

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES: May 5, 2008

MEMBERS: Chair: Ken Jenkins; Legislators Burrows, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Rogowsky, Spreckman

OTHER LEGISLATORS: Nonna

IN ATTENDANCE: **Chappaqua Septic:** Brian Murphy; **Vogler Brothers:-** Carol Kiley, Harold Kiley; **Fred A. Cook Jr., Inc.:** Brian Cook; **WCDEF:** Tom Lauro; **CEO's Office:** Bill Randolph; **STAFF:** Chris Crane, Sally Schecter

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Legislator Rogowsky. Commissioner Lauro began a Power Point presentation of the Hawthorne Manhole, explaining where the Hole is located, that six to twelve trucks are serviced a day, the hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. The County charges \$.08 per gallon, approximately 14,000,000 gallons per year of septage is received and this amounts to approximately \$1,200,000. There is constant video surveillance. Upon entering the facility, the front end of the truck is weighed and then the rear end is weighed to determine how much septage is on the truck. The driver is required to fill out and turn in one of two forms - one if the septage is from a facility other than a home owner or if the customer serviced is one other than a single family residence. The haulers have to purchase these forms in advance so no money is exchanged at the Hole. After discharging into the Hole, the waste eventually ends up at the North Yonkers Treatment station and is pumped into the Yonkers Joint Waste Water Treatment Plant.

It was suggested that possibly the Hole could be moved. At one time it was on Route 9A and then moved to its present location. The property where the hole is presently located is owned by the NYSDOT. That is why the building is a trailer and not a permanent facility.

There were comments from the haulers. There are times they do not have a full load and they still have to pay for a full load, this is especially true during the winter months. The trucks need to be emptied otherwise there could be damage that could amount to approximately \$10,000. They are concerned about the accuracy of the scale and that they have to buy a book of tickets, laying out a lot of money in advance. In Connecticut, the trucks are calibrated and the sight tubes are marked with tape. The attendant then can determine from inside the building what the contents of the truck are. Connecticut bills the haulers once a month. One of the haulers goes to Newark where the system is similar to Easy Pass and they are only charged \$.03 a gallon. It was suggested that the Hole stay open longer hours during the summer and shorter in the winter and even though the hours

are until 5 p.m., it is usually closed by 4:50 p.m. When there is a heavy rain, the hole closes and sometimes the haulers are not notified and also when it reopens, they are not notified. The Hole can be shut down as many as 30 times in a year.

The County is considering accepting credit cards.

Legislator Rogowsky questioned why it was necessary to weigh the trucks if the haulers were charged the same amount whether they had a full load or not.

On the motion of Legislator Spreckman, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.