

WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman James Sugden called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members present: James Sugden, Joseph Masi, Keith Franson, Edward Wilk, Mario Mancini, Marisa Mancini-Cavallo, Raymond Primini

Members excused:

Others present: Dave McMahon, Assistant Superintendent

3. Public Participation

Richard Rozanski, 35 Reynolds St., asks where WSA stands as far as money that has been put aside, should Watertown lose the lawsuit. He states that he does not see that money in the budget.

Mr. Sugden states that he is not prepared to speak about the litigation. He states that the attorneys are working on it and the avenues may or may not change as it goes along.

Mr. McMahon states that he would like to correct the record. The \$8M-\$9M Mr. Rozanski referenced is an inaccurate number provided. He states that to his knowledge, it is between \$6M-almost \$8M. He explains that the money is in the town budget and once the 2023 audit is complete, the funds will be moved to the WSA budget under its own line item in next years budget.

Mr. Masi states that a number of years ago, the council had the WSA lend them money. He states that the WSA does not have the full amount of money at their disposal. He also states that the WSA has provided some returns to add to a nest egg with the water rates so that the WSA can keep ahead. When the funds are transferred, he states that the WSA will have control as to where to allocate the funds.

John Daddona, 720 Thomaston Rd., states that he would like to reiterate what Attorney Pilicy requested at the last meeting in regard to extending the water line so that the businesses at 720 Thomaston Rd. could have access to public water. He states that with the property being a spot for a high water usage business, such as the restaurant, it's crucial that they have access to public water.

Mr. McMahon states that they have been looking at it and reviewing it. He states that part of an application sent to DPH includes a larger water line, 2300 ft., than the 600 ft. Mr. Daddona is requesting. The project will include going up to the retention pond and Eversource right of way. After that, it would get connected up to Nova Scotia Hill Rd. and Jericho Rd. and connect up to Park Rd. They are looking into it to see what is feasible and what can be funded. He states that the 2300 ft. would benefit the system as a whole.

Mr. Masi and Mr. Daddona discuss the neighboring properties and whether the owners are in agreement with the project, as there would be an assessment for each property affected. Mr. Daddona states that he has spoken to some of the property owners and got their opinions.

Mr. Masi explains that the WSA can do all the engineering, yet the project can get turned down at a Town Council meeting. He is concerned that if they were to start and the project gets turned down, that Mr. Daddona's property would be without water and the WSA would be set back with their goals.

Mr. Sugden states that Mr. McMahon has a great idea with trying to create resilience with the system and eliminate a dead end.

4. **Minutes – Public Hearing & Regular Meeting 2/21/2024**

A motion was made by Joseph Masi to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting held on 2/21/2024. The motion was seconded by Keith Franson. Those in favor: James Sugden, Joseph Masi, Keith Franson, Edward Wilk. Those abstained: Marisa Mancini-Cavallo, Raymond Primini, Mario Mancini. Motion passes.

5. **Correspondence/ Information**

a. Memos to Town Council re: Appropriation Requests

A motion was made by Joseph Masi to add the following appropriation request to the Town Council Meeting Agenda. Appropriate \$60,000 to Maintenance of Mains line item, 017.50318.075.0858. The motion was seconded by Keith Franson. All in favor. Motion passes.

A motion was made by Keith Franson to add the following appropriation request to the Town Council Meeting Agenda. Appropriate \$25,000 to line-item Pumping Equipment Maintenance 017.50318.075.0467. The motion was seconded by Joseph Masi. All in favor. Motion passes.

A motion was made by Joseph Masi to add the following appropriation request to the Town Council Meeting Agenda. Appropriate \$12,000; \$6,000 to line-item Generator Service Contract 015.50318.074.1276 and \$6,000 to line-item Generator Service Contract 017.50318.075.1276. The motion was seconded by Keith Franson. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

I. **Operations Water:**

- a. Service Repairs – 4
- b. Water Main Repairs – 5
- c. Fire Hydrants – 0
- d. Water Service Taps – 1
- e. Water Service Inspections – 5
- f. Water Main Inspections – 5

II. Operations Sewer:

- a. Sewer Lateral / Connection Blockages – 4
- b. Sewer Main Blockages – 3
- c. Sewer Lateral Repairs – 3
- d. Sewer Main Repairs – 2
- e. Sewer Inspections – 7
- f. Sewer CCTV Inspections – 1

III. Business Administration:

- a. Total Customer Transactions for Nov-Dec 2023 & Jan 2024
Broken down as:
 - Cash – 4%
 - Checks – 20%
 - Credit cards/Electronic check Payments – 76%
- b. Demand Notices with Intent to Lien & Delinquent “Red” Notices
 - i. 82 Demand Notices with Intent to Lien – 61% Paid in Full
 - ii. 61 Delinquent “Red” Notices – 52% Paid in Full
- c. Shut offs on hold until May
- d. Request to have Lobby hours changed to 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- e. Approval to charge \$24.00 (currently \$20.00) for Lien Recording Fees per CT Statute 12-176
- f. New Rate Bill for new water and sewer usage rates Oct. 18, 2024

IV. Project Status:

- a. WSA & Waterbury Emergency Water Interconnection Project – Still ongoing
- b. Rate Study – In progress
- c. Carvel Meter Vault Relocation Project – DWSRF Project #: SFY 23-10- In progress
- d. Lead and Copper Rule – Submission Due By 2024 Rule – Ongoing – Phase I

7. Old Business

- a. Budget Presentation update

Mr. McMahon states that the reason he has to go over the budget again is because the original submission that was presented at a previous meeting was incomplete. He states that the numbers are now in on the Finance side.

Mr. McMahon and the Board discuss the updates on the WSA FYE 2025 Draft Budget.

8. New Business

- a. Proposed and possible action on WSA FYE 2025 Draft Budget update

A motion was made by Keith Franson to accept the WSA FYE 2025 Draft Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Joseph Masi. All in favor. Motion passes.

- b. Approval to charge \$24.00 (currently \$20.00) for Lien Recording Fee per CT Statute 12-176

A motion was made by Keith Franson to charge \$24.00 from \$20.00 for Lien Recording Fee per CT Statute 12-176. The motion was seconded by Joseph Masi. All in favor. Motion passes.

9. Funds Transfer/Appropriations

- a. Appropriate: \$60,000 to Line Item, Maintenance of Mains 017.50318.075.0858
- b. Appropriate: \$25,000 to Line Item, Pumping Equipment Maintenance 017.50318.075.0467
- c. Appropriate: \$12,000. \$6,000 to Line Item, Generator Service Contract 015.50318.074.1276 and \$6,000 to Line Item, Generator Service Contract 017.50318.075.1276

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Keith Franson to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Franson, Secretary
Water and Sewer Authority

Approved: _____