly in the range of \$10 to \$20 plus million. By the end of summer, at a District meeting of the Taxpayers of the District it is hoped we will be in the position to give more details on the status of the project and the long term solution.

The meeting opened to questions from the Taxpayers – Question, why the big range between the \$10 and \$20 million estimated cost of the two options? Answer, the cost to run a pipe line to Torrington is significantly higher.

Question – Is there room to expand the disposal field area? Answer – It is an option that has not been looked into, but was suggested by the DEEP at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

It was noted that expanding the disposal beds would also be expensive and if the DEEP were to push the option of going to Torrington, the District would continue to look at that and any other possible option.

Question – Concern was expressed regarding DEEP looking to regionalization of the small sewer treatment facilities and the question was asked, if the District were able to meet the permit battle with DEEP would that open up the door for regionalization with other wastewater treatment facilities in the area? Answer – Based on the fact that the disposal of the wastewater of the District is land application vs. stream discharge for all other wastewater treatment facilities in the State, the answer is it would be very unlikely.

Question – If the DEEP were to force the District to connect to Torrington, is there any recourse for the District to re-coupe the \$10 million and to put a cap on what Torrington could charge the District annually?

Answer – Council for the District has made known the fact that the DEEP is not sensitive to cost issues. Noted by Ken Green was the time spent at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with DEEP laying out the impact of the cost of the two options on the taxpayers of the District.

Question: Based on the fact that the Board, Planning Committee and Engineers have been working to develop an affordable and environmentally Facilities Plan, how much longer will DEEP allow the District to move toward a resolution before DEEP would start to fine the District for non compliance.

Answer – DEEP at this time is open minded relative to the District's aggressive work it is currently doing to resolve the issue and Legal Council for the District has made it known the District in not under any time enforcement orders.

A discussion followed regarding the I & I work being done and what if any major infiltration has been found and what is being done to correct any infiltration problems.

There were no other questions to come before the meeting. Noted by a taxpayer was the incredible job the Board and the Planning, Financial and Operating Committees have done over the past two plus years. For their intelligent response to the State DEEP and willingness do what they are doing. A round of applause was given for their work.

In comments from the Board, Bob Goldfeld reminded everyone that the current system is forty (40) years old and the longer it takes to reach a solution; there is the potential for an emergency problem. Ray Turri noted that in 1999 when he bought his property in

Woodridge Lake he thought the treatment plant was always going to be there and did not do due diligence relative in looking as the treatment plant facilities and its operations.

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Ken Green noted that along with funding under the State Clean Water Fund that every effort would be made to look for any other available funding either through State or Federal Grants and to pursue legislative support for the cause of the District.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. **A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY** Ray Turri and the meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Joan M. Lang, Clerk