

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority  
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, July 5, 2018 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; First Selectman Dan Jerram.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to modify the agenda to add *Discussion of Budget*; unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** Mr. LeClaire, Ms. Pobuda second, to add to the end of agenda an *Executive Session to Discuss Possible Litigation*; unanimously approved.

**1. APPROVAL JUNE 7, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:**

The June 7, 2018 Minutes should include the following modifications:

The second paragraph of Agenda Item 2. Monthly Financial Review, the portion of text that reads, "...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..." should be modified to include mention of the other two debt payments made which were in the sums of \$32,141 and \$9,008.

The first paragraph of Agenda Item 4. AET Update should also include PURA as another agency from which approval would be necessary for any sale of a town's water/wastewater treatment assets.

**MOTION:** Mr. Toro, Ms. Pobuda second, to approve the June 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

**2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:**

The Board reviewed the monthly financial statements sent to them previously via email.

**B. Discussion of Budget.**

A FY2018-19 Draft Budget, dated 7/5/2018, was distributed by Ms. Greenwood. Mr. Butler reminded the Board that the Town had paid the \$39,999 cost for the Black Bridge well replacement as well as the \$23,310 cost for the Pine Meadow pump. Additionally, he noted that there are two outstanding payables to Aquarian, in the sum of \$16,442 each as well as a payable to Torrington Water Company in the amount of \$8,287.50. He also reminded the Board that debt service to the Town has been deferred for the 8/1/2017, 11/1/2017, and 2/1/2018. Mr. Butler noted that the payment for 5/1/2018 was scheduled to increase. The Board agreed that Mr. Butler should advise the Board of Selectmen that the WPCA is not in a position to make this payment for the foreseeable future. Ms. Greenwood requested that he also remind them that the original agreement included an opportunity to revisit the payment schedule at this time.

Mr. Butler explained that the draft budget was prepared on the basis of the actual expenses from this past year along with a 3% escalation.

**MOTION:** Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Douyard second, to adopt the budget as presented; unanimously approved.

### **3. OPERATIONS REPORTS:**

#### **A. Water.**

The Board reviewed an operations report previously emailed to them from the Torrington Water Company. Several work orders were discussed and reviewed.

#### **B. Sewer.**

The Board reviewed an operations report previously emailed to them from Aquarian. Whether or not the WPCA is in compliance with DEEP was questioned. Mr. Butler noted that while the intensity of the UV is not at DEEP requirements, the discharge into the Farmington River is better than what is required.

Mr. Butler updated the Board about a security breach at the plant. He noted that all of the invasives along the perimeter of the fence are going to be sprayed. The limbs around the fence will be trimmed, too.

### **4. AET PROGRESS REPORT:**

Mr. Butler reviewed the original charge and goals of the Asset Evaluation Team. He reviewed the three submitted RFPs received. Mr. Butler reminded the Board that there will likely be a joint meeting this month with the Board of Selectmen and WPCA to make the first recommendation. A positive referral will also be sought from the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24, Mr. Butler explained. He noted that a Special Meeting will also likely be held during the first week of August with the Board of Finance. He explained that the Board of Finance would be responsible with how any potential revenue from proceeds from a sale of the assets would be allocated. Mr. Butler also noted that there will be four public informational sessions held, scheduled between the beginning of October and the last one sometime during the second week of November.

Among the AET objectives was to minimize the financial and environmental risks to the Town of New Hartford, according to Mr. Butler. He reviewed various factors that play into those risks.

Mr. Butler noted that the AET also included as an objective to leverage the financial capital and operational resources of a professional regulated utility for the benefit of users and taxpayers. Additionally, their objectives included one to maximize the value received for both drinking water and wastewater systems and to use the proceeds to pay off debt, expand the system base, provide infrastructure repair, and minimize risk of exposure to the Town. Mr. Butler noted that an additional objective was to protect critical environmental assets including the aquifer, the Farmington River and promote New Hartford's downtown development.

Mr. Butler detailed the significant drop in usage, down 25%, since 2015.

Mr. Butler noted that the AET is also seeking to answer what happens if New Hartford decides not to sell the assets. Mr. Toro polled the Board to get a sense on this. Mr. Douyard cited several other factors that may be contributing to the declining water use, such as an aging population in the sewer service area with teenage children moving away, national conservation efforts, and more energy efficient appliances. Ms. Pobuda opined that the whole town has yet

to take on the burden of paying for its aging infrastructure. Mr. Marsh questioned how the proceeds from a sale might be allocated, beyond the retirement of the water and sewer debt (\$4M). Ms. Pobuda noted that this was exclusive to what may be necessary to pay back to the USDA for grants received. Ms. Greenwood recommended including information on a "Plan B" should the assets not be sold as part of the public information sessions.

**5. OTHER UPDATES & BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:**

**A. NPDES Permit.**

Mr. Butler explained that he will be sending a letter to DEEP to indicate that the WPCA requests that the permit be released and published for public inspection.

**B. Lien & Late Payment Collection.**

Mr. Butler reported that additional properties will be added to those already liened.

**C. Extraordinary Delinquency Issue.**

**MOTION:** Mr. Marsh, Mr. Toro second, to enter into Executive Session for purposes of discussing litigation involving a delinquency issue; unanimously approved.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:12PM. They exited Executive Session at 8:25PM.

**MOTION:** Mr. Toro, Mr. Marsh second, that notification be sent to the property owner of 526 Main Street and 2 Bridge Street, who is the same person, that it is the intent of the WPCA to foreclose on these properties for outstanding payment overdue; unanimously approved.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

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