

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 2, 2017 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, and Joe Toro.

ABSENT: None.

Mr. Butler called to order the Special Meeting of the WPCA at 7:00PM.

1. ESA UPDATE – FIRST SELECTMAN JERRAM:

First Selectman Dan Jerram reminded the Commission of his correspondence to the State of Connecticut whereby the Board of Selectmen had sent a request to the larger utility companies reflecting the Town's preference to maintain the status quo relative to ESAs (Exclusive Service Areas). Mr. Jerram explained that despite this request, declarations were still initially made by Aquarion, Torrington Water, Connecticut Water and DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection). He explained that DEEP's declaration was made only on the state-owned land. Mr. Jerram noted that the Declaration was modified by the Town, meeting the January 10, 2017 deadline, in order to declare the entirety of New Hartford, with the exception of State-owned land. He noted that upon the Town's modification of their declaration, Aquarion withdrew their entire declaration, Torrington Water Company withdrew the majority of its declaration, and Connecticut Water has not made contact.

Mr. Jerram reported that David Owens from Milone and MacBroom who reported that they would be preparing a preliminary map, asserting that the existing ESAs were going to be ratified, noting that Connecticut Water holds an ESA over east of Southeast Road on the MDC land, under the reservoir and that Torrington Water Company has an ESA over the corner of Whitbeck Road. Mr. Jerram explained that he had advised Mr. Owens that the Town is contesting the Whitbeck Road ESA claim as it has never been formally approved by the Town.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Jerram receiving and responding to questions from Board members. A request was conveyed to Mr. Jerram and the Board of Selectmen that the WPCA be consulted and communicated with, going forward, regarding the ESAs in New Hartford by Mr. Butler, Mr. Marsh, and Ms. Pobuda.

2. APPROVAL – JANUARY 5, 2017 MINUTES:

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, to approve the January 5, 2017 Minutes; unanimously approved.

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The Board reviewed the account register and the aged payables. Ms. Greenwood observed that expenses are on track for what was budgeted but noted that revenues are down. Ms. Pobuda questioned a missing transaction number from the sequence indicated on the register. Mr. Butler noted that he will ascertain the significance of the transaction numbers and what it means to have one missing in the sequence.

4. BILLING APPEAL:

Mr. Butler noted that on any given day, he typically responds to emails, shut-off situations, and discussion regarding disputes. He noted that billing issues often come through Town Hall initially and that as he receives them, he handles them evenly and consistently. Mr. Butler shared a request for exception from a water bill in excess of \$300 originating from a leaky toilet. He explained that this particular case had requested the review and consideration of the full Board.

Mr. Butler relayed other examples of incidences in which he is contacted regarding issues with shut-offs due to lack of payment. He noted that he applies uniformity in rendering decisions in this regard.

Board members were polled about the request presented this evening. Mr. LeClaire opined that the bill cannot be forgiven as the WPCA is not flush with cash and is therefore, not in a position to waive fees. Mr. Toro noted that waiving the charges would set a bad precedent.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to reject the appeal for billing relief at 82 Wicket Street; unanimously approved.

5. WATER REPAIR APPROPRIATION:

Mr. Butler reported that he provided verbal authorization to proceed with the replacement of a pH meter at the Black Bridge pumping station. He explained that at the time that Torrington Water Company assumed management of the water in New Hartford, the Town did not have a functioning pH meter. Torrington Water Company had a spare but the spare meter is now broken, according to Mr. Butler.

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Marsh second, to authorize an expenditure of \$3500 for a pH meter for the Black Bridge pumping station; unanimously approved.

6. SEWER REPAIR EVALUATION – ROUTE 219 PUMPING STATION:

Mr. Butler reported receiving a call last week from Aquarion to meet at the Route 219 Pumping Station to repair the 4x4s posts that hold the panels containing the controls for the Pumping Station. Mr. Butler explained that he advised Aquarion that they need to get quotes for the repair as it should be done by an electrician.

Mr. Butler questioned Mr. LeClaire whether he had a copy of the As Built for the Sewer Plant. Mr. Marsh noted that he will contact DEEP to seek a copy.

7. DISCUSSION – UPDATES:

A. New Clerk.

Mr. Butler provided a brief review of the resume of the new clerk, Jill Healey and characterized her as real go-getter noting her willingness to work out the issues that she has seen. He noted that the Board is very pleased to have her.

B. Exploration of Credit Card Options for Billing.

Mr. Butler reported that they are in the initial throes of reviewing credit card bill payment online. He detailed the benefits of providing this service and noted he will provide a status report on this at a later date.

C. Pending Legislation.

Mr. Butler reported that a recently proposed bill which would require water pollution control authorities be regulated by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. He explained that he then reviewed what being regulated by PURA would entail. Mr. Butler opined that it would likely result in a need to have a full-time professional person on staff.

Mr. Butler then contacted Connecticut Waterworks Association who subsequently provided seven pages of proposed legislation that affect water and sewer operations in Connecticut with new bills.

8. RULES & REGULATIONS – CONTINUING REVIEW:

It was agreed that a Special Meeting regarding the Rules and Regulations will occur on February 16, 2017.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR CORRESPONDENCE TO PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

Mr. Butler then discussed a practice of waiting twelve months, whether it is an amount owed or an amount owing to the WPCA, and at the end of that time, remove it off the books. He distributed a copy of the proposed practice for the Board to review.

Mr. Butler reported that there are two possible candidates to fill the current vacancy.

Mr. Butler reported that he has requested that the Chairman convene a meeting of the Asset Evaluation Subcommittee for the last five weeks. He noted that he will continue to seek a meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, **to adjourn at 8:58PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk