New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
Town Hall, 538 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM

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

ABSENT: None.

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

Prior to undertaking the business carried on the agenda of this regular meeting, Mr. Butler acknowledged the presence of Stefan Koproske of 82 Prospect Street. He reminded the board that there had been an ongoing discussion involving a FOG incident at this property last November. Mr. Butler reported being advised by First Selectman Dan Jerram at 3:15PM on the date of this meeting that Mr. Koproske would be attending this meeting. While typically other matters may be added to a regular meeting’s agenda, because he understood that Mr. Koproske would be offering information possibly considered contentious, he was inclined to invite Mr. Koproske to the June 2, 2022 regular meeting. The consensus of the board was that they were not prepared to discuss the matter and preferred to take it up at a later date.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Toro second, to schedule Stefan Koproske of 82 Prospect Street to be included on the agenda of the June 2, 2022 regular meeting of the WPCA to present information on the FOG issue; unanimously approved.

1. HEARING:
A. 506 MAIN STREET – SEWER LATERAL CONNECTION ORDER.
Mr. Butler confirmed the owners of 506 Main Street had, on April 11, 2022, been provided with notice of this hearing.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that they had been updated at the last meeting regarding the issue of an impermissible connection via the neighbor’s lateral at this location and had read aloud a letter that had been sent to the owner, Farmington River Rentals, LLC. He noted that there were no easements recorded and had only been discovered after a failure in the sewer lateral at 510 Main Street. After having alerted the owner of 506 Main Street that this had to be corrected, they sought legal counsel who had in turn reached out and requested that this resolution be had without a public hearing, according to Mr. Butler. He explained that this board’s legal counsel had advised that the hearing could indeed be waived with the understanding that if the property owner were to agree to the installation of a new lateral within their property, meeting the board’s specifications, and agree to be subject to this board’s inspections, they could waive their right. The waiver would need to be communicated in writing, according to Mr. Butler. However, as communications were inconsistent with that direction, Mr. Butler explained that the hearing was determined to be necessary and offered to submit the communications between himself, Farmington River Rentals, LLC, and their attorney for the record.

Mr. Butler read aloud the language contained in Section 4 of Article V, Discharge Limitations Regarding the Use of Public Sewers, of the regulations of the WPCA.
A sketch of the intended work at this property had been received by Mr. Butler. He distributed copies of it to this board.

The hearing was open for comment.

Mr. Toro questioned whether the property owners indeed intended to connect on their own lateral. Mr. Butler confirmed that was his understanding, and that it was the waiver of the hearing that had not been clear. Mr. Marsh questioned whether this Order to Connect was to be recorded on the Land Records. Mr. Butler indicated that he would consult with this board’s attorney, Matt Willis. Noting the rate change for connection charges that was undertaken earlier this evening, Mr. Toro questioned the likely charge for this property owner. Mr. Butler indicated that he would communicate those changes and suggest application be made following the reduced rate charges effective June 1. Mr. Leclaire noted that the proposed work as shared by Mr. Butler met this board’s specifications.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Douyard second, to issue an Order to Connect at 506 Main Street within ninety (90) days; unanimously approved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 7, 2022:
MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Douyard second, to approve the April 7, 2022 Minutes; unanimously approved.

3. FINANCIAL REVIEW – APRIL YTD.
The board reviewed financial reports that had been previously forwarded by Administrative Office Assistant Erin Phalen.

Mr. Butler reported the board’s collection agency was progressing to the next stage on three accounts with a balance of $3,142.09 and one final letter with more formative language regarding enforcement on twenty-two accounts with a total balance on those of $40,004.58.

4. OPERATIONS REPORTS:
A. Water - Torrington Water Company.
Mr. Butler indicated that he would be forwarding an operations report from The Torrington Water Company on the day following this meeting.

B. Sewer – Aquarian Water Company.
The board discussed an operations report from Aquarian Water Company that had been previously emailed to them ahead of this meeting. Mr. Butler reported that following that report, there had been a failure of the Prospect Street pump. He noted that it had been replaced the day prior. Mr. Butler reported a new pump for the wetwell at Route 219 had been ordered, noting that there was no backup for this, and the pump was currently on backorder. Mr. Butler reported that it was currently twelve weeks out.

Ms. Pobuda questioned the work being done on the right of way. Mr. Jerram explained that the work undertaken was merely maintenance. Ms. Pobuda questioned whether the entire distance would be completed. Mr. Jerram reported that the crew made their way narrowly all the way to High Street. He noted that there was some additional work to be done behind Ms. Pobuda’s house.
5. POWER SUPPLIER UPDATES:
Mr. Toro provided details on the supplier for electricity. He reviewed the three options on rates. The consultant had recommended going to a 3-year fixed contract at a rate of 17.758, according to Mr. Toro.

**MOTION:** Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to adopt the three-year fixed electrical rate at 17.758 cents per kilowatt hour; unanimously approved.

6. ASSET SALE UPDATE:
Mr. Butler advised Mr. Jerram that a meeting was requested with him either May 19th or May 26th. It was agreed that the meeting would occur at 6PM on May 19th.

The agenda was modified to take up *All Other Business to Come Before the WPCA* ahead of *Executive Session*.

7. ALL OTHER BUSINESS APPROPRIATE TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:
No other business discussed.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DEVELOPER NEGOTIATIONS:
**MOTION:** Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Toro second, to enter into Executive Session, inviting Post Sale Transition Team member Mary Beth Greenwood, for the purposes of discussion on developer negotiations; unanimously approved.

The board entered into Executive Session at 7:59PM and exited at 8:19PM. No actions were taken during or following the Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Ms. Pouda, Mr. Douyard second, to adjourn at 8:20PM; unanimously approved.

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