



## TOWN OF BROOKLYN

P.O. Box 356 - Route 6 and 169  
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
(860) 779-3411 Option 2

TOWN CLERK  
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TAX COLLECTOR  
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ASSESSOR  
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### Brooklyn Water Pollution Control Authority

#### Special Meeting

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Immediately following Public Hearing  
via Zoom & at the Community Center  
Upper Level 31 Tiffany Street, Brooklyn, CT

To join this meeting, follow the below instructions:

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87193917651?pwd=YmJ3Y2o1dUI5TWVZT2lSazh4RE84Zz09>

Meeting ID: 871 9391 7651

Passcode: 698494

One tap mobile

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### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Derek Lindia, Chairman, called the Special Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.
2. **Attendance:** Derek Lindia; Dann Stuyński; Charles Sczorski (via Zoom).

**Also Present:** Austin Tanner; Shelley Cates, Finance Director; Joe Couture; Lisa Lindia; J.S. Perreault, Recording Secretary.

There was one additional person present in the audience: R. David Lee.

**Present via Zoom:** Al Carpenter; Sharon Loughlin; Jenn Nemeth; Carrie Horton.

3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Approve Minutes**
  - a. **Special Meeting of July 3, 2023**
  - b. **Special Meeting of July 6, 2023**

Motion was made by D. Stuyński to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 3, 2023, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 6, 2023, as presented.

Second by C. Sczorski. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

5. **Discuss Public Hearing**
  - a. **Vote/Set Rates**

Motion was made by D. Lindia to discuss the rates.

Second by D. Stuyński.

There was lengthy discussion:

- A. Tanner commented that there were some suggestions/ideas discussed at the Public Hearing regarding other options rather than just going with the proposed 100-percent rate increase.

Shelley Cates explained about last year's Killingly bill which is short-term debt. The Killingly bill for this year will be sent in October and there will be 120 days to pay it. The immediate need is monthly cash flow expenditures of \$5,000-\$7,000 and the delinquent Killingly bill. She explained that the current repairs at Tatnic Pump Station can, potentially, be covered under the budget to the Town of Killingly (but may exceed).

Motion was made by D. Lindia to set the rates at 100 percent increase.

There was no second to the motion.

Discussion:

There was discussion regarding changing from bi-annual billing to quarterly billing. S. Cates explained that the WPCA has the authority to do that, but the Ordinance would need to be changed.

Ms. Cates noted the options on the table:

- 100-percent increase and change to quarterly billing; or
- A smaller increase or no increase for further discussion and then, tentatively, send out supplemental bills once that decision is made, if necessary.

Mr. Tanner is not in favor of quarterly billing and stated that the last quarter would come in April and that is long after Killingly would need to be paid. He suggested the following two options:

- Go with the 100-percent increase; or
- Send out the bills with a 50-percent increase and, then, send a supplemental billing after researching to see if we can get some other compromise later.

Mr. Stuyinski stated agreement with Mr. Tanner's second option of raising 50 percent now with a stipulation that there be discussions with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to figure out if there are any other options and, if not, a supplementary billing would go out for the other 50 percent (100-percent total).

Mr. Tanner stated that he is not against that. Mr. Sczorski stated agreement with Mr. Stuyinski's suggestion as it shows that the WPCA is listening to and trying to work with the people.

Ms. Cates asked if that would not allow the Budget to be voted on today because it would not balance with expenditures. Mr. Tanner stated that it could be passed, but it just couldn't be fully itemized or leave the Budget the way it is and, if we get more funding, we can adjust it.

Ms. Cates explained that in order to cover expenses, either an increase of 100 percent is needed or alternative revenue needs to be found. She was not prepared with a cash-flow analysis, but suggested that if a lesser increase or no increase is passed, the WPCA should make sure to pass it with a stipulation that, if no funding is found by a specific date, supplemental bills will go out. This would prepare the rate payers that another billing will be sent if no alternative funding is found. Ms. Cates stated that, initially, she agrees with Mr. Tanner about not being in favor of quarterly billing. It is good for the rate payers, but it is not sustainable for the bills, although, it could be done at some point in the future.

Discussion continued and Mr. Stuyinski calculated that with the initial billing at the 50-percent increase, residential would go up to approximately \$520, instead of to \$690.

There was discussion regarding a realistic timeline - September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> were suggested.

No official vote was taken on the Motion made by D. Lindia to discuss the rates.

Motion was made by D. Lindia to raise the rates fifty percent across the board and, pending on results of efforts by the Water Pollution Control Authority, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to try to find supplemental funding, if not found, a supplemental billing would be sent out October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Second by D. Stuyinski. There was no further discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

Shelley Cates reiterated the motion:

To raise the rate increase fifty percent now to allow time for other funding research to be determined by October 1<sup>st</sup>, pending a supplementary billing going out after that, if no funds are found.

Lisa Lindia commented that the supplemental billing would be for the remaining 50 percent.

**b. Minutes need to be forward to Tax Collector for bills to be sent.**

No discussion.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Update on Sewer back-up at Hank's**

Mr. Tanner explained that he spoke with someone from Arkansas who said that Hank's insurance company needs to contact Walmart. Hank's insurance company has someone following up on this and they are going to contact Walmart. So, it is still in the works.

Mr. Stuyanski asked if Walmart can be forced to put a grinder pump in.

Joe Couture explained that if it were fats, oil and grease, the answer would be yes. But, he is not sure about the type of things there (rags). He will research the Statutes. He explained that they inspect there every thirty days and have jetted it three times since that event and you can still see the back-up of rags. He said that as soon as they see any sign of an issue, they take care of it. He explained how a grinder pump would make long ribbons of the rags which would affect Killingly in a negative way.

Mr. Tanner stated that we have to follow-up with a procedure because this can't keep going on. Mr. Lindia stated agreement. There was discussion about enforcement. Mr. Couture explained that, for commercial and industrial users, they can pinpoint some things, but he will research the Statutes. There was discussion regarding the possibility of putting a camera there. Mr. Couture explained about a sag in the line where the rags create a slug in the line, with Walmart being up high, all the head pressure keeps it moving slowly along until it turns and gets into the main trunk line and that is where it backs up. Mr. Couture said that they have photographic evidence of it.

Mr. Tanner stated that he will write a letter to the Headquarters, including the inspection dates and a statement that this cannot continue, to see if he gets any results.

**b. Update regarding credit card with Lowes and Grainger account.**

Ms. Cates reported that they are all set and have been provided to Mr. Couture and he is able to order online and by phone.

**7. New Business**

**a. Approve Bills**

Motion was made by C. Sczorski to approve the payment of the bills, as presented

Second by D. Stuyanski. No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

Shelley Cates provided information regarding the bills that were approved:

- Voucher #1641 (\$1,227.02)
- Voucher #1025 (\$15,315.00)

**b. Current USDA Loan Issue and Bank Account Consolidation Discussion.**

Shelley Cates explained that there was a small hiccup on cash-flow management where the USDA loan pulled funds from the account before the transferring of the funds happened. There is no penalty and it has been rectified. She is working with the USDA load representatives to set up procedures so that it won't happen in the future.

She explained that there are currently three accounts at Bank Hometown and two accounts at Savings Institute. All money is transferred, at collection, to Savings Institute. All bills were paid out of Bank Hometown, but she moved that process in-office to pay all bills out the same account that the money goes into. Direct withdrawals for ACH's come out of a different account, so Ms. Cates requested that we move that to all be the same bank and, potentially, close the other ones or use them, in the future, for other sources as reserves get built-up or capitals, etc. With cash-flow management in one place, it will make an easier transition for the office and to manage cash flow better. She does not recommend closing the accounts. There was discussion. There were no objections. Ms. Cates will take care of moving the accounts.

**c. Tatnic Road Emergency**

Joe Couture explained that the pump station is approximately 32 years old. The heavy rains have worn away the some of the fill that is on top of this underground structure and there was some water seepage. The transformer was found to be the problem. It is currently running off a control transformer, so there are no sump pumps or lighting. He is waiting for a quote from the electric company (Horton), but he has already ordered it due to previous experience of 18-23 weeks lead time. He was using a small one from the Killingly Facility which burnt out. He explained that it will need to be replaced (cost approximately \$400). Regarding fill, he plans to speak with Mr. Tanner about possibly using the Highway Department to reduce cost. There was discussion.

**d. Other Funding for Capital Projects**

Shelley Cates stated that there has been an opportunity to have discussion on this. This item was tabled to next month.

**e. Member Recruitment**

Mr. Lindia commented that the Board should have at least five Members and asked that if anyone knows someone who would be willing to serve on the Board to get the word out. There was discussion regarding two previous Members who may consider serving again.

**f. Create a better way of tracking Sewer Accounts by address, installation, # and providing to appropriate places.**

There was discussion including Lisa Lindia and Mr. Couture. Ms. Cates suggested that it be a shared document with the Departments that need the information (e.g., Tax Collector). Ms. Cates stated that there needs to a clear procedure with who manages the primary document and provides the information.

**g. New WPCA Town Email – [WPCA@brooklynct.org](mailto:WPCA@brooklynct.org)**

Mr. Lindia stated that he and Lisa Lindia will help Ms. Cates to monitor/manage this email address.

8. **Other** – None.

9. **Correspondence** – None.

**10. Public Comment**

- **Carrie Juhasz Horton** stated appreciation that the Board is keeping residents in mind and is willing to look for other sources of funding. She feels that it is important to make a public statement explaining how it became necessary for a 100-percent increase and how it won't happen again in the future. She commented about the bills being reduced once caught up on all of the bills. She expressed concern for those who will struggle and said that, for herself, it is like adding another mortgage payment for the year. She commented that maybe some Capital funds from elsewhere could have been allocated to prevent this from happening.
- **Dave Lee** suggested that, going forward, there be a review of Financial Statements by the Board on a regular basis so they would know, on a monthly basis, how they are doing financially. Ms. Cates stated that although she did not have numbers to present tonight, that is the plan.

**11. Adjournment (next meeting August 30, 2023)**

Motion was made by D. Stuyinski to adjourn at 9:01 p.m.  
Second by C. Sczorski. No discussion.  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (3-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault  
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Voucher #1641  
Voucher #1025

The following calculations for rates at the 50-percent increase were provided by Shelley Cates on July 31, 2023 to be included in the Minutes of the WPCA Special Meeting of July 26, 2023:

Single Units	\$517.50
Apartment	\$414.00
Commercial	\$1,237.50
School & Rest Home	\$0.01725
Jail and All Other	\$0.01875