



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

John Zelinsky, Jr., Co-Chair Joseph Coppola, Jr., Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. Present were Co-Chair Coppola, Co-Chair Zelinsky, Committee Reps. Adams, Mallozzi, Raduazzo, Taylor and White. Also present were Ernie Orgera, Acting Director of Operations; Michael Toma, Law Department; and Jeanette Brown, WPCA.

Co-Chair Coppola called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. O28.002	PROPOSED ORDINANCE; <u>for publication</u> ; amending the WPCA ordinance regarding vacant homes.	No action taken

Co-Chair Coppola noted that there is no draft ordinance for this item. Co-Chair Zelinsky explained that he had requested the ordinance based upon a concern of a constituent who received a bill for \$25 during a period when there was no water consumption, but after speaking with Mr. Toma, it appeared that no change to the current ordinance is required. Mr. Toma explained that the current ordinance, Sec. 200-28 states that the WPCA shall bill based upon water consumption. Ms. Brown explained that the WPCA bills a minimum charge of \$25 for homes with zero or minimal consumption, as set forth in the WPCA's policy and operations manual. This charge is a result of a recommendation the WPCA received in 1996/97 from the billing company to cover the administrative costs of meter reading and preparing and sending bills to homes with no or minimal usage. She noted that the WPCA can modify the manual at any time to eliminate this fee. Mr. Toma explained that an argument could be made that the fee does not run afoul of the current ordinance. Ms. Brown stated that in October, fewer than 1000 homes received a minimum bill, and that approximately 100 of those were homes with 0 consumption.

After a discussion among the committee about the need to recover administrative costs, the fairness of requiring homes which generate no wastewater to pay a fee, and how these costs would be otherwise absorbed by the WPCA, Ms. Brown said that based upon the sense of a majority of the committee objecting to this fee, she would place an item on the next WPCA agenda to eliminate the \$25 minimum charge.

As Secondary Committee

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| 1. A28.016 | <u>WPCA</u>
Louis Basel (I)
106 Carriage Drive
Stamford, CT 06902
Term Expires: 02/01/13 | Repl. Chris Maggio
(Exp. 1/1/8) | Held in
Committee |
| 2. A28.015 | <u>Director of Operations</u>
Ernest Orgera
88 Gaymoor Drive
Stamford, CT 06907
Term Expires: 11/30/13 | | Committee
Approved
7-0-0 |

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Coppola, Jr.