

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7:00PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

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

ABSENT: None.

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

1. CONTINUING REVIEW - FINAL DRAFT REPORT – SEWER LINE EXTENSIONS – MEMBER DISCUSSION:

Mr. Butler canvassed board members for questions and/or comments with regards to the final draft report on sewer line extensions. Ms. Greenwood questioned the status of the sewer map. Mr. Butler reported that the sewer map will be submitted with the final report on the sewer extensions. Mr. Marsh questioned when the Board would take a closer look at the various options contained within the report. Mr. Butler noted that ranges should be provided in this regard rather than very specific figures. Mr. Toro opined that sooner rather than later real numbers ought to be shared publicly and questioned whether there is a time frame for this. Mr. Butler explained that currently the sewer system RFP is being reviewed. Sometime between July and September would be the likely timeframe for hosting the information sessions, according to Mr. Butler.

Regina Wexler of **116 Town Hill Road** addressed the Board regarding sewer line extensions. Noting that competing priorities may exist, Ms. Wexler opined that protecting the aquifer in town should be the primary priority. She explained that if the sewer were to go by her house, she would not object to paying a betterment assessment but would be very opposed to a compulsory hook-up. Ms. Wexler urged the Board toward transparency and communication as this initiative unfolds.

2. APPROVALS – MAY 18, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

The May 18, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes should be amended as follows:

First page, second paragraph, fifth line where it reads, "...legal fees, from \$20K to \$3700..." should instead read, "...legal and consulting fees, from \$20K to \$3700..."; and

Second page, fifth paragraph, first line where it reads, "...gone through one iteration with Joe Rich of the document template..." should instead read, "...gone through one iteration with Joe Rich of the RFP Sale of Assets template...".

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, **to approve the May 18, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes as amended; Motion passed with Mr. Butler, Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Marsh, Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Surber, and Mr. Toro voting aye while Mr. LeClaire abstained.**

3. DISCUSSION ASSET SALE – MEMBER INPUT:

Ms. Greenwood provided a list of questions that she wanted to share with the representatives serving on the committee charged with evaluating the potential sale of assets. The following questions were shared in that regard:

- *Did the Clean & Wastewater Task Force evaluate the experience of any other communities in CT that have sold water/sewer assets? If so, has it been successful?*
- *Are there any efforts at joining public utilities on a regional level? It seems that there are efforts to regionalize other resources in the state.*
- *Did the Task Force consider grant money available for clean drinking water projects? Grant/loan money for the WWTP and sewer line extensions has been researched. Are there different resources for drinking water projects? (If we are not selling the assets)*
- *Does private ownership make New Hartford ineligible for grant/loan money?*
- *Under the PURA regulations, you have indicated that the New Hartford water rates would have to be the same as other CT towns served by the parent company. Is this true of sewer rates also?*
- *How would operating under PURA regulations change the situation for water & sewer customers in New Hartford? Are there differences in operating standards? How are the water & sewer rates regulated?*
- *Can New Hartford water resources be used for the benefit of other towns owned by the parent company? And vice versa, can New Hartford access water resources from other towns if they need it?*
- *If it is determined that there is value in the assets - & the assets are sold - where would any profit from a sale be applied? (after debt is paid). From what I understand of enterprise fund accounting, the money would not go to the General Fund.*
- *Do we have a legal opinion on the process that should be followed for sale of the assets? Who has the authority to issue an RFP? Do we need any town input before that step?*
- *What is the process once we receive proposals? Since it is a very broad scope, there will be more decision-making involved than just reviewing prices. How will the information be distributed? What are the vehicles for town input? (mailings, meetings, etc) And what is the correct mechanism for public decision-making (town meeting, referendum)?*

Discussion ensued regarding various scenarios that could arise in a sale of the town's water and sewer assets. Mr. Butler reported that CDM Smith will be providing guidance and that the process will be taken step by step. He noted that the WPCA will have two of the five members comprising the Evaluation Committee. Mr. Toro confirmed that all members of the WPCA are able to attend these committee meetings.

4. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A. Water Planet - Sewer Operations.

A monthly report was acknowledged as received from The Water Planet. Mr. Butler read aloud an email exchange between Jason Hoffman of The Water Planet and himself, seeking clarification on items contained within said report.

B. TWC – Water Operations.

Mr. Butler reported that bi-directional flushing will likely occur on or about June 13, 14, and 15. This will be included on the town's website, according to Mr. Butler. He also noted that the Georgia company will be doing the ice pigging at the end of June.

C. Monthly Financials – Month Ending May 31, 2016.

Mr. Butler distributed copies of the monthly financial sheet for the month ending May 31, 2016. Ms. Greenwood distributed copies of an update to next year's budget. While Ms. Greenwood noted that the cash at hand for the end of this year looked better than the projection she had made last month, Mr. Butler indicated that this may still not be the case due to an UV line being down. He explained that the cost of this was estimated at \$2600.

5. UPDATES FROM STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. Mike – Technical Specs – Sewer Lateral Installations.

No business discussed.

B. Jim/Mary Beth – Grants & Loans.

Mr. Surber reported that he had communicated with an employee regarding STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) from the OPM (Office of Policy & Management) who had indicated that any approved grant monies can only be applied for capital expenditures. Mr. Butler requested that the Committee find the source for non-capital funding for such things as lateral connections and the cost for running the lines across the frontage.

C. Bud – Wastewater Treatment Plant & Collection System RFP.

Mr. Butler reported that there were two respondents to the RFP for the wastewater treatment plant and collection system: The Water Planet and Aquarion Water Company. He noted that the committee, comprised of Mr. Toro, Mr. Marsh, John Chudzik and himself, will likely call in both respondents to have a general discussion about their bid response. Mr. Butler explained that the bid was in two segments, a technical response and a pricing response. Mr. Butler noted that only the technical responses were opened during the bid opening and that the pricing responses have yet to be opened, pending a complete and thorough review of the technical responses.

6. ALL OTHER REPORTS, MEETINGS, CORRESPONDENCE, AND BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

Ms. Greenwood explained that someone had approached her indicating that the Town used to flush the lines once the month during the 1980s. Mr. LeClaire and Ms. Pobuda, noting their long history as residents and users, do not recall such a time.

Mr. Butler reported that he has not heard recently from the Fire Department regarding flow testing. He noted that the department has the sample Hold Harmless agreement but that he would call the Fire Chief prior to the Board's next meeting if he has not heard from him before that.

Ms. Pobuda questioned whether a town-wide committee was going to be formed regarding West Hill Lake, an initiative she had thought was a result from the Board of Selectmen's Roundtable Discussion that had occurred in February. Mr. Butler indicated that he would confer with the First Selectman regarding this.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. Toro second, **to adjourn at 8:08PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**