

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

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

ABSENT: David Douyard.

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

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Mr. Toro second, to modify the agenda to take up Operations Reports – Sewer & Water ahead of the Approval of Minutes; unanimously approved.

1. OPERATIONS REPORTS:

A. Mike Crawford – Aquarion.

Mike Crawford of Aquarion joined the Board to review operations of the wastewater treatment plant. He reported that with the resignation of chief plant operator Derek Albertson, a new operator, Bill Embleton, has been hired. Mr. Embleton comes to New Hartford with twenty-two years of experience and having formerly worked in Waterbury.

Mr. Crawford also reported that former Intern Holly Geddes has been hired after recently obtaining her operator one license. He explained that Ms. Geddes has recently completed a project that entailed identifying and locating all of the 172 manholes in town and uploading them to the GIS.

In discussing transitions, Mr. Crawford noted that since the two years Aquarion has operated the plant in New Hartford, a 26-chapter procedures manual has been drafted and is available now for reference.

Mr. Crawford noted that there had been originally four jet motor pumps. He explained that when Aquarion came onboard, one of the jet motor pumps had been in disrepair and an additional one has recently failed. Mr. Crawford explained that these are among the most critical pieces of equipment, running 19-20 hours per day. He reported that those two pumps were sent out to determine whether between the two, one could be salvaged or rebuilt. Neither could and a refurbished pump was found to be unavailable. While the original quoted price was \$12,700, Aquarion was able to negotiate one at \$10,700, according to Mr. Crawford. He noted it was ordered two weeks ago and expected to be shipped the day following this meeting. The pump will be installed in SBR3 and put into service to use it while it is still covered by the five-year warranty, Mr. Crawford explained.

Additionally, Mr. Crawford reported that the plant also has four blowers. He explained that one, dedicated to SBR1, has never been used. Mr. Crawford noted that to change this one out and reprogram it into the rotation would cost approximately \$4K. Mr. Crawford explained that there was a break in the seal, noted through the observation of oil in that area. He noted that an estimate received from Midcompressor put the cost to fix it at \$2K. Heavy maintenance on the other two blowers was estimated at \$2K and is requested as an appropriation.

Mr. Crawford noted that only one pump is running at the Prospect Street pump station but is not deemed a repair necessary at this time. He also noted that the odor control system is not working at that area either but is not being repaired at this time.

Mr. Crawford reported that recently the pump station at Route 219 had flooded. He described recent observations with periods of heavy flow to the plant.

B. Pump Reauthorization.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Marsh second, to modify the appropriation that was approved at the last meeting regarding the FOG removers (emulsifiers), blower maintenance and repairs and SBR replacement, to an amount not to exceed \$16K, unanimously approved.

C. Water.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that \$4K had been budgeted for the replacement of meters. He noted that the type required was found to be Neptune or Rockwell, as these were determined to be compatible with the readers used. As it is generally found that the Town has a need for a meter every four to six weeks, Mr. Butler reported making a request to Mr. Crawford to research whether Aquarion might have any extra meters in this regard. Mr. Crawford was able to secure three meters for the Town's benefit, according to Mr. Butler.

Mr. LeClaire questioned whether Torrington Water Company tests for PFAS as part of their routine screens for the town's drinking water. He explained that PFAS is a chemical compound used for Teflon coating on pans and in fire-fighting foam. Mr. Butler noted that he will check on this.

2. APPROVAL OCTOBER 4, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

The October 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes should be modified as follows:

In the second paragraph on the first page, the text that reads, "... *The non-routine water charge of \$6K was noted as costs associated with water risers/cap due...*" should instead read, "... *The non-routine water charge of \$6K will be detailed in an email to be sent to board members...*".

Mr. Butler noted that the costs associated with the water risers was paid for by the Town of New Hartford.

In the fourth paragraph on the second paragraph, the text that reads, "...will try to hobble..." should be modified to read, "...will try to cobble..."

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, to approve the October 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The Board reviewed the monthly financial statements sent to them previously via email, in advance of the rescheduled November 1, 2018 regular meeting. Ms. Pobuda questioned the expenditure to Writeway Signs and Design in the sum of \$141. Mr. Butler explained that this was associated with emergency preparedness and having proper signage.

Mr. Butler noted that the WPCA has received \$115,180.98 to date from its 10/1/2018 billing period for outstanding bills in the sum of \$163,399. He noted that as of this date the account balance was \$66,196 with outstanding invoices in the amount of \$30,813. It was agreed that if this trend continues, the Board would make the December debt service payment to the Town.

4. AET PROGRESS REPORT:

A. USDA Interaction.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board the discussions and meetings that have occurred relative to the USDA grant and what disposition they might make should a sale of the town's water and/or sewer assets occur. He explained that no update regarding that disposition has been received. Mr. Butler indicated that he would like First Selectman Dan Jerram to convene a meeting of the Asset Evaluation Team as soon as possible. He explained that he has prepared a draft update to the public for what has occurred as part of this sale initiative thus far.

5. SCHEDULE FOR 2019 MEETINGS:

The following schedule was approved by the Board.

- January 3, 2019
- February 7, 2019
- March 7, 2019
- April 4, 2019
- May 2, 2019
- June 6, 2019
- July 11, 2019
- August 1, 2019
- September 5, 2019
- October 3, 2019
- November 7, 2019
- December 5, 2019
- January 2, 2020

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Marsh second, to approve the proposed 2019 Meeting schedule; unanimously approved.

6. EASEMENTS – 495 MAIN STREET & 507 MAIN STREET:

Mr. Butler explained that 495 Main Street is the location of the existing Dunkin Donuts while 507 Main Street is the location of the proposed, new Dunkin Donuts. He reminded the Board the discussions that he had with the owners regarding sewer connections for the new location some time ago. The owners had originally sought to cross Route 219 and connect at Brook Street while the WPCA had sought an installation of a manhole on Route 44 and cross that road, according to Mr. Butler. He noted that he received an email from Mr. Jerram last week questioning whether he was interested in accompanying him to the Planning and Zoning Commission regular meeting in a request for a positive referral pursuant to CGS§8-24 for a fifteen-foot wide easement from 495 Main Street. Mr. Butler read aloud his email reply to Mr. Jerram reflecting his disagreement with this approach and plan.

It was agreed that Mr. Butler will communicate with the owner's engineer to request a formal application before this Board to share the plans for connection to the system.

7. OTHER UPDATES TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

A. FOI Hearing Concerning SSA & AET.

A new date for this hearing has been scheduled for November 30, 2018 at 1:30PM, according to Mr. Butler.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION - POSSIBLE LITIGATION - CUSTOMER NON-PAYMENT:

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro second, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of possible litigation.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:31PM. The resumed their regular meeting at 8:51PM.

MOTION: Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda second, to adjourn at 8:52PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk