

Minutes of the February 14, 2014 Meeting
Warwick City Council Sewer Review Commission

Meeting was called to order by Councilman Ed Ladouceur, Chairman at 8:12 AM in conference room at the Warwick Sewer Authority.

Commission members present:

Councilman Ed Ladouceur, Chairman
Councilman Joe Gallucci, Vice Chairman
Representative Frank Ferri, District 22
Steve Sylven, WSA Board Member
Jane Austin, Save The Bay
Michelle Komar, Chairman's Citizen Appointment
James Boyd, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Mark Carruolo, Chief of Staff

Members not present: Angelo Liberti, RI Department of Environmental Management, Doug Harris, Narragansett Indian Tribe, Senator William Walaska, District 30, Ernie Zmyslinski, City of Warwick Finance Director, David Picozzi, City of Warwick Dept. of Public Works Director, Aaron Guckian, Warwick Sewer Authority Board, Peter Ginaitt, Warwick Sewer Authority Board

Also present: Janine Burke, WSA Executive Director, William Russo, Advisor to Committee, and Toph Hamblett, Save The Bay.

The Chairman presented Jane Austin with a City Council resolution, thanked her for her work on the SRC, and wished her luck.

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment.

- **Gene Nadeau** spoke of a letter he received from a Chinese farmer asking him to stop flushing his toilet because the farmer was trying to grow white rice.
- **Don Fife** asked if the WSA achieved a 100% connection rate, would the sewer usage bills go down?

The Chairman next asked for comments/corrections to the draft minutes for the February 11th meeting.

- Komar asked that the minutes clarify that her concern about the previous minutes approved at the last meeting were for the February 3rd meeting.
- Komar asked that a sentence be added to the minutes to indicate that there were extensive discussions centered around the issues of sewer assessments and City Council oversight.

February 3rd Minutes

Action: Motion to amend the draft minutes as noted above.

Moved by: Jane Austin

Seconded by: Frank Ferri

Motion passes (unanimous)

Action: Favorable as amended
Moved by Frank Ferri
Seconded by Jane Austin
Motion passes (unanimous).

The Commission began with a discussion of a suggestion by Jane Austin for having the City Council “ratify” the WSA regulations and inserting something to that effect into Section 2.13 (formerly 2.16) of the WSA enabling legislation. The consensus was to amend Line 532 to add “subject to the ratification by the City Council” with respect to the WSA regulations and possibly an effective date.

The Chair said the remaining major topics he wanted the SRC to come up with recommendation(s) on were related to Connect Capable and Mandatory Connections. There was general agreement that cesspools needed to be eliminated and that those systems needed to be the first ones addressed with connect capable fees or mandatory connection requirements. There was a lengthy discussion about septic systems, the useful life of those systems and what would be a good rule of thumb to use for sewer assessment payment deferrals on “new” systems as well as for the purposes of assessing a connect capable fee or mandating that a property connect to sewers. The issue of septic system inspections was discussed at length as a requirement for postponing requirements to pay and connect to the sewer system. Ms. Komar offered to attempt to come up with a matrix to assist in deciding how to treat cesspools, old septic systems and new septic systems with respect to sewer assessments, connect capable and mandatory connections.

Councilman Ladouceur adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:00 AM.

The next full Commission meeting date is scheduled for February 19th at 8 AM at the offices of the Warwick Sewer Authority.