

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority  
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 7:00 PM  
New Hartford Town Hall  
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Denton Butler, David Douyard, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire, Wes Marsh, Polly Pobuda, and Joe Toro (7:30PM).

**ABSENT:** None.

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

Bill Ashlers of 45 High Street addressed the Board, sharing concerns he has relative to the Black Bridge well. Mr. Ashlers reported that he has experienced cloudy water prompting him to phone the Torrington Water Company who then took a sample from his home on September 19, 2017. While the clarity of his water has improved and he was assured that the cloudiness was not harmful, he was interested in learning more about the plans for the Black Bridge well. Mr. Butler explained the cavitation issue at Black Bridge well stems from either insufficient supply of water or a pump that cannot draw the necessary water thus creating bubbles. Mr. Butler explained that the bubbles create cloudiness but is not unsafe to drink or use.

**1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 4 OF THE SEWER RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

It was noted that the Regulations Subcommittee convened. Mr. Butler indicated that the revisions from that meeting will be forwarded to members via email, noting that the word “abutting” shall be included in the ninth line. The typographical error of the word “within” has been corrected.

Mr. Butler reported that Attorney Willis had recommended the inclusion of the use of the term “public sewer main” rather than “public sewer”. It was noted that the definition should be changed, too.

**2. FINANCIAL REVIEW - CURRENT BUDGET PERFORMANCE/ISSUES:**

A review of the payables and receivables occurred. Mr. Butler noted that an outstanding balance as of Monday, October 2, 2017 of ±\$69K, with \$24,250 due in receivables. He reported ±\$93K in outstanding invoices which is less any outstanding debt service that the Board of Selectmen voted to forgive for August and November.

**3. FOLLOW-UP - ACCESS TO DEBT SERVICE FUNDS - BOS MEETING 9/26/17:**

Mr. Butler reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to forgive the debt service for August and November, 2017.

**4. OPERATIONS REPORTS - WATER & SEWER:**

**A. Water Main Repair.**

Mr. Butler noted that the repair to the water main near Church Street has proceeded with authorization for the charges not to exceed \$3K. He noted that he will provide an update as one is available.

**B. Cavitation Issue - Black Bridge Well.**

Mr. Butler reported that the Black Bridge well and the Pine Meadow well are both shallow gravel wells. He noted that the Black Bridge well has a screen to filter and that the last redevelopment of this well occurred in 2008. A test of the Pine Meadow well resulted in a decision being made to convert this as the primary well. Mr. Butler explained that the pumping equipment at the Pine Meadow well needs to be replaced and that the well needs to be redeveloped at the Black Bridge well. Mr. Butler reported that he is awaiting cost estimates for this work.

Mr. Butler reported that he has consulted with the First Selectman suggesting that prior to a tri-board meeting with this board, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, a preliminary meeting with the chairmen of the respective boards should occur first.

**5. MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 7, 2017:**

In discussing approval of the September 7, 2017 Minutes, Mr. Toro noted that there was an error in the figures that were part of his presentation addressed in Agenda Item #6 All Other Business to Come Before the WPCA. It was the consensus of this board to attach to these Minutes a document entitled, "An Attachment Proposal to Distribute WWTP Debt Throughout Tax Base".

Additionally, the September 7, 2017 Minutes should be amended under Item #6 *Discussions Concerning Implementation of Administrative Initiatives Concerning Any Changes to Article III, Section 4*, to include the following language after the first paragraph:

*Following the general comments of all other WPCA members present, the Chairman stated that the wisdom of the WPCA decisions past and present has been driven by Connecticut General Statutes Municipal Sections 102 and 103 and Rules and Regulations of the DEEP and DPH.*

*The Chairman further stated that the WPCA oversights New Hartford's waterworks operations, clean water, and sewerage system under Municipal Sections 102 and 103 and associated Connecticut General Statutes. The WPCA has taken the approach that it will implement its rules and regulations, not to be in conflict with these overarching state statutes, while affording the WPCA the latitude to interpret one set of locally defined guidelines that are governed by Connecticut General Statutes and our local ordinances and the specific rules and regulations of the WPCA.*

*With that in mind, the WPCA intends to administrate its duties to encourage direct abutters of the sewer and water systems to connect to the systems to protect the environment and raise the necessary revenues to meet the definition contained within Ordinance 86-1, until such time as the Town's legislative body decides to modify or overturn the directives of said ordinance, which in part states:*

*"Said New Hartford Water and Sewer Commission shall be responsible for administration and financial management of the Town water and sewer plants. Said Commission may exercise all powers granted to such authorities by the General Statutes of Connecticut including the power to establish policies and regulations and to create a budget. Said Commission shall have the responsibility of establishing water and sewer rates sufficient to ensure at least a break-even operation that may provide for amortization of indebtedness and carry the operations of the water and sewer plants without cost to the general taxpayers of the Town"*

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler, Ms. Greenwood second, to approve the September 7, 2017 Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

**6. “GRANNY POD” LAW - WPCA AWARENESS:**

Mr. Butler read aloud a correspondence he had provided recently to the Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning Commission regarding a recently adopted state law permitting temporary health care structures, also known as “granny pods”. He noted that he had indicated to them that the WPCA has not had an opportunity to review what impact an additional structure may present in terms of providing water and sewer to it. Mr. Toro agreed to track how the Planning and Zoning Commission decides to regulate these and/or whether the Town chooses to opt out from allowing these.

**7. ALL OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:**

**A. AET Update – RFP.**

Mr. Butler reported that the Board of Selectmen have agreed to forward the RFP for publication. He noted that the due date for the RFP will be released October 24, 2017 with a bid opening of December 21, 2017.

**B. Action, if any - Connection Fee - Change Effective Date.**

Mr. Butler reported continued interest in connecting to the sewer.

**MOTION:** Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Toro second, to extend the deadline for applications for sewer connections from October 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018; unanimously approved.

**C. Possible Finance Options for Connections.**

Mr. Toro reported that he has contacted Torrington Savings Bank, Northwest Community Bank and Torrington Teachers Federal Credit Union to gauge interest in providing finance options for new sewer. He noted that the Northwest Community Bank has shown the strongest interest thus far.

**D. Business & Tourism Presentation.**

Mr. Butler reported that the New Hartford Economic Development Commission and New Hartford Business Council is hosting a community presentation and discussion on Business and Tourism on Monday, October 16, 2017.

Mr. Marsh reported that he received a request from the WUCC seeking more information about the WPCA’s water supply plan.

Mr. Butler reported that a meeting occurred the afternoon with potential developers in town regarding a potential project of what he characterized as working-class apartments in that they are not subsidized housing. He noted that the project would also include potentially sixty to seventy units of senior housing as well as ten to twelve houses in this complex. He noted that this added development would be both water and sewer users. Mr. Butler qualified that this project is in the discussion phase at this point.

Mr. Butler provided a status update on the new Mobil station on 443 Main Street.

**MOTION:** Mr. Douyard, Mr. Toro second, **to adjourn at 8:22PM; unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Pamela A. Colombie**  
**Recording Clerk**