

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, Roy Litchfield, Joe Toro, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire.

ABSENT: Kenneth Krohner.

Chairman Denton Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The proceedings were recorded digitally and copies are available at Town Hall.

1. Public Hearing – Rates, Fees & Miscellaneous Charges:

Mr. Butler distributed to the WPCA members and public in attendance a chart with proposed water and sewer rates, fees & charges. He reviewed changes. Rates will remain unchanged, as Mr. Butler noted. He also pointed out that some fees have been initiated to cover costs that have been collected at a rate less than actual cost. Among new fees are Meter and Setting Fees to turn on new service, a fee to turn service off, a fee to remove and install replacement meter or repair damaged meter, as well as a fee to perform meter testing. Also included is a schedule of "Other Fees & Charges" such as Back Flow Preventer Test Fee (\$90/Hour), Collection Fee (\$25.00), Late Fee (1.5% per month), Lien Release Fee (\$24.00), and Customer Requested Hydrant Testing Fee (\$180.00).

Ms. Polly Pobuda of 22 Church Street inquired as to who owns the meters. Mr. Butler responded that the WPCA owns the meters and explained that if it is determined that the meter is faulty through no actions of the user, the cost is assumed by the WPCA.

Mr. Paul Pobuda of 22 Church Street inquired as to whether there is an annual flow or flush test of the hydrants. Mr. Butler noted that the WPCA does do a flush test, with notices having been issued indicating that one will be performed from June 20-24, 2015.

Mr. Butler closed the public hearing at 7:20PM.

2. Take Such Action as Deemed Appropriate by WPCA Concerning the Public Hearing:

MOTION: Mr. Joe Toro, Ms. Mary Beth Greenwood second, **to adopt, effective July 9, 2015 the proposed fee and charges that are reflected in the call of the public hearing; unanimously approved.**

3. Review & Approval of Minutes - June 4, 2015:

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro second, **to approve the June 4, 2015 Minutes; approved with Mr. Butler, Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro, Ms. Greenwood voted aye, Mr. Litchfield abstained.**

4. Water & Sewer Operations Reports:

The WPCA discussed a monthly report received by them from The Water Planet via email this date. Mr. Butler noted that the readings provided for the average daily flow (60,000g/p/d) readily depicts how the flow meter was obviously providing erroneous readings.

In discussing the Torrington Water Company's monthly report, Ms. Greenwood noted the high number of shut-offs. Mr. Butler noted that from the eight (8) shut-offs of the month, five (5) users immediately paid their outstanding balances resulting in their service being immediately restored. Mr. Butler also commented that while traditionally the balances depicted as being past due more than ninety-one days have typically been in the tens of thousands of dollars, this report reflects only a sum of \$631 as being over ninety-one days. Mr.

Butler also noted that he recently authorized a \$2,200 increase in the cost associated with increasing the size of the line at the time of replacing the hydrant on North Church Street. Mr. Butler also provided details regarding supplemental work cost estimate provided on the water tank that needed repair from the winter damage. He noted that an inspection of the smaller tank is due this year. Before making a decision regarding the additional work on the larger tank, he opined it would be wiser to wait for the results of the inspection.

5. Correspondence & Meeting Activity –

A. Status Report – Liens & Non-Compliant:

Mr. Butler noted that over \$11,000 have been recovered from non-compliant connection that existed previously on Holcomb Hill (over \$7,000), a lien that was placed on a property that a homeowner is looking to sell (\$2,500±), a Black Bridge Road property that was recently sold in a tax sale wherein the assuming bank immediately paid off the debt (\$1,000±).

Mr. Butler shared that he has a report that he has put together detailing what would appear to be seven non-compliant situations totaling in excess of \$37,000. Mr. Butler requested that Mr. Toro review these documents to check his calculations. He noted that he has scheduled a meeting with the counsel to the WPCA, Attorney Matt Willis, on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, for a consultation on the non-compliant worksheet and the intended approach for collection.

B. Observations – Main Street program:

Ms. Greenwood opined that the Main Street program was a useful exercised in helping the town set goals. Mr. Toro expressed disappointment at the lack of focus on infrastructure issues. Mr. Butler noted that he was happy to see the roughly one hundred residents show up and share their opinions on what they thought was important for downtown.

C. BOF Update:

Mr. Butler reported that he received a request from the chairman of the Board of Finance to appear at their next meeting and make a presentation on an extensive list of items. He noted that both he and Mr. Toro had conflicts in their schedule on the night of the board meeting but that he did provide a report, highlighting the major events and activities being managed by the WPCA. Additionally, Mr. Butler noted he advised the Board of Finance chairman that he will be able to attend in the fall, which would likely be a better time.

Mr. Toro noted that the summarized update was very thorough. **Ms. Polly Pobuda of 22 Church Street** commented that she believes what Mr. Butler is presenting by way of report seems as a more than adequate response to the request. Mr. Litchfield praised the drafted document, noting that nothing like it has been prepared in the past and going forward, the residents have a point of reference for the work and progress being undertaken by the WPCA.

D. Planning Grant:

Mr. Butler distributed a form from the WPCA engineer that accompanied Task #1 to the Statement of Work. He explained that while previously the form was adequate for the approval of grants, the form is technically not the one being sought by the state. He assured the group that this is only a small wrinkle and not a big cause for concern. An application from the town is necessary but Mr. Butler noted that it is only a little loss of time and should not be a problem to rectify.

E. Jones Mtn. – ROW:

As a result of the new building construction and new sewer hookup at 443 Main Street, some uncertainty remains regarding the ownership of the land containing the right of way. Mr. Butler detailed the work that has gone into researching the land records, multiple deeds and maps, and that it is his belief the railroad had indeed conveyed the land to the state of Connecticut. After some back and forth with communications, the state DOT indicated that they are willing to grant a Temporary Right of Entry in order for the town of New Hartford to

address the sewer line issue, according to Mr. Butler. He noted that he will review these issues with the attorney on Tuesday.

6. Schedule Review Session - Revised Rules & Regulations:

Mr. Butler commented that the WPCA will resume a twice monthly meeting schedule in September. He noted that the second meeting in September will include reviewing the revised rules and regulations.

7. Any Other Business to come Before the Authority:

Mr. Butler reported that he met with former chairman Bill Michaud recently to discuss the betterment assessments and the history behind the work that has already been done to this end.

MOTION: Mr. LeClaire, Mr. Toro second, **to adopt the budget that has been presented; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Greenwood second, **to adjourn at 8:29PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Pam Colombie
Recording Clerk**