

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Held Remotely Via Zoom**

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

ABSENT: David Douyard.

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

1. APPROVE MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 AND OCTOBER 1, 2020:

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Toro second, to approve the September 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Ms. Greenwood second, to approve the October 1, 2020 regular meeting minutes; Motion passed with Mr. Butler, Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda, and Mr. Toro voting in favor while Mr. LeClaire abstained.

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

The Board reviewed the receivables previously provided to them via email. Ms. Greenwood questioned the invoice from CDM Smith. Mr. Butler explained that it had been an old invoice from August of 2018. He noted that it had been reviewed and the work had been verified.

Ms. Greenwood questioned whether the FY20 numbers had been finalized yet. Mr. Butler explained that he had requested the accountants to score up the balance sheet and not put in the debt service payments, explaining that they had mistakenly been put in despite no debt service payments having been made. He noted that a depreciation allowance had been shown. Mr. Butler explained that as a tax-exempt entity, he had questioned why a depreciation allowance was being shown against their assets. He indicated that he would email a follow-up on these matters.

Mr. Butler reported that the WPCA had not been making the \$3250 quarterly debt service payments. As a result, it would appear that the WPCA is running with a slight surplus although \$7500 in repair expenses had been occurred since the October meeting.

3. DISPOSITION OF AGED RECEIVABLES – COLLECTION PROGRAM UPDATE:

Mr. Butler reported that a letter had been sent to accounts over ninety days. Collection had been made on two accounts in the approximate amount of \$330, according to Mr. Butler.

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

The Board reviewed operations reports from Aquarian Water Company and the Torrington Water Company that had been previously emailed. Mr. Butler reported four meters had been replaced which will likely be reflected in non-routine charges of \$450 to \$500 each on the next billing.

Mr. Butler reviewed the problem with the back-flow meter that was included in the AWC report.

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

A. Customer Request for Relief – Excessive Water Use.

Mr. Butler read aloud a communication from the owner of 510 Main Street requesting relief from an exceptionally high bill that he believed stemmed from a disgruntled former tenant who purposely ran up the bill. In the interest of full disclosure, Mr. Butler explained that the owner was the plumber of this Board.

Mr. Toro objected to providing relief, explaining that he believed it sets a bad precedence. Mr. Marsh recalled the Board having received similar requests and a policy having been set. Mr. Butler explained that it had been a practice, not a policy.

The consensus of the Board was to defer a decision on providing relief while Mr. Butler would suggest that the property owner pay at least the amount of his regular charges in the interim.

B. Asset Evaluation Team – Update.

Mr. Butler reported that there were thirty-two attendees at the last public information session held via ZOOM. He noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the CGS§8-24 referral at their last meeting. Mr. Butler noted that two motions were approved: one to approve the sale and the other to authorize the pursuit of the Pine Meadow sewer line. He noted that the Board of Finance would be reviewing the matter at their November 10, 2020 meeting.

C. Water Valve – Report - Immediate Actions Taken.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that Hydris Control had been hired to evaluate the valves and water lines at well waterheads. He indicated that he would forward to the Board the one-page report including the items that should be addressed immediately. Mr. Butler explained that the most critical item needing to be addressed was to repair the green sand filter.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Toro second, to authorize an amount not to exceed \$9K to repair the green sand filter; unanimously approved.

D. MIU – Miscellaneous Industrial Users - Change in Administration.

Mr. Butler reported that he had received an email from Ann Straut of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection providing an advisory that the State was delegating to the WPCA their Miscellaneous Industrial User program. He noted that the program in New Hartford will only involve one user: the brewery. Having work experience with the operation of wastewater plants, Mr. LeClaire indicated that the oversight may extend to industrial users with septic systems. Mr. Butler requested that Mr. LeClaire consult with the operators at Aquarian in this regard.

6. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL FOR CUSTOMER LITIGATION:

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of potential customer litigation; unanimously approved.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:48PM and exited at 8:15PM.

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Douyard second, to adjourn at 8:16PM; unanimously approved.

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