

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

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

ABSENT: David Douyard and Michael LeClaire.

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

1. APPROVAL MAY 3, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to approve the May 3, 2018 Meeting Minutes; unanimously approved.

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

The Board reviewed the monthly financial statements sent to them previously via email. Ms. Greenwood observed a slight uptick in the revenues but noted that they would still likely fail to meet the budgeted revenue.

Mr. Butler pointed out to the Board that the debt service for USDA tanks, water system improvements and payment of \$4,510.05 are on an automatic deduction and are done electronically.

3. OPERATIONS REPORTS:

A. Water.

Mr. Butler reported that for some reason, the emails from the Torrington Water Company were not coming through. He confirmed with members that everyone had received their report.

Mr. Butler reported that he had authorized an emergency expenditure not to exceed \$600 for an air pressure gauge at the Black Bridge.

Ms. Pobuda noted that pH level was up. Mr. Butler opined that there was no significance to the slight increase.

B. Sewer.

Mr. Butler noted that the Board had received a copy of the sewer report ahead of this meeting. It was noted that the grit clogging same as discussed last month. gravel and pebbles in wetwell clogged up forced main

4. AET PROGRESS REPORT:

Mr. Butler provided a review for the Board, noting that it is the same information that is generally available to the public. He noted that the AET made a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to sign a letter of intent between the Town of New Hartford and Aquarian Water Company. Mr. Butler explained that a letter of intent is a non-binding understanding that the parties agree to proceed in good faith in discussions that may lead to a formalized agreement. Mr. Butler read the letter, dated May 15, 2018, aloud. The letter included November 15, 2018

as a target date for to enter into a contract for the elements of the sale. During that time, the two parties will seek to establish the scope of the sale. He noted that September 15, 2018 was the goal for the Town and Aquarian to agree to the terms and conditions. The letter noted that any sale would be subject to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning Commission, this Board and the Town's legislative body through a referendum as well as Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health. Mr. Butler reported that First Selectman Dan Jerram, as authorized by the Board of Selectmen, has already signed this letter and it may indeed already be countersigned by Don Morrissey of the Aquarian Water Company. Public information sessions will occur between September 15, 2018 and November 15, 2018, according to Mr. Toro.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Butler, Pequabuck River Watershed Association President Mary Rydingsward and fellow association member Alicia Healy identified themselves and noted that they were attending the meeting to keep informed.

Mr. Butler read aloud a letter he had sent to Torrington Water Company President Susan Suhavsky communicating the letter of intent with Aquarian. He reported that Mr. Jerram was forwarding a similar letter to the Connecticut Water Company.

Mr. Butler also reported that after receiving the guidance document from the EPA, there has been a meeting with the USDA to gain an understanding whether the Town would be responsible for the repayment of the grant portion of the loan received. Mr. Butler noted that the First Selectman had been advised to forward a letter explaining what the Town is looking to do and that they will forward it to the appropriate party to confirm what was contained in the guidance document.

Mr. Butler reported that a request has been made of CDM Smith to implement four tasks: an engineer to prepare memorandum of reasons for prioritizing the Pine Meadow area sewer extension including economics and environmental protection, an engineer to update Pine Meadow area project cost summaries from the May, 2016 Sewer Line Extension and Repair Evaluation Report focusing on the option of incorporating the abandoned canal bed between Main Street and Wickett Street and reflecting the latest information on DEEP summary, an engineer will prepare a letter to the Connecticut DEEP regarding the comments provided by DEEP at the March 21, 2018 meeting prepared by DEEP on the May, 2016 sewer line extension evaluation, and engineer will develop a planning level cost estimate, net of appreciation, for the wastewater assets outside the wastewater fence line based on the existing asset inventory, sewer lengths in the GIS and equipment information on the pump station. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Butler noted that the approximate cost of \$8K for CDM Smith to complete these tasks will be paid for through an allocation of the Board of Selectmen.

5. INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH BOF CHAIRMAN & FIRST SELECTMAN:

Mr. Butler provided an update about the informal May 24, 2018 meeting with First Selectman Dan Jerram and Board of Finance Chairman Jim Fitzgerald. He noted that Mr. Fitzgerald was non-committal in terms of action or response as either an individual or on behalf of the Board of Finance. Ms. Greenwood questioned whether the modification to the debt payments from the Town to the WPCA made five years ago, scheduled to resume to the former structure on July 1 of this year, was addressed. Mr. Butler opined that Mr. Fitzgerald is armed with enough information to report back to the Board of Finance and provide an understanding of what this board is doing and has an awareness of the problems.

6. OTHER UPDATES & BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

i. NPDES Permit.

Mr. Butler reported that a bill was received for the NPDES Permit. He perceived this as a positive sign despite not having received a declaration that they are approving it.

In response to discussion regarding the legal ad for the NPDES permit, Mr. Butler assigned Ms. Pobuda to research publishing the required notice in the least expensive option for a newspaper with the most general circulation within town.

ii. Late Fees – DEEP.

Mr. Butler noted that Assistant Bookkeeper Jill Healey has been diligently working on gaining an understanding on the 126- page printout mailed monthly to Town Hall from the DEEP since 2010. She determined that at some point in time, bills did not get paid and the WPCA owed between \$1500 and \$1700 in charges in this regard. Mr. Butler noted that this bill has been paid.

iii. Developer Sewer Installation Regulations.

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that the Developer Sewer Installation Regulations had been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He explained that there may have been a misunderstanding in that the Planning and Zoning Commission may have interpreted that this Board was intending to mandate things to them. Mr. Butler noted how he could understand that misunderstanding and that he has suggested the language be tweaked so that the onus be on the WPCA to handle some of the issues. He noted that he will work with Mr. Marsh on these.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Marsh second, to adjourn at 8:26PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk