

Town of Old Lyme Water Pollution Control Authority
Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of April 11, 2023

Virtual meeting held via WebEx.

In attendance:

On WebEx: Chairman Richard Prendergast, Vice Chair Steve Cinami, Treasurer Andrea Lombard, Steve Urbowicz, Corey Bullock, Rob McCarthy, Dimitri Tolchinski

Excused: Randy Nixon, Brad Yerks

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public via WebEx

Call to Order

Chair Rich Prendergast called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – March 15th, 2023

Motion by D. Tolchinski to approve the minutes of the March 15th, 2023 meeting. Second by S. Cinami. Discussion: Andrea – wants to amend the Finance Report. “Review of the accounting revealed there was a past outstanding invoice that we made whole for the attorney who did the bonding.” Steve Cinami – “We decided to pay the bill in full at the last meeting”. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment – Chair Rich Prendergast should be listed as absent.

Discussion – Chairman Prendergast – I do answer the questions that come through. Sometimes I direct people to the FAQs on the website.

Chair Rich Prendergast called a vote to accept the amended minutes from March 15th 2023. Andrea – yes; Dimitri – yes; Steve Urbowicz – yes; Rob McCarthy – abstained since not there; Steve Cinami – yes. Motion carried.

Budget Update and Expenses

Only new expense - \$93 for clerk.

Finance department is down a person so possible they are behind.

Business

Sound View Sewer and Misc Area B Project:

Clean Water funding application status – Most recent stage was submitted and accepted. Re-asserted that we did have a referendum in 2019. Lays out a forecast for completing the Soundview design. About a year from now is when would be able to go out for final bid and are

being told that DEEP is what is holding it up. Will push DEEP to review the changes and approve because there haven't been a lot of changes. Not trying to rush the process but do have other obligations that have to show progress on.

Steve Cinami – asked Jason to print in Essex so he could pick them up. He will check if they are ready and if so he will pick them up next week and bring them to the town hall.

Chair Rich Prendergast - Idea of having these designs printed is that members of the WPCA with experience will be able to look at the plans and share comments with Chair and Vice Chair who will then compile the feedback and get it to the engineers.

Chair Rich Prendergast will take an action item to speak with private Beach Associations as well as with First Selectman.

Status of additional funding / grant applications – Forgivable loan of \$17million up to 50% of the project cost. DEEP prefers for town to go out for referendum because town can likely afford easier than beach associations. Not in contract but has been emailed and verbalized.

Steve Cinami – pretty much everyone's referendum amount is at or less than what they approved. DEEP is willing to do 50% of funding because they believe we are polluting. He believes DEEP wants this project completed and are making a strong statement by giving forgivable loan so that the project does not die easily.

Chair Prendergast – a beach association asked to not do sewers and DEEP said they won't entertain not doing sewers.

Grinder Pump – 9 houses would require grinder pump but with cooperation from one of the private beach associations these houses could tie into their system. In past the association rejected this but maybe will reconsider. This is time to have these conversations with them while finalizing the design.

Possible that may need new site for bioxide station which is unfortunate. Current proposed site is in Old Lyme Shores. Will be topic of discussion in the future.

D. Tolchinsky made a motion to speak with legal and bond counsel for discussions about forgivable loans as well as ownership vs partnership not to exceed \$2000. Seconded by Corey Bullock. Vote: Andrea Lombard– yes; Steve Cinami – yes; Rob McCarthy– yes; Dimitri Tolchinski – yes; Corey Bullock– yes; Steven Urbowicz– yes. Motion carries unanimous.

Review of Proposed Sewer Ordinance public comments.

Correspondence

WPCA was requested to answer some questions and have meeting with Soundview neighborhood. Meeting was held March 29, 2023. Chair Richard Prendergast answered the questions. 30% approval, 60% approval, 90% approval – each stage gets approved by DEEP. Engineering firm is ready for 90% but have to get 60% approved first. Comments about price tag of this project. Last estimate last summer median average was \$31,000 – 2 payments per year including \$6000 connection fee. If \$17million fund is approved it will lower the price. Plan on fine-tuning those estimates and presenting it to the public as soon as WPCA feels they are solid estimates. Chair was asked to meet with Soundview commission and did meet and provided some information on the components of the course but purposefully did not share itemized list. Not sharing all components so does not impact estimates given in the future.

New Business

None

Public comment

Mary Daley – Attended zoning meeting last night in regard to property on Harvard Avenue. Clean Water funds regulations – if 8x12 structure built on property and sewers are installed can that footprint be increased to 13000 sq feet as suggested or is it a done deal and can't be modified?

Would be great to get rid of grinder pumps – if can negotiate that would be wonderful. Going into that negotiation Old Lyme shores would be much more comfortable if there were individual meters on each property so they know what portion Soundview properties are contributing to Old Lyme Shores. Individual meters should be mandated because not a cookie cutter environment.

Ownership vs partnership – very scary concept. Hoping WPCA doesn't suggest main infrastructure pieces rest solely on Soundview. Certain their attorney would want to be aware of that.

Surprised that you brought up the meeting because they were asked not to share any information about it which is why there hasn't been anything in the CT Examiner about it.

Dennis Melluzzo, Portland Ave – wants to echo what Mary said about the meters. Had discussed meters last year and for the cost of meters it would relieve everyone's thought process as to how much is leaving their property at any given time. Soundview might have

seasonal homes and there is industry there also. Thinks should seriously think about incorporating meters and probably a lot cheaper if you do it in bulk. He has not gotten an estimate from Ferguson as to what a single person's meter would cost but can't see that it would cost but can't see that it would cost any more than \$500-\$750. Has sent in corrections to Karmody and WPCA in the past two months. Has to do with pump clean out in July 2021. Karmody doesn't even call you back. Wants someone to look into this to see if it is impacting more people than just himself.

Chair Rich Prendergast response to Public Comment: Not violating any Clean Water rules. Clean Water funds cannot be used for economic growth. If lot is a buildable lot before sewers it can be built on after sewers. Properties will be accessed if sewer goes by them, if there is a house on it, and we try to be as fair as possible.

Individual meters – planning on having meters for Sound View neighborhood vs other neighborhoods but not planning on having individual meters. Open discussion that we can have if need to.

Looked at desk at town hall that is used for septic system accruals and the desk is pretty full. Rich will find out what is going on with that person but they don't work for him. First Selectman can put pressure on Ledge Light but only if he knows about it.

Adjournment

Motion by S. Cinami to adjourn the meeting. Second by D. Tolchinski. Discussion: None. Motion carried by majority.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Correia, WPCA Clerk