

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

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

ABSENT: Mary Beth Greenwood.

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

1. MINUTES – OCTOBER 3, 2019 REGULAR MEETING:

The October 3, 2019 Minutes should include the following modification:

The portion of text in the fifth paragraph on the first page that reads, "...to 3.8 to 3.9 waters..." should instead read, "...3.8 to 3.9 gallons of water...";

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Toro second, to approve the October 3, 2019 Minutes as modified; Motion approved with Mr. Butler, Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda, and Mr. Toro voting aye while Mr. Douyard and Mr. LeClaire abstained.

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Mr. Butler corrected a previous reporting relative to the amount outstanding on the loan from the Town. Mr. Butler noted that an email had corrected the error, whereas the correct figure should have reflected \$68,250.

The Board reviewed reports as previously emailed to them.

Ms. Pobuda questioned the account register. Mr. Butler explained that it will read through the end of the period as it will show the entire span of the current billing cycle. Mr. Butler noted that effective August 1, 2019, the quarterly payments for the wastewater treatment plant reverted to \$30,711.75 per quarter from the \$16,536.77 had been part of the special dispensation provided by the Town.

3. ABATEMENT REVIEWS:

A. 51 Holcomb Hill Road.

The Board reviewed a request from the owner of 51 Holcomb Hill Road for forgiveness of charges incurred as a result of a broken hose that remained undetected for a period of time. Mr. Butler provided to the Board copies of the request from the homeowner, comments from Torrington Water Company that he characterized as closely paralleling the circumstances described by the owner, and historical billings for this account. He noted that there was evidence of a change in usage for the period indicated.

The request pointed out that as the water usage was a result of a broken hose, it had never been delivered to or treated by the wastewater treatment plant.

The Board reviewed the property owner's average, with it noted to be approximately 2500 gallons. It was noted that the consensus of the Board was that the property owner would be

charged his average bill for the wastewater bill and would be charged for the actual use on clean water.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro second, to provide relief to the bill in question for the third quarter billing period, relative to wastewater, by charging only the amount equal to the average bill for wastewater at 51 Holcomb Hill; unanimously approved.

Mr. Butler reported that he had advised the Torrington Water Company that there would be no late fees or interest to the three properties being discussed until a resolution had been agreed to by this board.

B. 41 High Street.

The Board reviewed a request from the owner of 41 High Street for forgiveness of extraordinary charges incurred as a result of the property owners planting a new lawn.

Mr. Butler noted that the property owners had provided their own historical data in an excel document. He indicated that he would confirm with Torrington Water Company regarding the accuracy of the document. Mr. Toro shared his concern with approving any type of billing relief in this instance, questioning whether it would expose the Board to considering similar requests in the future for other users that for instance may be washing their cars. Mr. Marsh and Mr. Douyard noted that the Board's position is to consider the debt relief only one time per property owner.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Douyard second, to provide relief to the bill in question for the third quarter billing period, relative to wastewater, by charging only the amount equal to the average bill for wastewater at 41 High Street; Motion passed with Mr. Butler, Mr. Douyard, LeClaire, Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda voting aye while Mr. Toro was opposed.

C. 17 Fairview Avenue.

The Board reviewed a request received previously from the owner of 17 Fairview Avenue for forgiveness of extraordinary charges incurred. Mr. Butler reminded the Board that the owner and her son had appeared before them at the last meeting. The Board was reminded that this customer is not a sewer customer. He noted that the house had consumed 127,000 gallons for the quarter of 6/27/17. With that very large bill, no claim or request for relief had been made by the customer, according to Mr. Butler. Instead, the homeowners paid the entire bill on time, he noted.

Mr. Butler reviewed the excessive recent use, noting the quarter that ending with a use of 457,000 gallons, incurring a bill of \$3,729. He noted that eight days later when Torrington Water Company returned, another 56,800 gallons of water had been used. The technician then discovered a toilet running in the basement space of this three-story home.

Discussion ensued among the Board regarding the circumstances of this incident.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Marsh second, to provide relief to the billing in question at 17 Fairview Avenue, by not charging any interest and by giving them up to one year to pay the excess bill amount; Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to provide relief to the billing in question at 17 Fairview Avenue, by providing a one-time 10% discount and to provide further relief by not charging any interest or penalty to pay off the excess of charges, the balance above the

average bill less the 10% discount over the course of a twelve-month period. This motion is made with the understanding that the customer at 17 Fairview Avenue should continue to pay their quarterly regular bill going forward; unanimously approved.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, until such time that the overage is satisfied, the WPCA shall place a lien on 17 Fairview Avenue; unanimously approved.

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

A. Fire Hydrant Replacement.

During the flow testing at the corner of Black Bridge Road and Route 219, it was discovered that the gate valve there was locked and loaded. Mr. Butler reported that the hydrant needs to be replaced at a cost of \$12,500.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro second, to authorize the chairman to empower Torrington Water Company to replace the faulty hydrant at the corner of Black Bridge and Route 219 when the funds become available; unanimously approved.

B. Dunkin – Progress report.

Mr. Butler reported that the owner of the Dunkin expects the opening to be on November 22, 2019. He noted that the work on water and sewer was completed properly. He explained that billing will not commence until a meter has been installed.

C. Flow Testing.

Mr. Butler reported that flow testing had been completed at ten designated hydrants in strategic locations. He noted that results will be provided to the fire company. He also reported that he had requested further testing at North Church Street and Route 44. Mr. Butler explained that the Town has hydrants with both left and right opening valves and requested that they get painted pursuant to Fire Code standards. New Hartford Fire Department Chief Mark Worsman agreed to assume this work. Ms. Pobuda requested that Mr. Butler make this appeal to all the fire companies to assist in this undertaking.

5. AET Progress Report – Status Check.

Mr. Butler reported that there has still not been a meeting scheduled with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He reported that he had attended the October 22, 2019 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

A. BOS Action.

Mr. Butler reported that the Board of Selectmen unanimously added a fifth task to the original charge to Asset Evaluation Team: to prepare a presentation for potential sale of water and wastewater assets to be presented to the Board of Selectmen which will serve as the basis for presentation to their constituents.

6. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

The Board reviewed a proposed 2020 regular meeting schedule.

MOTION: Mr. Douyard, Ms. Pobuda second, to approve the 2020 regular meeting schedule; unanimously approved.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION – POSSIBLE LITIGATION:

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda second, to enter into Executive Session for purposes of discussion of possible litigation; unanimously approved.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:21PM. The exited Executive Session at 8:40PM.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Toro second, to adjourn at 8:41PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**