

**CAMDEN-WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY**  
P.O. BOX 405, CAMDEN-WYOMING, DELAWARE 19934

*Minutes of the Camden-Wyoming  
Sewer and Water Authority  
Regular Session - Authority Meeting  
Held on September 10, 2013*

**Authority Members present:** Mrs. Barbara Blomquist  
Mr. Jeffrey Connor  
Mr. Michael Quinn  
Ms. Tracy Torres  
Mr. James Winchell  
Mr. James Wood

**Also in attendance representing  
the CWS&WA:** Mr. Harold Scott, Authority Superintendent  
Mr. Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., Authority Engineer  
Mr. George Luff, CPA, Authority Accountant

**Public in Attendance:** Meeting Attendance/Sign-in Sheet;  
available at the CWS&WA Office

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The Camden-Wyoming Sewer and Water Authority (CWS&WA) met at the CWS&WA Office on September 10, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Winchell.

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:**

Motion: Ms. Torres made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Quinn. Motion carried unanimously.

**CWS&WA Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget:**

Mr. Luff was invited to discuss the Draft Budget which he had presented during the Authority's August 13, 2013, Regular Meeting and August 27, 2013, Budget Workshop Session. Mr. Luff offered to answer questions regarding the Final Draft Budget. After discussion the Board decided the following:

Motion: Ms. Torres made a motion to approve CWS&WA Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget, as presented, seconded by Mr. Connor. Motion carried by a five to one majority vote with Mr. Wood casting the dissenting vote. Roll call results were as follows:

Mrs. Barbara Blomquist ..... Aye  
Mr. Jeffrey Connor ..... Aye  
Mr. Michael Quinn ..... Aye  
Ms. Tracy Torres ..... Aye  
Mr. James Winchell ..... Aye  
Mr. James Wood ..... Nay

In conjunction with the Budget approval, the following was also decided:

Motion: Ms. Torres made a motion to suspend the 5% automatic rate escalation provision of the Authority's Resolution 2000-03, for water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, seconded by Mr. Wood. Motion carried unanimously.

Regarding clarification of Authority's Resolution 2000-03, Mr. Winchell requested the Board's review of the language and asked the Board to provide comments and suggestions toward consideration of a clarification amendment to the Resolution at the Authority's next Regular Meeting.

**Maintenance & Operations Status (Superintendent Report):**

Mr. Scott distributed the period's Operation and Maintenance Report and discussed the same. As he had reported during the Authority's August 13, 2013, Regular Meeting, Mr. Scott emphasized the importance of the Authority's regional sanitary sewer pump station next to Nellie Stoke's Elementary School. The necessary improvements that needed to be made at this, nearly two-decade old, pump station included the construction of a valve vault in which check-valves and other mechanical appurtenances would be installed, Mr. Scott explained. Updated reports on the status of the pump station improvements project would be presented at the Authority's future Regular Meetings, Mr. Scott added.

Mr. Scott indicated that the Authority's construction crews had repaired a water leak at the intersection of N. West Street and Old North Road during the past period. Mr. Scott pointed out that being advised of any plans for road work in the Towns of Camden and Wyoming, which could make future restoration following sewer or water repairs more costly, would be most helpful in terms of the Authority's prioritization of systematic repair work, such as replacement of aging water and sewer service laterals. In this regard, Ms. Torres indicated that she would discuss the matter with the Town of Camden Manager toward the development of more effective lines of communication between the Town of Camden and CWS&WA in connection with reduction of future road restoration expenses associated with sewer and /or water utility repair work.

Mr. Scott reported that he had met with the new owners of Tidbury Crossing regarding the development's sanitary sewer and water distribution system as well as clean up work toward the protection of the installed infrastructure there. The new developers planned to resume construction activity in the near future, Mr. Scott added.

Mr. Scott discussed the Authority's finances for the period. The current system balance was approximately \$125,000 quarterly residential, and approximately \$37,000 commercial monthly billings, Mr. Scott explained. Mr. Scott also indicated that the mailing of about 300 past due advisory letters had been followed by service shut-offs. Mr. Scott noted that, of the 300 delinquent accounts, 25 remained in arrears, mostly because of foreclosures and sheriff sales, he added.

### **Engineering Report:**

It was reported that, following inquiries during the August 13, 2013, Regular Meeting, correspondence had been mailed to Mrs. Rebecca Fahey, regarding the Barclay Farm water distribution system, to address the concerns that had been expressed at the Meeting.

Gharebaghi reported that work was in progress toward source water development and additional elevated water storage structure. Potential properties which could suit the Authority's purposes were under investigation, he added.

Gharebaghi indicated that there had been a number of studies conducted surrounding the comparison of rates of water purveyors in the State of Delaware and its neighboring States. These had been conducted by Delaware Rural Water Association (DRWA), the University of Delaware, Water Resources Agency, and others, he added. Gharebaghi indicated that he felt compelled to share the following with the Board, for the record, because it was an eye-opening, on-the-ground, local illustration. Gharebaghi distributed his water bill from Tidewater Utilities, Inc. (TUI), for his house located about 5 miles west of the corporate limits of the Town of Wyoming. A table, which compared the rates and charges of TUI and CWS&WA, was also distributed and considered. The State of Delaware Public Service Commission (PSC) formally reviewed and regulated TUI's rates and tariffs for water services as they did for electric and other public utility services, Gharebaghi said.

If hypothetically, CWS&WA had been Gharebaghi's water utility service provider during the same exact period shown on his TUI bill, he would have paid CWS&WA just \$90.32 for the same exact water usage for which he had paid TUI \$178.44 (\$88.12 more, or 97.56% higher). The purpose of bringing this to the Board's attention, he said, was to advise the Board about the fact that CWS&WA's water rates were, in fact, substantially lower than the rates of for-profit, or investor owned, water utilities and about average in the range of the rates of public water suppliers in the State. Gharebaghi noted that the State of Delaware PSC formally reviewed and regulated the rates and tariffs charged by all investor owned utilities in the State and has found these charged by TUI to be justifiable. It should also be noted, he said, that the rates of investor owned utilities, understandably, included profit and overhead charges which were not applicable in municipal and public utilities' rates and charges.

### **Legal Report:**

There was no legal report.

### **Correspondence:**

With the exception of those referenced above, there were no other correspondence.

**Visitors' Comments:**

In response to Mr. McFann's question regarding the process of review and approval of the Authority's fiscal year budget, Mr. Winchell noted that the Board, at its August 13, 2013, Regular Meeting, had been presented the draft budget by the Authority's Accountant. The draft had been discussed at a Budget Workshop held on August 27, 2013, during which questions about the proposed budget had been addressed by Mr. Luff, Mr. Winchell added. Mr. Winchell indicated that pursuant to the set of activities to which he had made reference, the Authority considered and approved CWS&WA's Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget earlier during the Meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Motion: Mr. Quinn made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Ms. Torres. Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at :38 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held on October 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
CAMDEN-WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Harold L. Scott, Sr.  
CWS&WA Superintendent