

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Held Remotely Via Zoom**

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

ABSENT: Michael LeClaire.

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

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

A. September 3, 2020.

The September 3, 2020 Minutes should include the following corrections:

- Under Agenda Item #3, Disposition of Aged Receivables, the Motion that read, "...*MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Marsh second, to remove \$8.67 from our books representing receivables from eight accounts no longer active; unanimously approved...*" should read, "...*MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Marsh second, to remove \$12.67 from our books representing receivables from eight accounts no longer active; unanimously approved...*";
- Under Agenda Item #3, Disposition of Aged Receivables, a list of account names and numbers will accompany these Minutes to reflect which accounts are being removed;
- Under Agenda Item #3, Disposition of Aged Receivables, the language that reads, "...*Mr. Butler reviewed four open accounts on deceased individuals wherein no estate had ever been open...*" should read, "...*Mr. Butler reviewed four open accounts on deceased individuals wherein the estates are closed without the option of collection of the receivable...*";
- Under Agenda Item #3, in the fourth paragraph, the language that reads, "...*Mr. Butler reported a balance of \$20,910 in aged receivables of over ninety days...*" should instead read, "...*Mr. Butler reported a balance of \$20,910 in aged receivables of over ninety-one days...*";
- Under Agenda Item #4(b), the language that reads, "...*Mr. Butler explained that he had been meeting with the fire department chief to discuss flow meter readings on several hydrants followed by some retesting. He noted that the Torrington Water Company does not inspect the flow control valves because it is outside of their scope of expertise. Mr. Butler noted that he had been connected with a company that specializes in this type of work...*" should instead read, "...*Mr. Butler explained that he had met with the fire department chief to review hydrant flows and the need to retest. Before testing TWC suggested a survey of status control valves. He noted that the Torrington Water Company does not inspect the flow control valves because it is outside of their scope of expertise. Mr. Butler noted that he had been connected with Brad Small of Hydrus Control Solutions that specializes in this type of work...*";
- Under Agenda Item #6(a), the second sentence reading, "...*Ms. Greenwood reminded the Board that when discussions first occurred around holding public information meetings, it had been agreed that someone other than First Selectman Dan Jerram or Mr. Butler should lead the meetings and present the information...*" should instead read, "...*Ms. Greenwood recommended that someone other than First Selectman Dan Jerram or Mr. Butler should lead the meetings and present the information...*"; and

- Under Agenda Item #6(b), the item and text that reads,
“...B. *Water Valve Inspection.*
Mr. Butler shared an update on the Canterbury Village agreement...” should instead read,
“...B. *Meter Payment Resolution.*
Mr. Butler shared an update on the Canterbury Village agreement concerning meter payment and a Memorandum of Awareness concerning Canterbury Village’s need to replace non-standard piping should Canterbury Village change to common ownership...”

Approval of the Amended September 3, 2020 Minutes was continued to the next meeting.

2. 2019-20 FY END-FINANCIAL RESULTS – SEPTEMBER FY20-21 UPDATE:

Mr. Butler reported that FY19-20 had a loss but noted that he had not yet received clarification from King & King. He noted that he would like to have this for the Board for its next meeting.

3. DISPOSITION OF AGED RECEIVABLES – COLLECTION PROGRAM UPDATE:

A. Continued Suspension Shut-Offs/Late Charges.

Mr. Butler reported having approved a letter to be sent by the collection agency regarding only final bills and two inactive accounts. He explained that the information from Torrington Water Company had now been provided to collection agency. Mr. Butler reported a \$2K payment from a delinquent account recently.

Additionally, Mr. Butler reported Canterbury Village as having made the third and final installment on their meters, paying a total sum of \$3,195.56.

Mr. Butler recommended that this Board adopt a hands-off approach relative to shut-offs, which is consistent with the standards adopted by PURA. He noted that this will take this policy to November 1, 2020. Mr. Butler noted that three payment plans have been worked out during this pandemic.

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Douyard second, to continue our policy of no shut-offs consistent with the standards of PURA for at least another month; unanimously approved.

4. OPERATIONS REPORTS SEWER (AWC) & WATER (TWC)

A. Storm Review Update – Financial Impact – Final.

Noting the staffing situation at Torrington Water Company, Mr. Butler indicated that there was no monthly operations report available from Torrington Water Company. He indicated that he would forward the report to the Board members once he receives it.

Mr. Butler noted that while the Board had received a monthly report from Aquarian Water Company, there were already updates to provide. Among those was an update on the replacement of the existing SBR pump with a new pump, explaining that the warranty begins whether a pump is used or not. He noted that it had been determined that there was likely five or six years of use on the SBR pump that failed. Mr. Butler reported that a repair expenditure had already been authorized on the pump normally used to pump sludge from the sludge tank to the tanker. He estimated that cost to be \$500.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that the storm expenses were \$17,973 for sewer and \$4,350 for water. He noted that the costs related to sewer have since increased by \$1,060 bringing the total to \$23,383. With respect to trying to recover any of these costs from Eversource, Mr.

Butler explained that he and Mike Crawford of Aquarian were inclined to wait and see on a couple of outstanding items that were pending with other communities before making a determination whether or not to pursue that effort.

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

A. Asset Review Update – Final Public Information Session – 10-6-20.

Mr. Butler reported the final public information session is scheduled for October 6, 2020 and that following that the Board of Selectmen will refer the matter to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 referral.

B. Water Valve Inspection – Report Pending.

Mr. Butler explained the green sand tank which has a flow control valve in the Black Bridge wellhouse is supposed to be at a constant pressure. He explained that the danger with it not being at a constant pressure could result in the green sand being blown out, noting it could result in replacement cost of several thousand dollars to replace the sand. Mr. Butler noted that he did not yet have an estimate on this.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Toro second, to authorize an expenditure of up to \$2K to replace the pressure valve; unanimously approved.

Noting the electrical distribution agreement is expiring on October 15, 2020 with the current supplier, Mr. Toro reviewed the options available for renewing. He reported the current rate as 9.033 cents per kWh. Mr. Toro noted that electric rates were being driven up and without action, the rate will jump to 13.2 cents per kWh. A three-year term at 10.24 cents per kWh was deemed the best option when compared to a rate of 11.5 cents for a two-year term or 11.7 cents for a one-year term.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Douyard second, to enter into a distribution agreement at a rate of 10.24 cents per kWh for a three-year term; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Douyard second, to adjourn at 7:34PM; unanimously approved.

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