

HAND OUTS for WPCA VIRTUAL MEETING – Thursday, September 3, 2020

Minutes – July 2, 2020

Financial Reports

- *WPCA Aged Payables
- *Aged Payables as of Sept 30, 2020
- *Account Register July 1, 2020 – Sep 30, 2020
- *Income Statement for 3 months ending September 30, 2020
- *Income Statement – 12 periods (2 pages)

Operations Reports

- *Aquarion Water Company
- *Storm Report
- *Torrington Water Company Report (not available at posting time – but can be requested)

Correspondence

- *David Rosengren “An Open Letter to New Hartford’s Elected officials and Appointed Committee Members”
- *Laura Bedford “to the New Hartford Board of Selectmen.....”
- *Lorna and Peter Dawlik “It is an aspect of our American freedom....”

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Held Remotely Via Zoom**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, David Douyard, Mary Beth Greenwood,
Michael LeClaire, Wes Marsh, Joe Toro, and First Selectman Dan Jerram.

ABSENT: Polly Pobuda.

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

A. June 6, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Marsh second, to approve the June 6, 2020 Minutes; unanimously approved.

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The Board reviewed financials as prepared by Administrative Office Assistant Jill Healey. Mr. Butler reported that a payment of \$9,008 had been made on June 27, 2020 and indicated that there are two debt service payments scheduled within the following two weeks. He indicated that there were adequate funds to cover those expenses but noted that there are still payments on the sewer plant that are in suspension.

3. BUDGET DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENTS/ADOPTIONS:

Mr. Butler noted that the budget consisted of expenditures and revenues. Mr. Butler reported that he had provided guidance to Ms. Greenwood to include a 4% increase in line items unless known differently. With respect to the water routine operations contract and the sewer routine operations contract, Mr. Butler noted Aquarian Water Company was raised by 3% and Torrington Water Company was raised by 2%. Mr. Butler noted that the hourly rate, which had been at \$85 since 2014, was increased to \$90. He explained that includes all non-routine charges that involve a labor rate.

Mr. Butler noted that the revenue line of \$656,980 was carried forward to the next fiscal year. However, he reported that after working with Ms. Healey, the revenue for the previous year was actually \$609,621 for the past revenue year, a differential of \$47,360.

Ms. Greenwood reviewed her proposal to decrease the water and sewer rates to \$78.88 per 1000 gallons of water and \$20.38 per 1000 gallons of wastewater, explaining these were the rates prior to the last increase in FY2017. She made a motion in this regard, but it failed to garner a second.

Mr. Toro questioned why the rates should be reduced at this time and what the perception of that might be during a time when the town is considering a sale of its assets. He shared his opinion that the rates should be kept constant.

Ms. Greenwood explained that the WPCA is unable to break even each year and opined that the goal of setting rates in an effort to accomplish a break-even is impossible. She opined that this also puts a strain on the New Hartford economy.

Mr. Butler noted that in 2017 when the rates were changed, there were several initiatives underway including going after users who were receiving services but not paying for them, the implementation of a lien program and a payment program, and efforts made to reduce costs. He noted that the cost savings efforts did materialize in 2018. He noted that these efforts had a significant impact to stave off rates but the increase in costs have been great.

Mr. Douyard agreed that no decrease in rates should be considered while in negotiations to finalize the sale of the assets. He questioned how the shortfall would be covered. Mr. Marsh recalled raising the rates and the struggle the Board had in doing so. He concurred with Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro, and Mr. Douyard in not changing the rates at this point.

Mr. Butler noted that the struggle of the WPCA is one that has been there for fifty years, largely due to a lack of growth in its customer base.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Douyard second, to adopt the budget with a 4% increase for FY2021, putting the expense projection at \$778,730.63; unanimously approved.

4. OPERATIONS REPORTS:

A. Aquarian Water Company.

The Board reviewed the operations report from Aquarian Water Company. Regarding the annual cleaning of the pumping stations at Prospect Street and at Route 219, Mr. Butler explained that American Rooter was being utilized this year because they are equipped to pressure stream the forced main from the top head at High Street back down to the well at Routes 219 and 44. He noted that pressure streaming this year is especially important due to the infiltration of sand and stones. Mr. Butler pointed out that the shift in companies was only due to the extra service deemed necessary this year.

Mr. LeClaire questioned whether there was a quote received from American Rooter. Mr. Butler confirmed, noting it to be \$1400 more but reiterated that there was more being done with this year's cleaning.

B. Torrington Water Company.

The Board reviewed the operations report from Torrington Water Company with no questions or discussion.

5. OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

A. Asset Review Update.

Mr. Butler reported that the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward would be reaching out to members of the Asset Evaluation Team within the next couple of days to discern their availability for a conference call.

B. Discussion – Regulations.

Mr. Butler reported an offer from Mike Crawford of Aquarian Water Company to assist the WPCA in pushing forward with a revision to this board's regulations. He noted that he had spoken with Mr. Marsh earlier this week regarding working with Mr. Crawford to put together a version for this Board to discuss.

Mr. Butler requested the Board to recall when they had approved a period of time for reduced rates for new sewer connections. He noted that he had received several inquiries in the last few weeks about new connections. Mr. Butler indicated that he and Mr. Marsh will discuss

extending the reduction phase for new connections and be prepared to make a suggestion for the August meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Butler noted that there are accounts that have carried consistently an outstanding balance for over 90 days. He noted that he plans to include a discussion item for August to address customer accounts that are due over 90 days either because the customer has died or because the account has been outstanding for many years.

MOTION: Mr. Douyard, Mr. Toro second, to adjourn at 7:32PM; unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,
Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**

**WPCA
Aged Payables**

Account Balance	\$50,441.66	TWC Pymts 7/2/2020-present	\$141,071.04
Outstanding Invoices	\$17,234.12	Total TWC Bills	\$168,218.66

<u>Outstanding Invoices</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Eversource	\$6,076.34	8/24/2020	10/23/2020
Patterson Oil Company	\$342.96	8/24/2020	9/23/2020
CT DEEP/NPDES Permit	\$1,722.50	7/10/2020	9/30/2020
CT DEEP/Diversion Permit	\$470.00	7/10/2020	9/30/2020
TWC	\$8,622.32	8/17/2020	10/1/2020

Debt Service

<u>*Debt Service/WWTP,</u>	\$16,536.77	quarter pymts	8/1/2017	11/1/2017	2/1/2018	5/1/2018
<u>USDA Modified Town Loan</u>	\$16,536.77	quarter pymts	8/1/2018	11/1/2018	2/1/2019	5/1/2019
	\$30,111.75	quarter pymts	8/1/2019	11/1/2019	2/1/2020	5/1/2020
	\$3,250.00	quarter pymts	8/1/2019	11/1/2019	2/1/2020	5/1/2020
			8/1/2020			
			8/1/2020			
						suspended payments

*By vote of the Board of Selectmen policy was changed to reflect a suspension of discounted payments retroactive from 8/1/2017 to FYE 2021.

NEW HARTFORD WPCA
 Aged Payables
 As of Sep 30, 2020

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Includes Drop Shipments. Report order is by ID. Report is printed in Detail Format.

Vendor ID Vendor Contact Telephone 1	Invoice/CM #	0 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	Over 90 days	Amount Due
CT Depenergy	DEP352910			1,722.50		1,722.50
CT Dept of Energy& Environm	DEP353671			470.00		470.00
<hr/>						
CT Depenergy				2,192.50		2,192.50
CT Dept of Energy& Environm						
<hr/>						
EVER	--51286325022		3,955.04			3,955.04
EVERSOURCE	--51527282057		47.71			47.71
	--51711382085		49.06			49.06
	--51638772053		292.91			292.91
	--51900282013		922.66			922.66
	--51924282049		808.96			808.96
<hr/>						
EVER			6,076.34			6,076.34
EVERSOURCE						
<hr/>						
PATT	.2381*		342.96			342.96
Patterson Oil Co						
<hr/>						
PATT			342.96			342.96
Patterson Oil Co						
<hr/>						
TW	ROUTINE FOR A		8,622.32			8,622.32
Torrington Water						
<hr/>						
TW			8,622.32			8,622.32
Torrington Water						
<hr/>						
Report Total			15,041.62	2,192.50		17,234.12
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NEW HARTFORD WPCA
Account Register
 For the Period From Jul 1, 2020 to Sep 30, 2020
 1050-002 - NW Checking

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

Date	Trans No	Type	Trans Desc	Deposit Amt	Withdrawal Amt	Balance
			Beginning Balance			8,526.54
7/1/20	20 AP Adjust	Other	Reclass AP Checks issued afte	38,418.69		46,945.23
7/1/20	7/1/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	314.09		47,259.32
7/8/20	7/8/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	2,409.83		49,669.15
7/10/20	7/10/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	76.00		49,745.15
7/13/20	7/13/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	12,850.86		62,596.01
7/16/20	EFT	Withdrawal	USDA-RURAL DEVELOPM		4,221.15	58,374.86
7/17/20	7/17/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	25,955.12		84,329.98
7/19/20	EFT	Withdrawal	USDA-RURAL DEVELOPM		32,141.00	52,188.98
7/20/20	7/20/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	15,963.60		68,152.58
7/21/20	7/21/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	297.37		68,449.95
7/23/20	4526	Withdrawal	Frontier Communications		512.00	67,937.95
7/23/20	4527	Withdrawal	Paine's Inc		56.82	67,881.13
7/23/20	4528	Withdrawal	Custom Environmental Techno		1,086.29	66,794.84
7/24/20	7/24/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	10,131.55		76,926.39
7/27/20	7/27/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	6,934.86		83,861.25
7/30/20	7/30/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	5,358.06		89,219.31
8/1/20	20 AP Adjust	Other	Reclass AP Checks issued afte		38,418.69	50,800.62
8/6/20	4532	Withdrawal	Halloran & Sage LLP		37.00	50,763.62
8/6/20	4533	Withdrawal	Aquarion Water Company		17,443.00	33,320.62
8/6/20	4534	Withdrawal	Paine's Inc		56.82	33,263.80
8/6/20	4535	Withdrawal	Torrington Water		8,622.32	24,641.48
8/7/20	8/7/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	34,209.77		58,851.25
		Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	4,076.72		62,927.97
8/7/20	Rejected Check	Other	Check made out to TWC & no		6,070.42	56,857.55
8/10/20	8/10/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	355.31		57,212.86
8/12/20	8/12/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	15,985.44		73,198.30
8/17/20	8/17/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	2,419.81		75,618.11
		Deposit	Lien Balances Paid	1,065.19		76,683.30
8/18/20	8/18/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	4,402.06		81,085.36
8/20/20	4536	Withdrawal	Frontier Communications		234.47	80,850.89
8/20/20	4537	Withdrawal	American Rooter		3,720.00	77,130.89
8/20/20	8/20/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	3,190.23		80,321.12
8/21/20	8/21/20	Deposit	NHWPCA Customers	2,524.87		82,845.99
8/25/20	4538	Withdrawal	Bonnie Lambert		79.07	82,766.92
8/25/20	4539	Withdrawal	Kathy Steeves		48.12	82,718.80
9/3/20	4540	Withdrawal	Phoenix Environmental Lab, I		949.00	81,769.80
9/3/20	4541	Withdrawal	Savol		1,747.24	80,022.56
9/3/20	4542	Withdrawal	Frontier Communications		512.00	79,510.56
9/3/20	4543	Withdrawal	Veolia Water North America		763.75	78,746.81
9/3/20	4544	Withdrawal	Torrington Water		3,572.88	75,173.93
9/3/20	4545	Withdrawal	Quinoco, Inc		356.70	74,817.23
9/3/20	4546	Withdrawal	Paine's Inc		56.82	74,760.41
9/3/20	4547	Withdrawal	Aquarion Water Company		17,443.00	57,317.41
9/3/20	4548	Withdrawal	Aquarion Water Company		125.14	57,192.27
9/3/20	4549	Withdrawal	EVERSOURCE		6,750.61	50,441.66
			Total	186,939.43	145,024.31	

NEW HARTFORD WPCA
Income Statement
For the Three Months Ending September 30, 2020

	Current Month		Year to Date	
Revenues				
PAYMENTS RECEIVED	\$ 141,257.94	99.25	\$ 141,257.94	99.25
Lien Balances paid	<u>1,065.19</u>	0.75	<u>1,065.19</u>	0.75
Total Revenues	<u>142,323.13</u>	100.00	<u>142,323.13</u>	100.00
Cost of Sales				
Total Cost of Sales	<u>0.00</u>	0.00	<u>0.00</u>	0.00
Gross Profit	<u>142,323.13</u>	100.00	<u>142,323.13</u>	100.00
Expenses				
ROUTINE SERVICES -WATER	17,244.64	12.12	17,244.64	12.12
Electricity/Water	3,642.80	2.56	3,642.80	2.56
Phone/Communications	1,024.00	0.72	1,024.00	0.72
Non-Routine Water	3,915.84	2.75	3,915.84	2.75
Treatment Sup/Water	1,747.24	1.23	1,747.24	1.23
Licenses & Permits	470.00	0.33	470.00	0.33
DEBT SERVICE-WATER	32,141.00	22.58	32,141.00	22.58
TWP ROUTINE - SEWER	34,886.00	24.51	34,886.00	24.51
Electricity/Sewer	9,184.15	6.45	9,184.15	6.45
Telephone/Communications	234.47	0.16	234.47	0.16
Plant Supplies/Sewer	125.14	0.09	125.14	0.09
Sludge Hauling&Cleaning	763.75	0.54	763.75	0.54
Non-Routine Sewer	3,720.00	2.61	3,720.00	2.61
Fuel/Sewer	356.70	0.25	356.70	0.25
Chemicals	1,086.29	0.76	1,086.29	0.76
Lab Services/sampling	949.00	0.67	949.00	0.67
permit/sewer	1,722.50	1.21	1,722.50	1.21
Paines	170.46	0.12	170.46	0.12
Prospect Street	4,221.15	2.97	4,221.15	2.97
Legal & Prof Fees/Water & Sewe	<u>37.00</u>	0.03	<u>37.00</u>	0.03
Total Expenses	<u>117,642.13</u>	82.66	<u>117,642.13</u>	82.66
Net Income	<u>\$ 24,681.00</u>	17.34	<u>\$ 24,681.00</u>	17.34

For Management Purposes Only

NEW HARTFORD W/PCA
 Income Statement - 12 Periods
 For July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021
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	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6
Revenues						
PAYMENTS RECEIVED	\$ 80,164.15	61,093.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lien Balances paid	0.00	1,065.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	80,164.15	62,158.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cost of Sales						
Total Cost of Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gross Profit	80,164.15	62,158.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expenses						
ROUTINE SERVICES - WATER	8,622.32	8,622.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity/Water	1,911.18	1,731.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phone/Communications	512.00	512.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-Routine Water	3,061.45	854.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treatment Supp/Water	0.00	1,747.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Licenses & Permits	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEBT SERVICE-WATER	32,141.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TWP ROUTINE - SEWER	17,443.00	17,443.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity/Sewer	4,839.43	4,344.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Telephone/Communications	234.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plant Supplies/Sewer	0.00	125.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sludge Hauling&Cleaning	0.00	763.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-Routine Sewer	3,720.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fuel/Sewer	0.00	356.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chemicals	1,086.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lab Services/sampling	949.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
permitt/sewer	1,722.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paines	113.64	56.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prospect Street	4,221.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Legal & Prof Fees/Water & Sewe	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	81,084.43	36,557.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Income	\$ (920.28)	25,601.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

For Management Purposes Only

NEW HARTFORD WPCA
Income Statement - 12 Periods
For July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

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	Period 7	Period 8	Period 9	Period 10	Period 11	Period 12
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

For Management Purposes Only



NEW HARTFORD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
Monthly Summary Detail
August 2020

- Daily and weekly effluent samples collected by Aquarion Water Company (AWC) were in compliance with the respective federal and state permit limits. In addition the quarterly aquatic toxicity composite sample passed the survival criteria. AWC is awaiting the laboratory results for the August 29th sampling event.
- Street power was lost as a result of the wind storm and power outage on August 4th. The operations staff worked to manually monitor the plant operations since telecommunications provided by Frontier was interrupted for 10 days. In addition, the operators were required to manually switch between street power and standby power for a period of six days. Attached is a summary of the storm related responses that was submitted to CTDEEP.
- Sludge thickening operations were successful resulting in no truck hauling sludge off-site during the month.
- The UV disinfection operation was taken off-line and lamps were cleaned and the channel flushed and returned to service. The effluent flow monitoring and sampling structure was also pressure washed and cleaned to remove accumulated algae growth.
- The sink hole adjacent to the filter building appears to have stabilized and was filled with gravel.
- The plant water hoses on top of the SBR operation was identified as a potential safety issue during an internal AWC inspection. The hoses have been replaced with new hoses that can be retracted and stored properly.
- Yard work was completed to cleanup the aftermath of the August 4-5th storm event and power outage.
- The Route 219 standby generator had an electrical short and was repaired during the power outage on August 4th.
- The relays on the mechanical screens and one of the effluent filter pumps failed as a result of erratic power surges during the initial return of power. The relays and pump motor have been ordered.
- Pylons at the WPCF were scrapped and repainted.
- The contingency Pandemic Action Plan continues to be implemented by AWC.
- The average (total) flow from the WPCF during July was 0.040 million gallons per day (MGD) and the estimated (total) volume of wastewater treated was 1.249 MG.
- A total of 8 CBYD responses were completed during the month.



August 13, 2020

Ann Straut

Via email: ann.straut@ct.gov

Ann,


I am attaching a Storm Event Reporting Form for the power outage experienced in New Hartford over the past week. While we lost street power both at the water pollution control facility (WPCF) and the three pumping stations, standby power was engaged successfully at the WPCF and the largest pump station. The other two pump stations were managed by contract hauling by Russ' Septic. Below are the key events and how the operations staff responded.

- On Tuesday August 4, 2020 at about 3:00 PM the Town of New Hartford lost power throughout the entire town. The impact of the power outage was that the street power at the WPCF and three pumping stations was not available.
- The emergency generator at the WPCF automatically was engaged without incident on August 4th at about 3:00 PM. The WPCF generator has 100% electrical design capacity for all operations at the WPCF. The treatment process was not adversely impacted as a result of losing street power. Street power was re-instated roughly 24-hours later. During this period the operators coordinated with Quinoco to deliver diesel for the generator.
- Power was also lost at the 219 pump station (largest of the pump stations), the Prospect Street pump station (serving about 6 to 8 homes) and the Greenwoods pump station (that services two homes). The 219 pump station has a portable generator while the other two facilities do not have standby generators. The 219 generator was unsuccessfully started on August 4 at about 5:00 PM. Tower Generator responded on August 5th and rectified an electrical short. The generator was placed on-line at about 2 PM. During the period when the generator was not engaged, wastewater from the wet well was pumped by Russ' and hauled to the WPCF headworks.
- The Prospect and Greenwood pump stations are very small serving only a limited number of customers. Street power in these areas was lost from 3:00 PM on August 4th and then re-instated on August 7th at about 4:30 PM. During this outage period wastewater was hauled by Russ' to the headworks of the WPCF.

- The auto-dialers that convey emergency alarms to the operators were not able to dial out due to telephone lines being adversely impacted. The auto-dialers at the Prospect Street and 219 pump stations were not functional between August 4th and August 7th at 4:30 PM while power was not available. The auto-dialers were restored when power was re-established. During the outage period the operators conducted site visits every 6-hours to ensure proper operations.
- The auto-dialer at the WPCF is still not functional as of August 13, 2020. Frontier Communications has been contacted on several occasions regarding the critical need for communications to the WPCF.
- When street power was re-instated to the WPCF and 219 pump station it was document by Addison Electric that the line voltage at both locations was not stable and the voltage on three legs were erratic. On August 10th AWC and Addison Electric were able to explain to an Eversource technician the condition. At 5:20 PM the technician texted AWC to inform that a substation in Canton was experiencing problems and was likely the cause of the erratic voltages. At about 6:30 PM the Eversource technician texted AWC that the erratic voltage issue was resolved. Addison Electric confirmed stable voltage readings at both the WPCF and 219 pump station on August 11th. At this point all electrical outage issues have been addressed and power is fully restored.
- A replacement pump and motor for filter No. 1 is being ordered from Hayes Pumps and will be reinstalled (as the current standby filter) within the next several weeks.

In summary the operations in New Hartford were challenging over the past 10 days but did not result in any bypasses, compromise in effluent quality or any adverse health impacts. Power is fully restored and the only outstanding issue to address is re-establishing communications with the auto-dialer (and telephone) at the WPCF. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you should have any questions or require clarification.

Very truly,



William Embelton, III
Superintendent

- cc. Carlos Esquerra, CTDEEP, carlos.esguerra@ct.org
Bud Butler, WPCA Chairman, budbutler@sbcglobal.net
Mike Crawford, AWC
Dan Lawrence, AWC

Storm Event Reporting Form

Facility: NEW HARTFORD WPCF Date: Aug 4th Time: 5:36PM

1. Is the treatment facility being operated on commercial power or emergency generators? FACILITY LOST POWER ON 8/4/20 @ 5:30 PM; EMERGENCY GENERATOR CAN WITHSTAND INCIDENT FOR 24-HOURS; STREET POWER NOW RESTORED
2. Is the treatment facility providing full treatment (in accordance with permit)? yes no
If not, what is the current level of treatment? _____
3. Is the wastewater system bypassing partially or raw sewage from anywhere within the treatment system? yes no
 - a. If so, from where and at what volumes? Not Applicable
 - b. Has the required bypass report been submitted yet? yes no Not Applicable
4. Is the wastewater system bypassing raw sewage from anywhere within the conveyance system? yes no
 - c. If so, from where and at what volumes? Not Applicable
 - d. Has the required bypass report been submitted yet? yes no
5. Does the treatment facility or the pumping stations have issues that limit access for personnel, fuel deliveries, or other operations?
 - a. Storm debris? yes no
 - b. Snow piles? yes no
 - c. Flood waters? yes no
 - d. Downed power lines? yes no
 - e. Other? yes no if yes, explain _____
6. Are any pumping stations not connected to commercial power? yes no
 - a. Number running on generators (installed or portable)? 1 @ Route 219 (POWER RESTORED)
 - b. Number being pumped by truck? 2
 - c. Number with no power and potential raw sewage discharges? 0
7. Is there adequate fuel to run emergency generators? yes no
 - a. If no, has provision been made to acquire and deliver additional fuel? yes no
8. Are there any other problems that we might be able to help you solve?

Form completed by: William Emberton Phone: 203-569-1461 (CELL)
(print name)

emailed
7 27 2020

Open Letter to New Hartford's Elected officials and Appointed Committee Members

Dear Honorable elected officials and appointed committee members of the Town of New Hartford,

I have attended every meeting the AET has conducted to present its case for selling our water and sewer treatment facilities and have listened attentively to the arguments made by the current Chair of the WPCA. I have also done extensive investigation and research into this matter on my own.

Aside from the many inaccuracies and misleading statements contained in the presentations made at those meetings, one thing that has stood out for me, and perhaps to those of you who have listened to the Chair's presentation, is that he has been, by his own admission, intensely focused on the goal of selling our facilities for over a decade and has been the chief architect in establishing and heading the AET towards that goal. The problem with that kind of approach is twofold: (1) we do not get an objective evaluation of the pros and cons of a sale; and (2) the pre-determined result of a sale does not fix the underlying problem.

The problem confronting us is that our sewer and water rates have been near the highest in the State for over a decade, because we, as a Town, have insisted that the lion's share of the costs of the systems be borne by the users. Many of you have heard me speak (or at least attempt to speak) at the AET meetings and express my belief that the current "sell" proposal *does not fix that problem and will in all likelihood exacerbate it.*

We keep hearing at these presentations that the AET has *worked for over 3 years on the water and sewer issue*, so its plan to sell the systems must presumptively be correct and in the best interest of the users and the Town. But time invested is hardly a measure of whether a plan is correct or not. Nobody says, "well, I've worked on this thing for x years, so it must be right," and, in this case, the efforts of the AET have not produced the right result.

At the last AET information session, a resident from the Pine Meadow area described the circumstances he and his spouse will be faced with if that portion of the plan involving the construction of a sewer extension in Pine Meadow, goes through. I believe his situation perfectly illustrates my argument that the sale of our water and sewer facilities will *not* solve the core problem of the intolerable rates imposed on their users.

That resident now has a septic system that costs him, on average, approximately \$100 dollars a year to maintain (one \$400 clean-up every 4 years). After researching the current sewer rates, he calculated that, when he is obligated to hook up to the proposed Pine Meadow extension, his average yearly bill will be approximately \$1,600! To add insult to injury, he estimates that his "hook-up" fee will be about \$16,000. (Imagine your reaction if you received your July tax bill with a \$1,600 increase and, just for good measure, a \$16,000 surcharge.)

The proposed Pine Meadow sewer extension will service 106 existing households, all of which are now on septic systems and all of whose residents will suffer similar devastating financial consequences. Most, if not all of the residents in Pine Meadow live on modest incomes, and in many cases, fixed retirement incomes. For those of you who are thinking rates will go down as more people are forced to "hook-up," please think again.

Rates never, ever go down! They always go up. That is as inevitable a reality as death and taxes. At the *very best, rates may be stable for 5 years*, but even that is not certain because only the State regulatory authority, PURA, controls that decision, and, as the WPCA Chair has admitted, any help the Town *may give the users, is contingent on how much the planned Pine Meadow Sewer extension will cost.*

So, my question to all of you, as elected officials and appointed committee members is -- why are we thinking of doing this to our neighbors and friends? Why are we constantly avoiding what a responsible community should do, which is to spread the burden of community obligations among all members of the community? Would any of us for a moment propose that the 400 hundred or so families, who have kids in the public schools, take on the burden of paying the entire bill for our school system? Where is the justice in that? How could such thinking be anything but a gross distortion of the idea of community, and, indeed, of the Golden Rule? We pride ourselves on believing that we are a "small, close knit community." If those words are to have any meaning and not simply stand as a hollow and cruelly misleading reminder of our indifference to our neighbors' welfare, then we must not let this plan go forward as proposed.

We have time to devise a plan that works for our entire community. The sky is not falling. Even if the plan as proposed were to be approved by the Town tomorrow, it will be years before that plan wends its way through the labyrinth of the State Administrative approval process and construction of new sewer lines begin. Let's take the time necessary to put a sensible and prudent plan together for consideration by our Town's people. It can, and must be done. The Town is currently subsidizing the WPCA debt service (as it rightly should based upon our Ordinance 86-1) and the WPCA has pledged not to raise rates for the foreseeable future. The basis of any workable plan would contemplate that the Town acknowledges that, like our schools

and roads infrastructure, each taxpayer pays in a nominal sum to the capital upkeep of our systems through our capital expenditure and debt service portions of our budget.

While I was listening to the AET presentation this past week at New Hartford Elementary, I thought that anyone in the audience would be easily seduced into thinking that the proposed plan would solve all our problems associated with our water/ sewer systems. It was slickly produced to achieve its intended result. But many of us will recall that we went through a similar experience a dozen years ago when our elected officials assured us, time and again, that our Town would benefit from a new sewer plant that would soon be serving an unprecedented boom in economic development and that such growth would not only stabilize rates but *reduce rates in the long run. We made a horrendous mistake then, let's not be seduced into making another one now.* Things that sound too good to be true nearly always turn out to be too good to be true. Let's not forget history, lest we repeat it.

Yours Sincerely,

David Rosengren,
Selectman

495 Town Hill Road
New Hartford, CT 06057
davidrgren@gmail.com
860 306 6863

8/3/2020

To the New Hartford Board of Selectmen:

As a resident of our town who, by sheer luck, happens not to depend on our town's WCPA, I am, nevertheless, concerned about its future. I care deeply about *all* our residents, wherever they live. We are one town, and we need it to meet the needs of all our people. I fear there is an assumption among various town officials that our residents either aren't smart enough to understand the process and details of decisions that are made regarding their water company, or that they just don't care. Neither is true.

According to information on our town's website, the goal of the WCPA is: "*to provide quality constructed, reliable and cost effective drinking and wastewater infrastructure, that promotes environmental protection and insures public health & safety at competitive rates that stimulates residential, commercial and industrial development, providing economic growth and rate stabilization for residential, commercial and industrial accounts alike.*"

In a 2008 letter from Town Attorney Rorabach, he expressed the opinion that nowhere is it written that only users of the water plant are responsible for expenses incurred for repairs or maintenance. Ultimately, it is the Town that bears the responsibility, and it is up to the Town to decide how that bill is to be paid. If, as I believe should be the case, ALL residents should bear the cost of these expenses, then all residents need to be fully informed as to the details of any change in the status of their water company.

I worry that there will be a rush to judgment regarding the sale of our water company, without sufficient time, input, or discussion, to a private, for-profit firm. Several presentations have been made regarding this impending sale, but no counterarguments by qualified sources have been invited, or even allowed, to present opposing data. It is important to remember we are a representative democracy, and as such, residents have an obligation to understand a proposal *in full* before voting on it. I have read that under the current proposal, the cost of all expenses, whether repair, maintenance or incurred debt, will be borne by users, resulting, of course, in rate hikes. To say that is unfair is a wild understatement, especially when those users (and all the rest of us) have not been fully informed or allowed to hear what alternatives there might be.

According to an article in "*The Washington Post*, "Towns Sell Their Water Systems and Come to Regret It," (emphasis mine) "Customers usually pay more

for water after private companies take over..... The prospect of offloading these headaches to for-profit water companies — and fattening city budgets in the process — is enticing to elected officials who worry that rate hikes could cost them their jobs. Once a system has been sold, private operators, not public officials, take the blame for higher rates.

But privatization will not magically relieve Americans of the financial burden of upgrading their water infrastructure. *Water customers still foot the bill.* And although there is no reliable data to compare the service or safety records of public and private utilities, studies show that in most cases, the tab rises when for-profit companies are involved.

That is in part because state regulatory agencies allow private operators to *earn a profit on their investments*”

I ask, what agency is going to enforce the water company’s promise to make repairs and maintain the infrastructure? Who inspects those repairs and who is accountable?

Based on evidence from past sales to private water companies, rate hikes are inevitable, and if the town changes its mind, regaining public ownership of the water company would be an expensive, difficult, and time-consuming process.

As for Mr. Butler, what makes him qualified? What is his experience in the sale of water systems and/or their operation, aside from the one in New Hartford? How can he be considered to be a neutral party? Has the Town commissioned independent studies of the sale? This needs to be a transparent process. I urge, rather, *demand* that qualified voices other than those of the Selectmen, as well as that of “Bud” Butler, be allowed to present pertinent and essential information to the people of this Town, in writing and at a Town Meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Bedford

Shafer Road, New Hartford

8/21 / 2020

It is an aspect of our American freedom, that water, a source of life, is available to us whenever we need it; regardless of political party, adversity, or race we have access to clean water. This is a privilege afforded to only some in our country and our world. Selling our water to Eversource will change this forever. There will be a select few who will have uninterrupted access to water, including our current local administration. But that will not be the case for the rest of us. Times like these, many of us are living paycheck to paycheck, rent, mortgage, taxes, gas, groceries; there is a lot of uncertainty about our future. But there should not be any uncertainty about our access to water. Not being able to afford another bill ever month, should not mean you have to worry about being able to drink, shower, or do your laundry. In times like these, we need to feel secure in our homes, and that means knowing that our water is controlled by us, and accessible by us. As part of life in this town, we have all experienced intense winter and summer storms. During these events, a majority of us have lost power, sometimes for over a week or even two. At the mercy of Eversource we have had to rely on generators (if we are lucky), or the hospitality of neighbors and family. Now imagine if we are left without access to water for that long. We all know how water sells out at the stores when a storm is coming, so your options would be very slim for access, which is much scarier than losing your electricity.

Selling our precious water is not only dangerous, it impacts our freedom and our safety. We have the right to have access to our water. We must not sell our water and surrender our control of our PRECIOUS LIFE SOURCE – WATER.

Lorna and Peter Gawlik

217 Turnbull Rd, New Hartford CT 06057