

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

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

ABSENT: David Douyard and Michael LeClaire.

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

1. CUSTOMER ABATEMENT REQUESTS (PRACTICE/POLICY - DISCUSSION):

The Board received a request for relief from Donna Evans of 17 Fairview Avenue regarding an unusually high meter reading for water usage. She reported that Torrington Water Company had alerted her to the usage and had been at her home that day to test the meter. The meter tested out as accurate, according to Ms. Evans. She noted that the readings are true according to the meter test. She noted that she had contracted plumbers to inspect the house and found no leaks anywhere. Ms. Evans noted that this had happened once before in 2017 and at that time, she and her husband had absorbed the high bill.

Ms. Evans reported that this anomaly is a \$4K bill whereas they are accustomed to paying \$150 per quarter with an average use of 15,000 gallons per quarter. Mr. Toro questioned whether she was only a water meter or water/sewer customer. Ms. Evans noted that she is only a water customer as she has a septic system.

An employee of Torrington Water Company also reviewed the plumbing, according to Ms. Evans' son. The employee indicated that the family should have heard water running, according to Ms. Evans. Mr. Toro questioned whether they had outdoor spickets. The son indicated that they have two, but one was revealed to be broken the last time they attempted to use it. The pipe was then shut off through the basement, according to the son.

Mr. Butler questioned whether the toilet and washing machine were in the basement. Ms. Evans noted that while there is a toilet in the basement, the washing machine is on the second floor. Mr. Butler explained that no decision about this issue at this meeting and relayed the history of this board's response to requests for relief for abatement.

Mr. Butler explained the process that TWC undertakes when an unusual high reading is detected. He noted that a request was made of them to complete a bench test on the meter at three different ranges: ¼ gallon per minute, two gallons per minute, and fifteen gallons per minute. He noted that the following accuracy was revealed with their meter: 101.5%, 100%, and 100.2%. Mr. Butler reported that the technician's notes indicated that in flushing the toilet in the basement, two out of the three times, the float remained open. Mr. Butler explained that given the toilet and the period of time that was measured was equivalent to 3.8 to 3.9 waters per minute which is very possible that this is the cause.

Ms. Greenwood encourage that any decision that might be made by this Board be done after the cause of the problem has been determined.

Mr. Butler explained that there will likely be a special meeting scheduled before the regular meeting planned for November, 2019. He urged Ms. Evans to pay her regular average bill until a determination has been made on her request for relief.

Mr. Butler reported contacting three water companies: Torrington Water Company, Town of Winchester, and Aquarian Water Company. He distributed AWC's Water Leak Adjustment Policy and a draft copy of a proposed Abatement Practice for New Hartford WPCA. The Board reviewed the proposed practice and discussed it.

The proposed practice would provide for a one-time consideration where the water customer would be liable for three times the normal average consumption and the customer would be responsible for 50% of that.

2. APPROVE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 MEETING:

The September 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes should include the following modification:

Under the Aquarian Operations Update – Month to Month Agreement, the following should appear at the end of the second paragraph:

"...Aquarian also agreed to waive their share of savings in the pro rata contract if New Hartford proceeds with the sale of the water and wastewater systems..."

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to approve the September 5, 2019 Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The Board reviewed reports as previously emailed to them. Mr. Butler pointed out that two quarterly payments have been made on the Town loan, noting that the WPCA is only in arrears by three quarterly payments.

Ms. Greenwood requested that the Income Statements get generated as they had previously, to include the monthly columns.

4. OPERATIONS REPORTS - SEWER & WATER - AWC/TWC:

The Board reviewed reports previously emailed from Torrington Water Company and Aquarian.

A. Flow Testing Hydrants.

Mr. Butler reported that he had been meeting with the fire department chief as well as TWC over the issue of hydrant testing. He noted that this is the same as flow testing so as to not necessitate a greater explanation to folks. Ms. Pobuda noted that there is difference between the two. Mr. Butler agreed.

Mr. Butler distributed a list of locations that will be tested. He noted that this process is reasonably risky to the system but are undertaking the testing because it is necessary for the firemen to have an understanding whether or not the given hydrants are functional. Mr. Butler reported that he has advised TWC that if at any time senses a jeopardy to the system, the testing will be suspended. The cost of the test is estimated at between \$2K-\$4K, according to Mr. Butler. The fire department will provide traffic management. The last time even a partial flow testing was done was in 2004. It was noted that the flow testing will begin on October 7, 2019.

5. DISCUSSION – FOG REGULATION REVISIONS – POSSIBLE ADOPTION:

Mr. Butler reported that CDM had not yet gotten back to him on the proposed FOG regulations revisions. The adoption of this regulation was deferred to the next regular meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

A. USDA Status.

Mr. Butler provided an update on the USDA's review of the request for an escrow agreement.

B. AET Update.

Mr. Butler reported that the Asset Evaluation Team had adopted a motion at a Special Meeting on Monday, September 30, 2019. They recommended that the AET recommend to the Board of Selectmen to accept the bid of Aquarian Water Company in the amount of \$8M for the purchase of New Hartford drinking water and wastewater assets. Further, the AET recommended that the Board of Selectmen adopt the guidelines developed by the AET to reinvest all sale proceeds not utilized to retire sewer and water debt for a specific plan of implementation to include: 1.) the expansion of sewers in Pine Meadow to protect New Hartford's drinking water aquifer; 2.) the designation of funds for engineering and design; 3.) construction; 4.) rate subsidization; and 5.) supporting sewer connections, all subject to the approval at referendum with grant forgiveness by the USDA Rural Development, regulatory approvals and acceptance of this AET recommendation by the WPCA.

Mr. Butler polled the members present of their availability for a special meeting to be scheduled for October 10th, October 16th, or October 17th.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Toro second, to adjourn at 8:48PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**