

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - CHESTER WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

JULY 16, 2019 - TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

Sam Chorches, acting chairman, convened the special meeting at 5:00pm following the 2019-2020 budget hearing. Present were: Ian McLachlan, Mark Riggio and Ed Meehan. Chairman Ed Ward was absent because of business obligations.

Sam Chorches requested members to discuss the concerns and questions offered at the 2019-2020 proposed budget hearing. These can be summarized as follows:

1. Concern that the proposed EDU rate for restaurants is too high and will hurt these businesses, especially when coupled with higher FY2019-2020 taxes and construction of the Main Street Improvement project which may impact customer patronage. Members noted that 2 of the nine restaurants are not open now and 2 are exempt as tenants at 4 Water Street. Getting all restaurants to better abide by WPCA regulations for "FOG" management equipment would be an alternate to higher restaurants EDUs if this results in fewer system cleaning call outs.
2. Continue to conduct restaurant inspections and issue fines to those businesses that violate WPCA regulations. Collaboration with Health District inspections might result in better compliance.
3. Follow-up on collection of recently issued fines to demonstrate the Authority is serious about compliance and use this income to replenish fund balance level.
4. Review Deep River's capital improvement assessment charges to better understand what work was done and confirm these expenditures are related to treatment facility and/or Chester connector line improvements as set forth in the intertown agreement.
5. Consider changing the EDU classification to 2 categories, residential users and residential/commercial users, and add new budget line items to pay Deep River's call out and capital costs. Discuss with Deep River the option of spreading their \$25K capital charge over 4 to 5 years.
6. Evaluate the properties within the WPCA service area that are not collected to the sanitary sewer and consider if reducing the connection fee might gain more users to spread costs.
7. The suggestion that installing meters to measure user's sewerage flow did not seem practical because of the expense to the property owners and the added WPCA work loan to create and implement a program to collect this information for billing purposes.
8. Revision of the EDU calculation method from current "rounding up" to a fractional charge may have merit but not for the 2019-2020 budget year because of the time it will take to analyze budget impacts, as well as, investigate with the Tax Collector's office the software capabilities needed to implement this modification.

Mr. Chorches stated that the special meeting agenda is limited to voting on adoption of the proposed 2019-2020 operating budget and the three new classifications for EDU rates as presented at the public hearing. **Ed Meehan moved that vote on the proposed 2019-2020 budget and three EDU classifications be tabled until receipt of end of year operating budget and fund balance figures are available and continue further discussion with the benefit of Ed Ward's guidance. Seconded by Ian McLachlan and unanimously approved.** The Special Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM

Respectfully Submitted, Ed Meehan