

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7:00 PM
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: David Douyard.

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

1. APPROVAL SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. Toro second, to approve the September 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes; unanimously approved.

2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

A. Discussion – Debt Service Payments.

The Board reviewed the monthly financial statements sent to them previously via email. The non-routine water charge of \$6K was noted as costs associated with water risers/cap due to the paving project on Route 44 and for the replacement of manhole covers. Mr. Butler noted that efforts have been undertaken in getting back monies owed the WPCA. He also noted that discussions have occurred with First Selectman Dan Jerram regarding this Board's debt service payments.

MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. LeClaire second, to attempt to make payment to the modified Town loan this quarter in the sum of \$3,250; unanimously approved.

3. OPERATIONS REPORT:

A. Water.

The Board reviewed an operations report previously emailed to them from the Torrington Water Company. Several work orders were discussed and reviewed. Observations included that there were quite a few shut-offs. Board members also noted that six customers were also turned back on. Ms. Greenwood questioned whether these instances are really charged a total of \$180, reflecting a charge of \$90 for the shut-off and \$90 for the reconnection. Mr. Butler confirmed, explaining that New Hartford follows the Torrington Water Company practice.

B. Sewer.

The Board reviewed an operations report previously emailed to them from Aquarian.

C. Maintenance Issues & FOG.

Mr. Butler reported that the letter drafted regarding the FOG problem on Prospect Street has not yet been mailed out. He explained that they have narrowed the problem to five dwellings at the head end of that road. Mr. Butler noted that the letter will advise the owners that litigation will be commenced once the violator is determined. He noted that the emulsifier product that is purchased to treat the problem is very costly. Mr. Butler reported that a similar problem was noted at the River Run Condominiums, too. He reminded the Board that this had occurred at this location previously and that he would be contacting the officers of that association to handle

noticing the residents of the FOG problem. Mr. Butler noted that the pumps at Prospect Street and Main Street will be pumped at a cost of \$2K.

Mr. Butler made a request of Mr. LeClaire to borrow a push camera for the line. Mr. LeClaire agreed to pass along the request noting that the camera can travel sixty to eighty feet.

Mr. Butler reported that one of the SBR tanks experienced a blower failure. He explained that the wastewater plant has four blowers but one is now down. The three remaining will undergo a maintenance routine, according to Mr. Butler. He noted that the cost for the three are \$750 each and the one that completely failed has a cost of \$2500.

Additionally, Mr. Butler reported that one of the SBR pumps is not repairable but the company who examined it has three spares with which they will try to hobble together one functioning pump. This cost is estimated at \$6K.

Discussion ensued regarding these expenditures.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Marsh second, to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$11K for FOG removers (emulsifiers), blower maintenance and repairs and SBR replacement; unanimously approved.

4. AET PROGRESS REPORT:

A. USDA Interaction and Discussion:

Mr. Butler reported that a meeting was conducted via phone with the individual designated by the USDA, Atlantic Rural States Area Director Dianne Johnson, seeking guidelines on the disposition on the grant, noting the provision in the paperwork that permits them to forgive the outstanding balance on the grant portion. He noted that all relevant materials have been provided to her as the Town seeks relief from the depreciation schedule.

Mr. Butler noted that a final advisory will be received from Washington, DC, explaining that this has slowed the timetable of the sale of assets.

The agenda was modified to take up discussion on *Other Updates & Business to Come Before the WPCA: FOI Hearing Concerning SSA & AET* ahead of the *Executive Session*.

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

A. FOI Hearing Concerning SSA & AET.

Mr. Butler reported that he, Mr. Jerram and Christine Hayward are subjects of a Freedom of Information complaint, which includes allegations that they have not been forthright in releasing information relative to the Sewer Service Area Map and the activities of the Asset Evaluation Team. He reminded this Board the number of public hearings and meetings held regarding the SSA and the reasoning behind withholding his personal notes regarding the AET, acting on advice of legal counsel. Mr. Butler noted that all minutes and emails have been furnished to the complainant.

Mr. Butler reported that a shutoff has been delayed on an account that had an overdue balance of \$62, explaining that the cost for said shutoff was \$485.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION - POSSIBLE LITIGATION - CUSTOMER NON-PAYMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of possible litigation.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:55PM. The resumed their regular meeting at 8:25PM.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro second, to move the following:

The WPCA finds that as the Torrington Water Company has been working without a contract since January 2018, the WPCA therefore unanimously approves the Torrington Water Company to continue under the terms of the old contract on a month to month basis, until such time as the sale/transfer to Aquarion is resolved and will provide an increase of 2% in payments retroactive to January of this year; unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk