

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Held Remotely Via Zoom**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, David Douyard (7:05PM), Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire, Wes Marsh, Polly Pobuda, and Joe Toro.

ABSENT: None.

Mr. Butler called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

1. APPROVE MINUTES - JANUARY 7, 2021:

As the January 7, 2021 Minutes were unavailable, no business was discussed.

2. FINANCIAL RESULTS – January FY 20-21 Update

A. Aged Receivables & Revenue Report.

Mr. Butler reported that a replacement of the former Assistant Bookkeeper was expected to begin on February 15, 2021. Because of the vacancy and recent snowy weather event, he explained that a quick summary had been forwarded to the Board. Mr. Butler indicated that all of the outstanding invoices that were due had been paid. He reported that there remains another \$9600 worth of payables and that there is \$87K in revenues as a balance.

Mr. Marsh questioned the charge for the Department of Public Health(DPH). Mr. Butler explained that the invoice is for a semiannual payment levied on all water companies in an effort to raise revenues for them. He estimated it to be a ±\$2 fee per customer. It was noted that this was in effect a tax used to fund programs at the DPH.

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 reported an average of less than one truckload per month of sludge with two being sent during the month of January. He noted a 15% increase in flow and an uptick in organics.

Ms. Greenwood questioned the note in the Torrington Water Company report relative to checking leaks. Mr. Butler explained that the water consumption had gone up by 15% but was not accounted for with billing. He noted that an audit was completed of vacant houses to ensure that there were not frozen pipes with accounts that had not been shut off. He noted that the next check will be valves in the system followed by hydrants.

Mr. Butler updated the Board on the water main break resulting from Eversource undertaking a pole replacement. He reported a break on Highland Avenue earlier this date that the Torrington Water Company would be covering.

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

A. Water Tank Inspection – CorpTech Report.

Mr. Butler noted that there has not been significant deterioration of the tank since eleven years ago, the last time that it was inspected. He noted that the outside of the tank looks terrible but only because of the acidic oaks leaves that land on the water tank, causing it to corrode from the outside.

B. Repair/Replace/Diagnose Update.

Mr. Butler reported having used two of the six meters that were just recently purchased. He noted that two of the four valve segments have been completed at Black Bridge. He indicated that the replacement of the three hydrants that had not yet been completed due to the weather.

C. Asset Evaluation Team Update.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that a sample ballot for the referendum had been sent out. He reported the town meeting/hearing will be held on February 18, 2021 beginning at 7PM via ZOOM. Mr. Butler noted the referendum will be scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 9AM to 8PM. Mr. Marsh noted that the plan cited in the sample ballot was not the most recent plan. He noted that the most recent one is July, 2016. Mr. Jerram explained that the Board of Finance, in their review of the proposal, wanted to know the specifics on the properties that were in the area that will be provided access to the sewer lines. He noted the intent was more focused on the area of the homes and not necessarily on the location of the lines. Mr. Marsh noted that the more recent plan did the same thing. Mr. Jerram explained that the map that was included was the one that the Board of Finance reviewed, as it was included in their Minutes. Additionally, Mr. Marsh explained that it was a “plan” more than it was a “map”. Mr. Jerram indicated that the language included in items #1 through #6 of the call was specific to the resolution passed by the Board of Finance. Mr. Jerram noted that the town attorney had approved the language.

Mr. Toro questioned Item #2, and whether the money from the Board of Selectmen given to the WPCA was getting paid back. Mr. Jerram referred to the attachment to the Board of Finance Minutes that included details on every loan and indicated that only the debt of \$65K that is associated with the loan, which had an original principal balance of \$130K, is being paid back and all the deferrals of debt service payments over the past three years are not included within that balance. He noted that the Board of Finance wanted the debt paid off, the subsidies, and the connection assistance.

Ms. Greenwood questioned whether the project would be scaled down if the \$3.6M was not enough money. Mr. Jerram explained that the seven caveats would prohibit taking money from one to go to the other.

Mr. Butler reported information being transmitted from a group dubbed *Food and Water Watch*. He noted that they were a group based out of Washington, DC, which does not believe in the private ownership of drinking and wastewater assets. Mr. Butler indicated the letters included inaccuracies. He noted that he would forward a copy of the correspondence to this Board for their reference.

Mr. Jerram noted that the plans were not final engineered plans, explaining that should tax payors support the initiative, there will be a lot more engineered plans created relative to the installation.

Ms. Pobuda questioned whether snow removal from the fire hydrants was being completed. Mr. Butler confirmed, noting that he had reached out to the subcontractor, Ken Krohner, Jr., after the last big storm and the one before it. Mr. Toro noted one being missed near 560 Main Street. Mr. Butler noted that one was missed during the last storm but that he would be checking them the day following this meeting. Mr. Jerram reported having had contact with Mr. Krohner who had communicated that a couple of them had been buried, possibly by the Town’s plow operators.

Mr. Butler updated the Board about the four-lot approval that had been granted to Allan Borghesi. He reminded them that Mr. Borghesi had been relieved from connecting to the public water and public sewer. The fourth lot is before the Planning and Zoning Commission currently for a Dollar General Store and will not be connected to the public utilities, according to Mr. Butler.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Douyard second, to adjourn at 7:45PM; unanimously approved.

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