

WANAQUE VALLEY REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
WANAQUE RESERVE CLUBHOUSE
AUGUST 6, 2014

The Chairman addressed the audience and thanked them for coming to this Special Meeting. He explained that at the July 23, 2014 Regular Meeting, there were many complaints voiced and many questions put forward by residents of the Wanaque Reserve. Chairman Moshman stated that at that time the Commissioners promised to work at finding answers and solutions to as many of those questions as possible and coming here to give you that information. We do want everyone here to understand the procedure that we are going to follow this evening. He stated that the Engineer, Mr. James Kelly, Mr. White, Executive Director of the WVRSA and several of the Commissioners will be giving reports on the information that we have gathered. The Chairman stated that he would like everyone to hold their questions until those reports are finished. He stated that at that time each and every person wishing to ask a question or make a comment will be given the opportunity to speak.

The WANAQUE VALLEY REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY conducted a Special Meeting which commenced at 7:00 p.m., in the Wanaque Reserve Clubhouse, Warren Hagstrom Boulevard, Wanaque, New Jersey with Chairman, Robert Moshman presiding.

FLAG SALUTE

The Chairman asked for everyone to join him in a salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

At this time the Chairman stated that in lieu of a Roll Call he would like to introduce those on the dais. Chairman Moshman introduced

Commissioner Andrew Bolduc, who is here representing Wanaque Borough. He stated that Commissioner Bolduc was formerly a Commissioner on the Wanaque Borough Sewerage Authority;
Commissioner Frank Covelli, also representing Wanaque Borough;
Commissioner Robert Hadley, representing Ringwood Borough;
Commissioner Scott Heck, representing Ringwood Borough, who is the Borough Administrator of Ringwood Borough.

Commissioner Robert Moshman, stated that he represents West Milford Township. The Chairman explained that all three towns are normally represented equally by two representatives but at this time West Milford has only one and are we are awaiting the appointment of a new Commissioner.

James Kelly, PE, Boswell Engineering

Dominick Cortellessa, President of Wanaque Reserve Residents Association

The Chairman asked Mr. Cortellessa to speak first.

Mr. Cortellessa stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the issues relative to the odors emanating from the plant. Mr. Cortellessa stated that he would have the Board members and professionals speak and then we will address everyone's questions.

Chairman Moshman gave a synopsis of where we are at this time, where we were before and where we would like to be going.

Chairman Moshman stated that there have been several complaints of odors from the plant over the past few months and we want to acknowledge that we do know that you are experiencing them and that you feel that they are disrupting your "Quality of Life" in your homes.

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The Chairman asked that from tonight on - he would like to request that anyone calling the plant to enter a complaint - to please give us as accurate a description as you can; i.e. your name and building #, date, time, duration and if there is any outstanding weather taking place, such as very windy, raining etc.

The Chairman stated that we want to do the best job we can to identify and eliminate these odors. He stated that Mr. White has looked into what products are now available that were not available a few years back then and has found that there are not only new products but new concepts that he is gathering etting more information on. Chairman Moshman stated that these new discoveries may be helpful to in helping us in eliminating this problem. The Chairman stated that he would now like to introduce the Authority Engineer, James Kelly, P. E, Boswell Engineering.

Engineering Report

Mr. Kelly introduced himself as the Vice President of Boswell Engineering and stated that he has been with the WVRSA for 14 years. He stated that he is very familiar with the workings and the problems of the Authority. He stated that he is here to respond to the comments of the meeting held recently at the Authority.

Mr. Kelly stated that the issue of odors has been on the minds of the Authority and are we are always looking for answers on how to correct this problem.

Mr. Kelly stated that he has with him this evening an Ariel picture of the plant and stated that he would discuss it later this evening, for anyone that is interested.

Mr. Kelly stated that years ago there was a project completed to move the receiving operation to the back of the plant, as one method of getting the odors further away from any residential buildings and/or moving any odor producing activity moved further also.

Mr. Kelly reported that there is a new project on our horizon to make several prudent and necessary improvements to the plant via a Grant Project offered by the NJDEP for "Superstorm Sandy Recovery" .

Mr. Kelly stated that, at the last meeting of the Authority in July, he has been charged by the Commissioners to find an answer to this problem of the odors. Mr. Kelly stated that in their investigation they found that some of the landscaping was found to be eliminating some odors and we are discussing what if anything can be done about that. Mr. Kelly reported that they have looked into and have found that the ponds alongside the Access Road are not an issue

Mr. Kelly stated that Mr. White and his staff have looked at what could be done on an Operation level. Mr. White stated that his directions to all the staff was that any and all complaints will be addressed ASAP, upon receipt of a complaint and he emphasized that they should try to get as much information from the caller as possible, i.e. type of complaint, time, duration and any mitigating circumstances as possible.

Mr. Kelly stated that a Sub-Committee met within a few days of the last meeting to discuss a strategy. Mr. Kelly reported that Mr. White has contacted the County Health Office and the State Health Office seeking their help and advice.

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Engineering Report

Mr. Kelly reported that the day after the meeting the sub-committee visited several other plants in the area to seek their advice. One of the answers received was their use of a new mister that seemed to be doing a better job than the ones we had. Mr. Kelly reported that Mr. White reached out to the producers of those misters. Mr. White placed an order with them and within three (3) days we had five (5) new misters and the product to use with them installed and operational.

Mr. Kelly reported that the grit dumpster was found to be emanating some smells and the operators were directed by Mr. White to add lime, which is used here at the plant for another purpose, to reduce any odors.

Mr. Kelly reported that along the lines coming into the Authority there are vent pipes. He stated that these vent pipes had previously been a problem and the Authority corrected it by putting carbon filters on the top of the vent pipes. He reported that they were checked and found to be working as they should be. It was also checked to see that the filters were changed at the proper frequency. Mr. White stated that he would change the frequency of checking those vent pipes to assure that they do not need to be changed earlier.

Mr. Kelly stated that it was evident that all wastewater plants have an odor, which partially comes from the septage that comes in via the trucks. Mr. Kelly mentioned that the Authority has been considering the implementation of a weather station on the grounds that will give us pertinent information that could be used in conjunction with our readings to see if that is a part of the problem.

Mr. Kelly stated that Mr. White the Executive Director has stated that he will make it a priority to have back-up parts available - should anything in the process breakdown - they will be able to repair a part immediately in order to have the plant up and running ASAP.

Mr. Kelly stated that his report was completed and that he would be available for questions. He stated that he would be available after the question period to go over the Arial photo of the plant and surrounding areas for anyone interested.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Kelly for that report and reiterated that he will be available to answer questions.

At this time the Chairman asked for a show of hands of the residents present that lived in Buildings #1 - #4, Buildings # 5 -# 7 and finally Buildings #8 - #10. He stated that there seemed to be a greater number for buildings #8 - #10, which is not surprising.

The Chairman stated that most of the things we have discussed here tonight are in the search for answers to the problem of the odors. The Chairman stated that in the past we had misters that emitted a scent. At that time some liked it others did not. Some residents complained about the smell that was added - that it offended them - that they were allergic to the scent and some complained that the misters made noise and that the noise was annoying. The Chairman stated that we have been continually trying to come up with a solution to the problem.

At this time the Chairman called up Mr. White, Executive Director of the WVRSA, for his report.

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Executive Directors Report

Mr. White stated that he would like to continue the discussion on the misters. He reported that the misters we had been using are 8 years old and they were designed to emit a scent out to cover up any odors that were present. He reported that he has discovered that there is new knowledge out there that there are ways to neutralize the smell using natural plant products. Mr. White informed the residents that we currently have five (5) of those units in use right now. Mr. White stated that it is completely safe and legal and that they have proved to be quite effective in other plants.

Mr. White stated that his hours are Regular Business Hours. 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. He stated that now due to this situation he will be making himself available evening hours, and will be here on certain evenings. Mr. White stated that he has set up a communication line, i.e. for emergency calls. Mr. White reported that he has created and discussed with the Operators a new check list. He stated that the new check list will require the operator on duty to check certain points on an hourly basis and have records kept documenting those checks.

Mr. White stated that he wrote a letter to the State and County regulatory groups Regulatory Groups requesting that they come up and visit the plant. plant and that it was also sent to the Passaic County Regulatory Group. He stated that he has not heard back from them to date.

Mr. White reported that in his investigation of the plant to discover if there were any other odors escaping from places we were not aware of; they went up on the building roofs to see if any of the vents on the roof were emitting any odors. Much to our surprise we found that there was one situation. He stated that we are putting filtering units on that vent and will continue checking any and all other vents in the plant.

Mr. White stated that his report was concluded.

Chairman Moshman stated that when this became an issue recently; we were concerned about the quality of life situation here at the Reserve. He stated that we came to you, with the information we discovered as quickly as possible, rather than wait until our next monthly meeting. The Chairman stated that he wants to make everyone aware that we are trying our best.

Mr. Cortellessa stated that it sounds good but the one thing he did not hear was a time line for several of the bigger items i.e. covering the ditches, oxygenation of the ditches.

Mr. Cortellessa stated that he wants to see a plan/time line for some of them. He stated that he appreciates the effort of the WVRSA, but that does not tell us when, where etc. the major items will be addresses.

Commissioner Frank Covelli stated that he would like to give you those answers as is best possible:

1) Vent pipes - We have purchased 6 new units and have put 5 vents into use immediately. A Purafil Filter Unit - will cost \$75,000.00 - that will be in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget, which will start in October 1, 2014. We can only do the things that that we have the money for in the immediate future.

2) The Grit Dumpster - The Short term plan is to cover it with a tarp. He stated that the long term plan is to build a structure to cover it. But we must follow NJDEP bid laws and we must have the money.

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Commissioner Covelli stated that Mr. White has stated that he will be available in the evenings. He will be there to take any calls and to witness for himself any problems that arise.

Commissioner Covelli also stated that when the hot weather is present it not only taxes the plant it is aggravating to everyone. He stated that the current project we have on the table - if the NJDEP awards the contract - will go out to bid in October and the Authority will begin planning for the next phase. He stated that we need to get the go ahead from NJDEP.

Commissioner Covelli stated that over the past years the Authority has spent over \$100,000.00 in constant upgrading and running the plant without raising the rates to the residents, due to our planning to work within the Grant Programs that the NJDEP provides. We are looking to do a project this year and we are already planning the next phase.

Commissioner Heck stated that we are going after all the smells. He explained that he is here to let you know that as we are getting rid of some of the odors but there are others that we are working very hard on. He added that we first must discuss these things with our Auditor to see what we can do immediately and what must wait for available funds to address.

Commissioner Heck stated that we will get back to you with a time table ASAP and we will continue to fix whatever we can.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

At this time the Chairman stated that we would now like to open the floor to questions. He stated that Mr. Cortellessa would be on the floor and will bring the microphone to each person that wishes to speak. He asked all the residents to give their name and Building Number. He then asked Mr. Cortellessa to come to the lady in the 2nd row that has been waving her hand frequently during the meeting.

Lillian Rabinowitz, Building #8 - Mrs. Rabinowitz asked should she call Mr. White at 11:00 p.m. when she is going to bed or at 5:00 p.m. when she wants to go swimming and the smell is so atrocious that she cannot use the pool. She stated that it is very aggravating to have to live with all the windows closed all the time.

The Chairman responded that she should call the Authority when she experiences the odors and report it to Mr. White so he can create a time line that will help him identify when it is present.

Paul Ferrantino, Building #8 - stated that he would like to comment on the misters. He stated that a few years ago the misters that the Authority used were very noisy and asked if these misters would do the same.

Mr. White responded by stating that the new misters have been running since last Monday and asked if he had heard them. His answer was no.

Resident of Building #10 - He stated that the Real Estate values of their homes are going down. He stated that the Real Estate people are telling people not to buy in Buildings #8, #9 and #10. He stated that the residents did not start that, but it is affecting those wishing to sell their places.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Answer to Resident of Building #10

Mr. Kelly stated that the units that you are using are sophisticated enough to keep the smells out and he stated that he is sorry but we are not in a position to direct the Real Estate Agents what or what not to say to their prospective clients.

Mr. Kelly stated that we are looking into new misters and their products which are specifically designed for this industry.

The resident asked when is it going to be implemented.

Mr. Kelly stated shortly.

Tom Mullen Building # 7

Mr. Mullen asked where do we stand with the Boswell Report. He stated that the Authority is an activated sludge plant which is aerobic. He stated that the trucks contribute 20% of the sludge to the plant and that is anaerobic. M. Mullen stated that that is two different kinds of sludge which should not be mixed. He wanted to know how we can do that.

Mr. Kelly responded by stating that we do have aerobic sludge in the plant and the trucks do bring in anaerobic. Mr. Kelly stated that with the improvements that have been put into the plant - that anaerobic sludge, from the trucks, is put into a holding tank where oxygen is added and then bleed into the plant, where it becomes a part of the flow.

Mr. White added that we are using 7% of our flow comes from the trucks, not 20% of anaerobic septage and as long as we maintain the correct Ooxygen level the two manage to mix and become one. Mr. White stated that this is the same process that is used throughout the State in all treatment plants. Commissioner Heck stated for the information of everyone that those trucks that come here to dump their product, by the rates we charge them, cover 1/3 or 33 1/3 % of the Authority's a Annual bBudget.

Anis W. Building 2 - Stated that when Mr. White reported that Pulte helped the Authority in the beginning did it become a problem when they left.

Commissioner Covelli stated no.

Mr. White enumerated what Pulte donated to the Authority, which related to the connection fees that they received from everyone that purchased a unit here was used for the remediation of odors and the purchase of the misters we used at that time.

Mr. White stated for the record that the Wanaque Valley RegionalSA is not a for profit business and he affirmed that we are a Public Entity and subject to all the rules and requirements of the State of New Jersey.

Joe Pesch Building # 10 Mr. Pesch asked about the statement that there are several plants in the State. He wanted to know if they are all experiencing the same issues.

Mr. Kelly stated yes. Mr. Kelly stated that in fact the town in which he lives is one of those places. He stated that by and large all plants have had issues at one time or another; such as if a piece of equipment breaks down they have odors. That is where we are now - trying to discover what is causing this, what is different from the past few years and as soon as we find out that answer the Authority will do its best to correct it.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Paul - Building #9 Stated that on Sunday evening this past weekend he took a walk near Building #8 and that the smell was unreal. He stated that he went home and called the NJDEP to report it. He stated that they called him back in the morning. He wanted to know what is their protocol for action.

Mr. White stated that he is not familiar with the NJDEP protocol.

Mr. Cortellessa stated that they do keep a written record of the call and they also dispatch an agent to go to the address, but usually by the time they get here the smell is gone.

Mr. Cortellessa stated that we are trying to see if there is a pattern present. He stated that he and Jo-Ann get calls at all times of the day and night. He suggested that the best way to get action is to call himself or Greg White and give us the date, time, the intensity, the weather, the presence of trucks etc.

Commissioner Heck stated that with our new monitoring equipment we will hopefully identify the source of these odors and be able to take action to eliminate them. It was noted that several of the Commissioners, that are local, have offered to come to the Authority/Reserve on a moment's notice to acknowledge the presence and to take the information.

Wendy - Building 8 Stated that there are several different levels. She asked who do we contact when it is happening.

Mr. White responded that Mr. Cortellessa has the phone numbers of all the Authority Commissioners and will forward the call and/or complaint to someone from the Authority.

Mr. Cortellessa suggested that there should be some kind of system to call/connect to the plant.

Commissioner Covelli stated that we are already looking into that.

Bart Krol - Building #6 Mr. Krol stated that he has been here seven years. He stated that last year was the first time that he noticed the smell. He stated that now it is there most of the time. He asked if there is a record of the trucks that come in and can it be looked at to see if it has reached its critical stage.

Mr. White stated that is already being looked into and that is why we need accurate and timely notice that the problem is there. If we receive this information and it is due to a certain truck and you give us a description of the truck or the name on it and it is still on the grounds - that he would immediately address the issue with the driver and investigate why they are causing this problem. Mr. White stated that in the past we did have a problem with one trucker bringing in a product from a creamery plant and it upset the plant and smelled awful. He stated that he told the trucker and he contacted the owner of the trucking firm and told him never to bring that type of load in here again or he would be banned from dumping anything in the future. They complied immediately.

Amelia - Building #10 Amelia asked about the speeding trucks.

Mr. White stated that if she calls and gives him a truck description or company name he will speak with the driver and advise him that he MUST adhere with the posted speed limits and if it happens again he will contact the owner of the truck.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Larry - Building #9 Asked if this is a problem only in New Jersey or is it in other states as well. Mr. Kelly stated that most wastewater treatment facilities throughout the country will experience some odor problems from time to time. He stated that it is not an uncommon problem for wastewater treatment facilities due to various reasons to emit odors and they have to do as we are doing - discover the source and correct it.

Dan Quessler Building # 7 Asked about Wanaque Borough being on line and asked about West Milford and Ringwood.

Mr. White gave him an explanation of how it was set up for the three towns. He stated that the septic wastewater that comes through the sewer lines is household wastewater only. Mr. White explained that we have a strict process of tests of the wastewater entering the plant and are required to comply with NJDEP regulations.

Commissioner Covelli commented that there are controls in place to prevent a problem. He explained that we are checking samples constantly and we have had some situations where we had to take steps to change things in order to stay in compliance with the NJDEP requirements.

Frances - Building # 10 Commented on the fact that this summer has been the absolute worst. She stated that all of you keep saying that nothing has changed. She stated that we here at the Reserve are getting aggravated that we cannot use our balconies and that we cannot sit outside even at the Clubhouse.

Commissioner Heck apologized about the time it has taken to identify what can be done, what can be fixed and that there are things that we must do by the steps. We need to keep the cost in control in order to keep the Sewer Rates down.

Mr. Cortellessa asked for a discussion on oxygenation. He asked if we could add temporary oxygenation.

Commissioner Covelli explained that we are doing all that we can do and are spending tons of money and time to find new ways and answers.

Frank Building #8 Stated that in the 8 1/2 years that he has been here he has never had to close his windows. He stated that this is the 1st time. He also stated that he had to leave the pool as the odor was so bad.

Ester Building # 10 Asked if there was any septage leaking from the plant into the land that could be making the odor. She was told that they cannot find any instances where that could be happening.

Angelica Building # 7 Stated that she has to keep her windows open as she cannot use her air conditioner due to medical problems. She stated that she can set her clock at when the smell is happening and that is between 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Tom Ahern Building # 10 Stated that he took the tour with Mr. White a few years ago. He stated that it is a well run plant. He maintains that the lack of oxygen is what is causing the problem. He stated that as a Sanitary Engineer for many years it is his opinion that anaerobic and aerobic cannot be blended.

Angela Building #7 Asked what was the other percent of sewageptage flowing through the pipes. Mr. White gave her an answer.

Carol Building #10 Asked why are the trucks coming here at all. Mr. White stated that it is to their advantage to bring their trucks here as it is the closest to where they collect the septage and the quicker they empty their trucks the quicker they can get out again to collect more.

At this time it was decided that as there were no more question being asked the Chairman closed the qQuestion and aAnswer pPeriod.

ADJOURN

The Chairman stated at this time he would entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting.

MOTION Moved by Frank Covelli, 2nd by Scott Heck to adopt a Resolution adjourning this Meeting.

The Chairman asked for all those in favor to signify so by stating Aye.
Commissioners Bolduc, Covelli, Hadley, Heck and Moshman all stated Aye.

MOTION CARRIED

NOTE: The minutes of this meeting were prepared from the handwritten notes of Margaret Maas, Recording Secretary in lieu of the use any electronic recordings at the request of the residents of the Wanaque Reserve.

The meeting was concluded at 9:11 p.m.

Minutes respectively submitted by,

Margaret M. Maas, Recording Secretary