

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
"REGULAR" MEETING
And
PSTT (POST SALE TRANSITION TEAM) "SPECIAL" MEETING
SESSIONS CONFERENCE ROOM
Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:00 PM**

Present: Chairman Denton Butler, Members: Michael LeClaire, Polly Pobuda, Joe Toro, Mary Beth Greenwood, Wes Marsh. Absent - David Douyard. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Butler.

Mr. Butler informed members of how critical the timely sharing of information is for effectively coordinating with those individuals and local agencies involved in completion of the tasks we are charged with completing.

Reflecting on how the PSTT/WPCA could further encourage hook-ups to the sewer following orders to connect, Butler reported on his discussion with the WPCA's attorney, Matt Willis, regarding the option of "waiving" a benefit assessment for those voluntarily connecting to the proposed Pine Meadow sewer system. Attorney Willis opined that waiving the benefit assessment was appropriate, provided said assessment was also waived for those individuals connecting to the existing system. Willis also noted that in his experience orders to connect issued by municipal WPCA's are upheld by the courts and typically complied with by those so ordered to connect.

Concerning Town sponsored financial assistance programs, Chairman Butler went on to report on the Town's past involvement with the Loomis Heights/ Prospect Street sewer project dating back to First Selectman Bruce Gresczyk's era. He noted the Town secured a USDA loan for the project and administered the dispersion of loan funds. It was noted that inadequate provisions for recouping monies for said loans and without appropriate record keeping provisions for the program, it failed to achieve the stated goal. Butler determined in a discussion with Selectman Dan Jerram, there is skepticism for any similar program to be sponsored by the Town.

However, it was noted that a Small Cities Revolving Loan Program exists which may be used for sewer connection assistance, in the amount of \$300,000.00. Messer's. Butler and Jerram agreed to investigate further as to applicability/availability of these funds.

Regarding another matter related to the recently finalized asset transfer, Mr. Butler noted that Eversource billed the Town for the entire month of October, when in fact the transfer took effect on October 2. The bill has been returned to Eversource.

Discussion then moved to the matter of those properties not connected to the existing sewer system. Mr. Butler's research indicates some 24 individuals remain unconnected, 10 of which are in Pine Meadow. He noted that there may be two sites that have unique site considerations, for which connecting to the sewer may be impractical/unreasonable.

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Attorney Willis has agreed to attend the order-to-connect (OTC) public hearings and concurred that the WPCA could schedule individual property owner OTC hearings, provided the public hearings are open to the public. Members also discussed and agreed that anyone ordered to connect would be eligible for connection assistance in accordance with referendum mandates.

Mr. Butler informed the members of his discussion with Selectman Jerram regarding a Building Committee for the Pine Meadow Sewer Project. He recommended Wes Marsh, Dan Charest, and Denton Butler, with which Mr. Jerram concurred. Mr. Charest subsequently declined to serve and Scott Goff was asked to participate and was pleased to join in. Selectmen will likely appoint committee members at their next meeting.

Ms. Pobuda raised a question regarding the proposed location of a sewer line down Church Street for the upcoming project and Mr. Butler indicated that sewer lines are restricted through Class I Watershed Lands, which may have an impact on the layout of the sewer in the Church St. area and it is yet to be determined. A general discussion ensued regarding the WPCA's charge and responsibilities relative to those of the PSTT, prompted by Ms. Pobuda.

Motion was made by Joe Toro and seconded by Mike LeClaire at 8:05 PM to close the joint meeting.

The WPCA meeting was reconvened at 8:06 PM. The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Mr. LeClaire noted that the minutes incorrectly stated he was in attendance. With that correction, the minutes were approved by all members, with Mr. LeClaire abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Butler noted that approximately \$204,000 is the amount due the WPCA for final bills. Several accounts have requested payment plans to settle outstanding balances. Repayment is coming in very slowly.

Members approved the WPCA meeting schedule for 2024, to include a meeting for January 2, 2025. Motion for same made by Mr. LeClaire, seconded by Joe Toro, and passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. LeClaire at 8:15 PM, seconded by Joe Toro and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wes Marsh, Acting Secretary