

**TOWN OF SOMERS
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2013
7:30 PM TOWN HALL**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Botellio at 7:32. Members present were Charles Colby, Stephen Getman, Dan Fraro, James Faust, and Mark Marschall. Also present was Steve Jacobs, Town Sanitarian.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL (DECEMBER 4, 2012)

Section 5 third paragraph page 2..should read irrigation ponds instead of holding ponds. Section 6..should be “there is not substitute to the value of health” instead of “there is no cost to the value of health”. There were a few other small typos such as numbering, comas.

A motion was made by Charles Colby to approve minutes as modified. Seconded by Stephen Getman, all in favor motion carried.

A motion was made by James Botellio at this point in the meeting to move up IV to III and so on. All commission members agreed.

III. WELL WATER ARSENIC SURVEY

Steve Jacobs gave a report on the most recent well water findings. He got a large batch of sample results back that was done last month. The good news is that the majority of homes around town tested came up below the detection limit. He did find one home on Northwest Drive with arsenic levels above drinking water standards. He has since retested most of the homes on that street and is waiting to get the results back. There were also trace levels of arsenic found in the homes near the orchard on Bilton Road.

Commission members reviewed the well detection map and had a brief discussion regarding areas tested. Steve reported that so far the arsenic doesn't look to be to widespread. Steve presented the commission with a article he found on arsenic and bedrock in New England. The article predicted where you can expect to find arsenic exceeding 5 mg/l. The map for Connecticut Valley showed corresponding test results and predictions based on bedrock and geologic formations in the area. Steve's findings concur with what the state told the town at the public informational meeting.

Steve offered to put together a draft ordinance regarding the well testing for new homes. This will include testing for other known contaminants in town, as well as arsenic. Commission members discussed which metals and inorganic substances to test for, cost of the test, etc. Public hearings will be held regarding the ordinance.

Janice Gaskell of 200 Watchaug Road spoke up at this time regarding the arsenic issue. She

asked about a few items discussed by Mr. Van Tassel in the previous minutes. She asked about getting a written report from DEEP and the status of the soil testing. Steve said there was probably no written report from DEEP, but he will check with them. He thought the conclusion most likely was an opinion by Pat Bowe and his staff at the informational meeting. Steve reported that there has been no soil testing done up to this point. The town is going on the premise of the State DEEP's conclusion that it is a naturally occurring contaminant.

IV. MAPLE ST – UPDATE

The insurance company does not want to cover the replacement of the sewer line. James Botellio and the First Selectman will be meeting with a representative from the insurance company soon to discuss the issue. A memo was received from Lisa Pelliginni regarding the grant money. The grant money received by the town will not be able to be used for the Maple Street repairs.

Commission members reviewed the sewer repairs, what they had been billed for and what they felt they were responsible for. The bill for the sewer line has been paid by the WCPA funds. Other bills are in question and will be discussed with the First Selectman Lisa Pellagrini, James Botellio, Charles Colby and one other commission member.

There was a brief discussion on placing a lien the mill property for the cost of the sewer main repair if the insurance company does not cover it. Commission members briefly discussed legal issues surrounding the mill fire. A discussion will be held with the town attorney regarding liening the property and possibly suing the parties who were responsible for the fire. Steve Jacobs will consult with the town attorney regarding these matters.

V. SOMERSVILLE WPCF REPAIRS

Steve Jacobs gave a report on the repairs. The bioxide trial has been running at the plant since December. It looks like it is working. Hydrogen sulfide levels have dropped significantly. The product is working. Steve found the product cheaper in a fertilizer form which has the same chemical make-up according to the MSDS sheets. We are currently running a trial using this product.

The other repairs should start this month. Steve is still waiting for the new valves and safety gates to come in. There was a brief discussion on replacement valves and protective coatings in the chambers.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Steve Jacobs reported another \$11,000 was collected on delinquent sewer bills. Liens have been placed on the other 33 properties. The outstanding balances are ~\$3,100 for assessment billing and ~\$18,600 for user billing.

In doing our year end audit, it appears penalty interest was turned off, then back on with 3 accounts so the numbers changed. No payments were made on these accounts during that time so it was probably accidental. Steve got an estimate to make a program change in the system so that only this department can control this command.

A motion was made by Charles Colby to approve paying up to \$200.00 to change the system as mentioned above. Seconded by Stephen Getman, all in favor, motion carried.

VII. BILLS/TRANSFERS

WH Milikowski Inc. -\$35.15

Environmental Monitoring Labs - \$265.50 and \$562.00

Phoenix Labs - \$60.00 and \$60.00

Huntington Power Equip. - \$227.50

Siemens - \$1,362.00

RCP - \$95.51

A motion was made by Charles Colby to pay bills as stated. Seconded by Dan Fraro, all in favor, motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Charles Colby to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Dan Fraro, all in favor, motion carried.