

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Held Remotely Via Zoom**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, David Douyard, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire, Wes Marsh, Polly Pobuda (7:15PM), and Joe Toro.

ABSENT: None.

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

1. APPROVE MINUTES: NOVEMBER 5, 2020 & DECEMBER 3, 2020 REGULAR MEETINGS:

The November 5, 2020 Minutes should be amended as follows:

The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. LeClaire and seconded by Mr. Toro; and

Under Item 5c, the portion of text (and motion) that reads, "*most critical item to be addressed was green sand filter*" should instead read, "*most critical item to be addressed was green sand filter valve*".

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Toro second, to approve the November 5, 2020 Minutes as amended;
Motion approved with Mr. Butler, Ms. Greenwood, Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Marsh and Mr. Toro being in favor while Mr. Douyard abstained.

The December 3, 2020 Minutes should be amended as follows:

The portion of text under Item 5d that reads, "*Mr. Butler recalled that there was an additional thirty-five years but would research further...*" should instead read, "*Mr. Butler has researched that item and the lease expires this year, 2021, in October. Specific to this, it has a six-month advance notice of intent to renew and we would put on file that we are advancing the renewal for an additional thirty-five year term...*".

MOTION: Mr. Douyard, Ms. Greenwood second, to approve the December 3, 2020 Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

2. FINANCIAL RESULTS – DECEMBER FY 20-21 UPDATE:

A. Aged Receivables – Collection Program Update.

Mr. Butler reported that the quarter commencing February 1st will mark the 15th successive quarter of the WPCA not being able to pay the USDA debt obligation, a sum of \$16,536.77. Additionally, February 1st marks seven successive quarters wherein the \$3,250 payment will not be made by the WPCA on the town debt, according to Mr. Butler. He noted the apparent surplus of revenues against the expenses, approximately 8%, will be used to address the backlog of things the WPCA has been unable to complete.

Ms. Greenwood questioned whether the billing cycles had been changed, noting that revenues appeared higher for December than they typically have been. Mr. Butler confirmed and noted that there have not been as many disbursements as there is normally due to a reduction in failures. He reported that the WPCA is also receiving advance payments, too.

Mr. Butler reported that due to a glitch with Torrington Water Company, bills can be expected to go out by noon on the day following this meeting.

Mr. Butler updated the Board regarding the third-party collection program, reporting addition collection of \$300.

3. OPERATIONS REPORTS SEWER (AWC) & WATER (TWC):

The Board reviewed operations reports from Aquarian Water Company and The Torrington Water Company (TWC) that had been previously emailed. Mr. Butler confirmed that there were no customer orders or activity during the month of December.

Mr. Butler reported a water main break on Wickett Street. He explained that he coincidentally had passed through there on his way to a meeting at which time he had observed Eversource replacing a utility pole in an area that the water main was located beneath. The cost of the repair will be assumed by Eversource, according to Mr. Butler.

Ms. Pobuda joined the Zoom meeting, at this point, at 7:15PM.

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

A. Election - Chairman & Vice Chairman (Term).

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that the term is for one year, with terms running through December.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda second, to elect Denton (Bud) Butler as Chairman and Joe Toro as Vice Chairman; unanimously approved.

B. Repair/Replace/Diagnose – Maintenance Recommendations.

Mr. Butler noted that there were areas of deficiency including the screening of the overflow pipes and the hatches on the water tanks. He indicated that the engineer may have erred in his report with another system and that this would likely be straightened out. In the meantime, the encroachment of septic fields within 200' of the well head was being reviewed. Mr. Butler noted that he has sought clarification on the statute on this matter.

During the Department of Public Health inspection, Mr. Butler noted that he had completed a review with the Torrington Water Company. He reminded the WPCA that they are overdue by nearly eleven years for an inspection on the 175000-gallon water tank, the one installed around 2000. Mr. Butler noted that the 2010 inspection had revealed minor issues including the appearance of staining and pitting resulting from leaves from nearby oak trees. Mr. Butler indicated that this would be secondary to the matter of an internal inspection. He reported that Torrington Water Company has returned to the company that completed the 2010 inspection to request an updated one.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that additional meters had been ordered last year, noting that only four remain. His recommendation was to order five additional 5/8 meters to have available.

Mr. Butler reported that there are five fire hydrants that are increasingly more difficult to find replacement parts for as they are no longer manufactured. His recommendation was to include the replacement of the hydrants at the following locations: 23 Church Street, Route 219 at Carter Street, Route 219 at Meadow Street, Route 219 at Cottage Street (north end), and Route 219 at Black Bridge. He noted that TWC had estimated a cost of \$6500 for each hydrant replacement, explaining that his recommendation did not include immediate replacement for each. Mr. Butler noted that to tackle the first most critical three included a projected cost of \$19,500.

Mr. Butler indicated that he had not yet received an estimate on an engineering inspection of the green sand tank and the hatches on it. He noted that the malfunctioning valve has been replaced with a short-term valve while they repaired the malfunctioning valve.

MOTION: Mr. Douyard, Mr. Marsh second, to expend an amount not to exceed \$3200 to complete the inspection and prepare a report for an inspection on the 175000-gallon water tank; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Douyard second, to stock five 5/8 water meters, at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1K; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to approve the replacement of up to three fire hydrants, to be replaced one at a time, with the following schedule: 23 Church Street, Route 219 at Carter Street, and Route 219 at Meadow Street, at a cost not to exceed \$19,500; unanimously approved.

C. Asset Evaluation Team – Update.

Mr. Butler updated the Board on the AET, noting that a town meeting and hearing which will adjourn to a referendum and is projected to be scheduled for February 18, 2021 via ZOOM. The referendum will probably be March 2, 2021, according to Mr. Butler. He noted that meeting will summarize the position of the AET which will likely put forward a yes or no vote to sell the town's water and sewer assets. He explained that should it pass, it will still probably take six to twelve months to receive approval from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).

Noting that she had been to just about every public meeting surrounding the potential sale of the town's water and sewer assets and explaining that the questions from the Board of Finance on how subsidies will be implemented and what the town policy will be, Ms. Greenwood indicated that it was brought out through that discussion that sewer customers would not be subsidized until after the construction of the new sewer line was completed. She questioned how this information had been rather unclear in this regard. Additionally, she noted that policy discussions on implementation after the sale are currently occurring and questioned whether there is going to be a representative group addressing those matters in the process such as the one originally recommended that would include members of the AET and members from the Board of Finance. Mr. Butler agreed that it was somewhat of a muddled response to the Board of Finance regarding the issue of applying the subsidy. He noted that following the Board of Finance meeting, he had discussed the subsidies and their administration with First Selectman Dan Jerram and had reminded him that the WPCA is chartered and the only agency recognized by state statute to apply rates, collect revenues, and otherwise administrate the business having to do with water and sewer. Discussion continued on the roles of the respective WPCA, the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Finance following the potential sale of the water and sewer assets.

Ms. Pobuda questioned the oversight of industrial users and whether Mr. LeClaire had an opportunity to follow up on what had been discussed this past November. Mr. LeClaire confirmed, reporting that according to the State, the WPCA need not concern with industrial users who have septic systems unless they have a holding tank. If those users do have a holding tank, the WPCA has to ensure that when it is pumped, it is taken to one of the twenty facilities recognized by the State that can handle a MIU (Miscellaneous Industrial Users) waste. Mr. Butler reported that the wastewater treatment plant works very closely with the town's only industrial user, Brewery Legitimus, who communicate when they are releasing something with the potential for adverse effects. He explained that it is then handled chemically.

D. Water Valve – Repair Status.

Mr. Butler reported that the repair is continuing more slowly than expected but as soon as the first two phases are completed, an update to this Board will be provided.

Mr. Butler reported the resignation of Jill Healey who had accepted another position out of town. He praised her work and efforts on behalf of the WPCA.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Douyard second, to adjourn at 8:00PM; unanimously approved.

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