

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority AND
PSTT (Post Sale Transition Team) JOINT MEETING
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
Town Hall, 538 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, David Douyard, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire, Wes Marsh, and Polly Pobuda.

ABSENT: Joe Toro.

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

1. JOINT MEETING WITH PSTT:

A. Member Discussion Concerning PSTT Charter Items & Asset Sale Status, Pine Meadow Project, Ordinance Revisions, Allocations/Subsidies, and Sewer Rules & Regulations.

Mr. Butler distributed a document drafted following an August 8, 2022 meeting between Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Marsh, and himself reflecting on their observations and where the asset sale is at. The board took a few minutes to read through the two-page document. The document described the objectives the three-member group had recalled as being critical for a successful outcome of the asset sale as well as the programs and tools necessary.

Mr. Butler provided updates to the board following the subcommittee meeting including the reasons behind his decision to forgo attending the Board of Finance August 9, 2022 regular meeting. He relayed details on his discussion with First Selectman Dan Jerram regarding the sewerage of Pine Meadow. Mr. Butler read from the Minutes of the BOF meeting where it had been reported that the deal with Aquarian would go down on August 12th as would the application to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA). To his knowledge, neither of those things had happened yet, according to Mr. Butler.

Mr. Butler opined that partial sewerage of Pine Meadow was unacceptable. Mr. Marsh concurred. How subsidies will be handled was also an issue that would need to be handled, according to Mr. Butler. He reported having confirmed with Mr. Jerram that there is an understanding among this group that their role is an advisory one to the Board of Selectmen on these matters but that a question to be addressed is what will happen if the sale is not completed. Mr. Jerram's response was that the town "would cross that bridge if it comes to that", according to Mr. Butler. He explained that he would rather have the WPCA, the PSTT, the BOS, and BOF meet.

Ms. Greenwood agreed with the sentiments shared by Mr. Butler but opined that the WPCA/PSTT, ought to go forward with some of the other charges such as working on the subsidies. She thought the work ought to avoid working on the "out clause" of the contract. She concurred with Mr. Jerram's position that town tax payors would not support paying for the build-out of a sewer system that the Town no longer owns. She acknowledged the hole that exists due to the assumptions that were factored into the calculations that the extensions would be built and the increase in the customer base.

Mr. Butler explained the history of his continued pursuit of grant funding through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, reporting that he reminded Mr. Jerram of a 2019 email that he had communicated the plan to continue to seek opportunities and the reasons why.

Mr. Butler explained that while the system was being sold, Aquarian Water Company (AWC) will not own the system, referred to as the Pine Meadow Sewer Project. He noted that the Town will be entering into a 33-year operations agreement with AWC, and while the Town will own the asset, AWC will assume turn-key responsibility and authority for operating it should it break. At the end of the 33-year term, the system will become theirs, according to Mr. Butler. The benefit of the deal accrues to the users, he further explained, as it adds to the number of users, reported at 106, who contribute revenue for their usage. Mr. Butler reminded the board that after a deduction of \$15K-\$16K of added charges for chemicals and labor to run the system, all of the other revenue will be used to lessen the rate impact for the users. He noted that should the sale not go through, the need to sewer the rest of Pine Meadow remains, leaving the Town with the responsibility to come up with those costs.

Ms. Greenwood reminded the board that with a line extension, it is not only the rate payors that benefit. She noted that AWC also benefits from the added revenue from the extra customers. Mr. Butler agreed, noting that Tim Brobosky's development at 175C Main Street will also be adding customers.

Mr. Butler noted that while Mr. Jerram indicated that the board could make recommendations for the ordinance despite it already being included as part of the contract with AWC.

Ms. Pobuda opined that following the sale of the assets and the retiring of all of the debts, the residents likely expected the balance of the proceeds to be returned to the Town and would not have expected to be approving any additional funding for expansions or infrastructure. She suggested that the wording of the vote may have been unclear. There was discussion and confusion with recollections on whether the vote to sell the assets was close or overwhelming.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Ms. Pobuda second, to approve the July 20, 2022 Minutes of the PSTT; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Mr. Douyard, Mr. LeClaire second, to adjourn the joint meeting of the WPCA and PSTT; unanimously approved.

The joint meeting of the WPCA and PSTT adjourned at 8:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk