

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 March 11, 2014*

Authority Members present: Mr. Jeffrey Connor
Mr. Peter Couming
Mr. Larry Daugherty, Sr.
Mr. Michael Quinn
Ms. Tracy Torres
Mr. James Winchell

**Also in attendance representing
the CWS&WA:** Mr. Harold Scott, Authority Superintendent
Mr. Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., Authority Engineer
Ms. Mary Sherlock, Esq., Authority Attorney

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

The Camden-Wyoming Sewer and Water Authority (CWS&WA) met at the CWS&WA Office on March 11, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the Chairperson, Mr. Winchell. The Board convened an Executive Session immediately following the call to order, for discussion of legal matters, from which it returned to Regular Session at 7:29 p.m.

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

Approval of the Consent Agenda:

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

Maintenance & Operations Status (Superintendent Report):

Mr. Scott distributed the period's Operation and Maintenance Report and discussed the same. Mr. Scott indicated that the freezing temperatures had resulted in several water main and service line breaks. A water main leak at Main Street, in front of CR Plaza, had been investigated by the Authority's crews and a ruptured old 4-inch water pipe had been uncovered and repaired, Mr. Scott explained. Mr. Scott indicated that the Authority crews had also repaired an old 2-inch water main at Old North Road that had been found to have also ruptured because of freezing temperatures.

Mr. Scott reported that improvements were expected in the near future at the Lowe's pump station in connection with accumulated grease. The management of Cheddar's Restaurant in Texas had discovered illegal discharge of grease into the sewer system and had corrected the problem, Mr. Scott explained.

Mr. Scott reported a vehicle had overturned and crashed into a fire hydrant at Camden-Wyoming Avenue. The Authority crews had repaired the damaged hydrant within 48-hours of the accident, Mr. Scott said.

Maintenance & Operations Status (Superintendent Report, cont.):

Mr. Scott reported that the current Authority systems' balance was \$114,909. Mr. Scott indicated that accounts receivables, aging more than 180 days, totaled approximately \$58,000. Mr. Scott said water shut-offs for delinquent accounts had been postponed because of the weather. Some heating systems relied on water supply, Mr. Scott explained.

Mr. Scott reported that he had attended the Delaware Rural Water Association (DRWA) conference at which he had surveyed new technologies related to water and sewer systems. Mr. Scott indicated that he had met with a representative of CBI, a water storage tank manufacturer, about the Authority's capacity development project. Mr. Scott indicated that various styles of elevated water storage tanks were being examined. Spheroidal, composite, hydropillar, and multi-legged were among those being evaluated, Mr. Scott added. Mr. Scott indicated that while the initial cost of spheroidal style water tanks, for instance, might be higher than the multi-legged tanks, the annual maintenance costs of the spheroidal tanks could be as much as 30% less than those of multi-legged tanks. Mr. Scott indicated that all options would be carefully analyzed to result in the best and most economical outcome for the Authority's project.

In response to a question about the Camden-Wyoming Avenue fire hydrant, Mr. Scott explained that the vehicle driver's insurance company was expected to pay for the damages to the hydrant caused by the accident.

Engineering Report:

Gharebaghi distributed copies of a Tidewater Utilities water bill for his house and noted that for the same exact water usage - for which he had been billed \$166.60 by Tidewater - he would have only paid \$81.01 if he had been a CWS&WA customer. Tidewater's bill was more than double what it would have hypothetically been if the same service was provided by the Authority, he added. Additionally, in November of 2013, TUI had filed a request with the Delaware Public Service Commission (PSC) for a rate increase of approximately 14.4%.¹ He brought the matter before the Board, he said, to advise the Board about the fact that CWS&WA's water rates were substantially lower than the rates of for-profit, or investor-owned water utilities. Understandably, the rates of investor-owned utilities included profit and overhead charges which were not applicable to the Authority's rate structure, Gharebaghi added.

Gharebaghi indicated that work was in progress on the source water and storage capacity development project, Wynsome Knoll residential subdivision, and the Greens at Wyoming land development. It was also noted that the American Water Works Association (AWWA) water audit - required by Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) - about which Gharebaghi had reported during the Authority's last Regular Meeting would be completed and submitted to DRBC by March 31, 2014. In this regard, Mr. Daugherty requested to be provided with a copy of the Authority's water audit.

¹ Source of data: Tidewater Utilities, Inc. Customer Update, 2014 Winter Issue

Legal Report:

There was no legal report.

Old Business: *Winterberry Woods*

Motion: Mr. Couming made a motion to approve, in principle, a framework for the proposed project, including Winterberry Woods residential subdivision proposal, as presented by Mr. Randy Duplechain of Davis, Bowen and Friedel, Inc., representing the project developer, subject to the approval of engineering and operational plans, specifications and details associated with the proposed project, and further subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors of CWS&WA on the final engineering and operational plans, specifications and details, when these have been completed by the developer's engineers and recommended being approved by the Authority Superintendent and Engineer, seconded by Mr. Quinn. Motion carried by a five to one majority vote with Ms. Torres casting the dissenting vote.

Correspondence:

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

Visitors' Comments:

The area residents as well as residents of Rockland Hills expressed concerns in relation to the proposed Winterberry Woods subdivision ranging from traffic impact, wastewater treatment capacity, and impact of construction on existing residential on-site water wells, to reported undesirable characteristics of the project developer. In response to questions from the visitors, Mr. Winchell and Mr. Couming explained the Authority's application process through which the details associated with the actual construction of the proposed systems would be identified. These must be consistent with CWS&WA construction standards. Mr. Daugherty also explained that the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), not the Authority, would be the appropriate governmental entity to whom traffic and transportation concerns should be directed.

It was also noted that property owners along the proposed alignment of the water mains would not be required to be connected to the water distribution system. In fact, it was further noted that, only upon the request of a property owner, would the PSC grant a CPCN to the Authority, or to any other utility for that matter, for the provision of water utility services at the owner's property.

Adjournment:

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

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on April 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
CAMDEN-WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Harold L. Scott, Sr.
CWS&WA Superintendent