

WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT
MINUTES ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The annual budget meeting of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District was called to order by Jim Mersfelder, Vice President and Treasurer of the District at 10:15 A.M.

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Jim Mersfelder, Joan Lang and James Hiltz. Also present were twenty –six Woodridge Lake Sewer District taxpayers. The list of those present is on file with the minutes of this meeting.

Jim Mersfelder addressed the letter, along with the proposed 2015/2016 budget that had been mailed to all taxpayers of the District prior to this meeting and gave those present the opportunity to voice questions or concerns that they might have regarding the proposed budget recommendations and the revenue and expenses overview for the current 2014/2015 Fiscal Year. The letter also addressed the proposed 2015/2016 budget, the activities to be covered under the proposed budget and future capital needs. Jim Mersfelder noted it is hoped that during the next Fiscal Year, DEEP will give their approval regarding the disposal of the treated effluent either on site or going to Torrington, The Board and Planning Committee continue their work to try to secure funding and grants so that the cost for which ever option is approved will be affordable by the Woodridge Lake Community. The work being done to secure funding is challenging. To date, a commitment of 29% Grant level has been received from USDA and 20% from the State. The challenge facing the Planning Committee at this time is to get both entities to work together so the District can take advantage of both grants. The District is making it very clear to both parties that without the cooperative funding, the project will be unaffordable to the Woodridge Lake Community. In looking ahead, the plan is to take a closer look at the Torrington option. To get a better estimate on the cost, boring work will be done along the projected pipe route to Torrington. The District expects to start the planning work this year on which ever option is selected by the DEEP. The funding that has been appropriated in prior years, will be moved forward into this year. The operating performance of the District has been under budget for the current fiscal year, noting that the delays in getting the projects done have been due to the challenge of getting a solution that all parties involved can agree to.

Questions/Comments: Barry Donaldson spoke of what he sees as a moving target, the DEEP having the ability to continually change the boundaries required for the on-site disposal of the treated wastewater. Jim Mersfelder noted that the District to date has spent close to one million dollars on a Facilities Plan to try to determine what is the most cost effective and environmentally sound solution regarding the local option for the disposal of the wastewater. DEEP on a technical basis continues to disagree with the findings. Under what they consider to be their purview and to give them more comfort that the District would meet the requirements that they are held to by the Federal Government, DEEP has added a significant amount of changes to the plan which would add approximately seven million dollars to the on-site cost. The District has spent over two years trying to convince the DEEP that the District has a plan that is workable, but to no avail. The bottom line is, DEEP has the final say.

Question: Are there any problems to be concerned about regarding going to Torrington and Torrington having the capacity to take our effluent? Torrington has no capacity problems, they are currently permitted to treat 8 million gallons a day. The District, at one hundred thousand gallons a day would not be a problem for Torrington. Although DEEP has permitting authority over Torrington, if the District

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were to go to Torrington, the District would still have to work out an agreement with Torrington for them to process the effluent from the District. There were no further questions or comments.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING AGENDA ITEMS: Action was taken on the following items on the agenda. Said agenda is on file with the minutes of this meeting.

#1: Adopting of an annual operating Budget of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District for fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016: Presented for adoption was the proposed operating budget of \$1,088,954.00. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Mary Donaldson seconded by Renee Kujawski to adopt the proposed operating budget of \$1,088,954 for fiscal year July 1, 2015/June 30, 2016. There was no discussion. A Vote was taken by show of hand. **THE MOTION CARRIED.** There were two votes against,

Item #2: The laying of the tax rate of \$1,042,954 to be collected in taxes for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 – **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Ken Green seconded by Scott Donohue to lay the tax rate of \$1,042,954 to be collected in taxes for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015/June 30, 2016. No discussion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #3: The fixing of the tax rate of 4.3 mils for said fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 based on the October 1, 2014 Grand List of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Al Shull seconded by Jack Kelley to set a tax rate of 4.3 Mil for fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 based on the October 1, 2014 Grand List for the Woodridge Lake Sewer District. No discussion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #4: To approve a resolution to provide for re-appropriation of previously approved capital funding: **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Ken Green seconded by Scott Donohue to approve a resolution to provide for re-appropriation of previously approved capital funding of \$1,456,028 for the completion of the planned projects and engineering for the final long term solution to the disposal of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District wastewater. No discussion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Item #5: To approve a resolution to provide for interim borrowing in anticipation of taxes- **A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Ken Green seconded by Renee Kujawski to adopt the resolution providing for the District and or Authority for interim borrowing in anticipation of taxes. No discussion, **MOTION CARRIED.**

There were no other items on the agenda to come before the meeting. Jim Mersfelder reported that in looking ahead, the Planning Committee is looking at the possibility of the holding of a meeting of the taxpayers in August, after which it is hoped that the District will have reached an agreement between the DEEP and the USDA for funding. At that point, the Taxpayers would be asked to give their approval of the project. The Board and Planning Committee continue to work toward obtaining the funding from those agencies that will make the project affordable for the taxpayers. **A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY** Ken Green seconded by Renee Kujawski. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WOODRIDGE LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

Joan M. Lang, Clerk

