



VIRTUAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday May 20, 2024 @ 5:00-5:30pm EST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81398935563?pwd=TG9GZ1VHN3VOZUyNWVGdHNjeTZ5Zz09>

You can also dial in using your phone Meeting ID: 813 9893 5563 Dial: (646) 558-8656 or (719) 700-2466;
Passcode: 259529

Full Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Robert Barocas	Chairman - Finance Committee
Amiel Goldberg	SWPCA Board Member/Board of Reps
J.R. McMullen	SWPCA Board Member / Board of Finance
Frank Salem	SWPCA Board Member / Member-at-Large
Benjamin Barnes	SWPCA Board Member / Director of Administration
Steve Bagwin	SWPCA Board Member / WFD Chairman
Ed Kelly	SWPCA Board Member / SWPCA Chairman
William Brink	Executive Director, SWPCA
Rhudean Bull	Administration Manager, SWPCA
Vernessa DeCausey	Finance Manager, SWPCA
Teresa Viscariello (absent)	City of Stamford, Controller

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

R Barocas called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. A quorum was present.

2. Approval April 15, 2024, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of April 15, 2024, were approved.

3. April 2024 Financial Update & Update on Receivables/Arrears

V. DeCausey reported the following financial information for April 2024:

Sewer Usage Revenue:

- \$6,247,000 was collected via walk-ins, mail, credit cards, and lockbox payments.
- \$9,400 was collected for sewer assessment and collection revenue.
- \$6,257,000 was the total amount collected.
- The year-to-date collection percentage is 86% of the budgeted revenue.

Collection Rates:

- The collection rate as of May 14th is at 76.52% for the April cycle bill.
- The arrears amount is at \$2.6 million.

Financial Assets:

- Total pooled cash is \$4.3 million.
- Total cash and investments are \$25.4 million.
- Total current assets are \$37 million.
- Total operating revenue is \$24.1 million.
- Total operating expenses are \$10.2 million.
- The net operating revenue is \$13.8 million.

4. FY 2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

B. Barnes reported that the FY 2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was issued and sent to the Bond Trustees and posted on Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA). He reported that the WPCA is now in full compliance with all its bond obligations relating to financial reporting. B. Barnes thanked V. DeCausey for demonstrating great patience and effectiveness in completing the audit. He stated that the SWPCA had a very strong financial performance for FY 2023, reducing some of its debt without taking on new debt. He explained that the pension obligation is current, and that OPEB did well by converting to an asset instead of an obligation, which helped improve the net position.

J.R. McMullen inquired about most of the debt that the SWPCA has with Revenue Bonds compared to the 5% General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) and whether Revenue Bonds will be preferred in the future. B. Barnes responded saying that when the City issues GO Bonds, they can be used to finance capital projects for SWPCA, which is cost-effective. However, he explained that the SWPCA has cash that could be used instead of borrowing. He provided examples of situations where GO Bonds would be more effective compared to Revenue Bonds.

F. Salem inquired if the SWPCA is over-reliant on Revenue Bonds, which could financially restrict the organization. He said that the SWPCA would have to dedicate income to Revenue Bond payments rather than using GO Bonds. B. Barnes replied that the City would borrow on behalf of the SWPCA but that the SWPCA would have to cover its share of the debt service. He stated that GO Bonds are more efficient and have lower interest rates and transaction costs. He concluded by saying that the SWPCA has established the Revenue Bonds program as uncomplicated and valuable to the organization.

5. Old Business

a) **Review assessment of charging fees to ~655 property owners on sewer streets (with Aquarion water meter) not connected to the sanitary sewer.**

B. Brink stated that the committee had previously received an opinion from the City legal department stating that we could not assess charges unless the property owner was connected. He noted that neither the state statute nor the city ordinance specifies that we can charge homeowners.

R. Barocas asked if the committee had any questions regarding the opinion of the City legal department. Since there were no questions, he suggested that the matter be closed out.

b) **City Legal Opinion of accounts receivable from Stamford Housing Authority**

B. Brink stated that he had emailed the committee a copy of the opinion from the City's legal department. He provided a brief history of the Stamford Housing Authority's outstanding accounts receivable. He explained that the committee has two options: the first is to write off the receivables and the second option is to request a portion of the PILOT payments for the Stamford Housing the City received in lieu of property taxes and write off the remainder of the receivables.

J.R. McMullen asked when the Stamford Housing Authority stopped making payments. R. Bull responded saying that Stamford Housing stopped making payments for Dale Street and Cove Road as of 11/20/2017 and that they were billed since 4/11/2011. She explained that two other properties pay a percentage of the consumption. She stated that their balance as of May 14, 2024, was \$1,147,000, and the write-off amount after the discounted percentage would be \$877,000.

After a lengthy discussion among the committee members, R. Barocas suggested moving the discussion to next month's meeting.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The May 20, 2024, meeting ended at 5:39 PM.