

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013 – 7:00PM
NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL – 530 MAIN STREET**

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Krzys, Steve Hanright, Kenneth Krohner, Michael LeClaire; Jason Hofmann, The Water Planet; Alan Goettel, United Water.

ABSENT: Bill Michaud, Joe Nerney, David Rosengren.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert Krzys 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. October 18, 2012 public hearing.**
- B. October 18, 2012 special meeting.**

MOTION Mr. LeClaire, second Mr. Krohner, to accept the minutes of both the October 18, 2012 public hearing and the October 18, 2012 special meeting as written; unanimously approved.

C. November 1, 2012 regular meeting.

MOTION Mr. Hanright, second Mr. LeClaire, to accept the minutes of the November 1, 2012 regular meeting as written; unanimously approved.

D. January 3, 2013 regular meeting.

MOTION Mr. Hanright, second Mr. LeClaire, to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2013 regular meeting as written; unanimously approved.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kenneth Crooke of 55 Church Street addressed the Commission with questions regarding the specifications for mandatory connections to the sewer line. Mr. Crooke explained that he had obtained from Mr. Krzys a copy of the draft specifications prepared by Wright Pierce. He stated that his residence, like many on Church Street, was located at a lower elevation than the sewer line; therefore, a pump-up system would be necessary. Mr. Crooke said that he wanted to hook his sewer lateral into his septic system in order to have storage in the event of a power failure that prevented the pump-up system from working correctly; however, there was no mention of storage in the draft specifications. Mr. Crooke said that he also wanted a check valve in his lateral to ensure there was no backflow into his house in the event of problems with the sewer line; there was no mention of this in the draft specifications either. He then expressed the opinion that the requirement for the sewer lateral to be 5 feet below grade was excessive. Mr. Crooke also questioned why the specifications called for 4-inch and 6-inch diameter pipes when he felt a 2-inch pipe would be sufficient. Lastly, he noted the specifications required cleanouts every 80 feet, which would mean he would have four in his backyard. Mr. Crooke informed the Board that he was attempting to obtain price quotes from contractors, and he was having trouble doing so based on the number of questions contractors had with regard to the draft specifications. He also questioned whether he would be eligible for a deferral as the distance from the sewer line to his residence was 333 feet.

WPCA Minutes - 020713

Mr. Krzys reiterated that the specifications provided to Mr. Crooke were a draft version; this issue had not yet been finalized by the Board. Mr. LeClaire noted that he had submitted for the Board's review a copy of the Town of Simsbury's specifications. Mr. LeClaire and Mr. Hofmann then discussed with Mr. Crooke possible alternatives with regard to his property's specific requirements, including whether cleanouts were necessary, whether to use 2-inch or 4-inch pipe, and how deep the sewer lateral should be installed. Mr. Hofmann explained that it was standard to require a septic tank to be crushed, filled with sand, and abandoned in order to ensure it was not used again once the residence connected to a sewer line. Other members of the audience then asked questions regarding the possible specifications for sewer line connections.

Mr. Krzys asked Mr. Hofmann and Mr. LeClaire to work together to put together a set of specifications for New Hartford and to have it ready for the March 7th meeting; once these specifications were finalized and adopted, they would be sent out to all residents who were ordered to connect. Mr. Krzys explained that work was still being done to locate sources for low-interest loans for residents being required to make these improvements.

Residents then asked questions regarding the location of the sewer line along Church Street and whether it could be relocated such that pump-up systems were no longer required. Mr. Krzys pointed out that the residents of Church Street would still be financially responsible for this new sewer line, so this would not necessarily provide financial relief to Church Street residents. Members of the Board and the public then briefly discussed the possibility of extending the sewer line to Pine Meadow.

Mary Beth Greenwood then addressed the Board to ask about expected revenues from the receipt of septage. She also asked questions regarding debt payments currently funded through the sewer surcharge, as well as criteria for connection deferrals.

4. FOG REGULATION UPDATE IF AVAILABLE:

No business was discussed.

5. UPDATE AND STATUS OF USDA CHANGE ORDER; REQUEST TO USDA FOR DEFERRAL OF PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS FOR YEARS 3 AND 4 OF PLANT UPGRADE LOAN; SEPTAGE RECEIVING PROCEDURE; SALE OF SYSTEM.

First Selectman Dan Jerram addressed the Board to update them on the above items. Mr. Jerram reminded the Board that their change order paperwork had been lost at the USDA offices, and he explained that he had recently met with Mike Rendulic of the USDA regarding the status of the change order request. He said that as of 2-3 weeks ago, the USDA was now in possession of all necessary materials. With regard to the request to defer principal payments, Mr. Jerram explained that he had been required to fill out several forms and distribute several questionnaires to various groups in Town that had to be completed as a part of this process. Mr. Jerram stated that all of this had been completed earlier that day and had also been mailed in to Mike Rendulic of the USDA.

With regard to receipt of septage, Mr. Jerram informed the Board that he had been in contact with a septic contractor regarding the possibility of an exclusive agreement to dump all septage at New Hartford's treatment plant. As a part of this discussion, Mr. Jerram stated that he had contacted Mr. Hofmann to verify exactly how much additional flow the plant could handle, and Mr. Hofmann had stated he felt comfortable that the plant could handle 10,000 additional gallons per day. Mr. Jerram said that he would be meeting again on Monday with the septic contractor and would be in contact with Mr. Krzys as negotiations continued. Mr. Jerram expressed the hope that an agreement could be in place by April. If this first agreement went well and the treatment plant performed well, then the Town could consider attempting to arrange a second exclusive agreement. The Board discussed with Mr. Jerram the benefit to their financial situation, as well as the relief to ratepayers, that would come from such an arrangement.

WPCA Minutes - 020713

Mr. Jerram then briefly discussed the possible sale of the sewer and water system. He explained that a group of interested parties would be coming to Town next week in order to review information available about the system. Mr. Jerram stated that this was a standard part of the process. He reiterated that this was all very preliminary and sale of the system was by no means definite at this point.

Lastly, Mr. Jerram updated the Board with regard to the MDC water supply plan for selling water to the University of Connecticut. He distributed to Board members a copy of a letter he submitted to UCONN at their public information session on behalf of the Town of New Hartford. Mr. Jerram explained that he had requested additional information regarding the potential impact of this proposal on Lake McDonough and Stanclift Cove. He said that he also expressed concerns regarding potential impact on the Town's water and sewer systems as they were located very close to the confluence of the East and West Branches.

Mr. Krzys then noted that several of the issues Mr. Jerram discussed as well as mandatory connections and implementation of benefit assessments would need to be resolved over the next 90 days. He also reminded the Board that they still needed to act with regard to the pending \$500,000 STEAP grant and \$1.25 million Cottage Street set-aside, both of which could be lost if not used by the deadline. Mr. Jerram expressed the belief that an exclusive agreement could potentially create enough revenue to enable the Board to cover the additional principal payment to the USDA.

6. OPERATOR REPORT – THE WATER PLANET:

The Board briefly reviewed Mr. Hofmann's report for the previous month. Mr. Hofmann stated that the plant was in compliance with its permit. He noted that there was one alarm on January 1st, and the SVR waste valve had frozen shut for a few days on January 29th; it had since thawed out and was open again. Mr. Hofmann explained that Hemlock Construction had repaired the lateral at 519 Main Street on January 10th. He informed the Board that nearly 6 feet of roots had grown into the sewer lateral and had to be removed with an excavator. He said that the work went smoothly; however, he expressed the opinion that this was not a repair for which the customer should be financially responsible. Mr. Hofmann explained that the only reason there was so much buildup in the line was because of the encroaching roots; there was only a 1-inch hole in through which water could travel through the pipes due to the roots.

7. OPERATOR REPORT – UNITED WATER:

Alan Goettel briefly reviewed his report for the previous month with the Board. Mr. Goettel said that flows were higher this month; however, they were still within the acceptable range. He stated that the system was in full compliance with State requirements. Mr. Goettel then detailed customer issues that had been addressed over the past month.

He explained that they had responded to a call regarding a line leak at 594 Main Street; however, it was determined that the leak was located in the property owner's portion of the line. Mr. Goettel noted that this particular customer had not made payment on his account since 2011. Mr. Krzys said that the current outstanding balance was \$1054.25. The Board briefly discussed shutting off service to this customer. Mr. Goettel stated that this customer had been on a previous potential shutoff list and had been giving additional time due to confusion regarding the proper billing address; however, no payments had been received even after the billing address was corrected. The Board agreed to have Mr. Goettel send the customer a letter stating that the leak was in the customer's portion of the line, and the Board was therefore not responsible for the cost of repairs. The Board also agreed to add this property to the next shutoff list if payment was not received.

WPCA Minutes - 020713

Mr. Goettel said that he was completing paperwork related to the Town's Annual Diversion Permit, which was due February 15th. United Water also responded to volume concerns at 519 Main Street on January 17th.

Lastly, Mr. Goettel advised the Board that he and Mark would be leaving United Water as of April 1st. He said that Jason O'Brien of United Water would be in contact with the Board regarding what steps would be taken to transition to new staff. He explained that United Water would have to designate a new operator for New Hartford's system, as Alan's and Mike's licenses would no longer be affiliated with this system. Mr. Goettel then briefly reviewed with the Board a list he prepared of suggested capital improvements to the water system.

8. ORDERS TO CONNECT; STATUS UPDATE.

The Board agreed to table this matter to the March 7, 2013 regular meeting.

9. BUDGET REPORT.

Mr. Krzys explained that the Board currently had a net balance of \$89,000. Of this amount, \$46,000 was being set aside for the upcoming USDA debt service payment.

10. UPDATE ON BENEFIT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE; DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Krzys briefly reviewed the process to be followed for conducting a public hearing on implementing a benefit assessment.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

No business was discussed.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION Mr. Krohner, second Mr. LeClaire, to adjourn at 8:51PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey M. Sefcik
Commission Clerk