

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Chairman Denton Butler, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire, Polly Pobuda, Jim Surber, Joe Toro.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Denton Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. The proceedings were recorded digitally and copies are available through Town Hall. Mr. Butler agreed that the anticipated Executive Session portion of the agenda should be the last item of the evening.

1. CDM-SMITH – UPDATE OF PLANNING STUDY ANALYSIS – KRISTIE WAGNER:

Ms. Kristie Wagner, P.E. from the board's retained firm, CDM Smith, was present to review and discuss the sewer service area map. She distributed a reference handout, or a draft, of what she characterized as an interim report on the line extension study that her firm has been preparing.

Ms. Wagner discussed the Jones Mountain trunk line, noting that it is approximately 7,500 linear feet, reminding the commission that this line was photographed last year, and fortunately has very few defects. She noted that CDM Smith's final report will provide a comparative analysis of doing point repairs to the individual defects versus the cost to line the whole sewer. Ms. Wagner noted they will weigh in on whether either of those two approaches even need to be done in the immediate future. Mr. Joe Toro questioned whether it would be fair to assume that the commission would be justified in proceeding with expansion without lining Jones Mountain. Ms. Wagner agreed, although she also recommends doing a hydraulic check of this area which would consider the capacity of the line, in terms of adding the flow.

Ms. Wagner noted that the treatment facility was updated several years ago and that there are not any substantial issues with it. She reported that a review of several years of records indicates a good track record of permit compliance. A site visit revealed that the headworks, where the wastewater first enters the plant, and is screened and treated, is outdoors, according to Ms. Wagner. Because it is not enclosed, the plant does encounter freezing issues in the winter, she noted. She explained that this is not uncommon and not a major problem but is noteworthy.

Ms. Wagner reviewed that the Route 219 Pump Station, is the largest, and that the wet-well, the structure that the waste discharges into and is pumped out of, is one of old steel and appears to have some rust spots but noted that this is not uncommon. The recommendation will likely be an ultra-sonic thickness test, according to Ms. Wagner. She does not expect that the test would be costly and will include a written recommendation to this effect.

Ms. Wagner provided two drafted alternatives for sewer extension in Pine Meadow, noting that the difference between them is one had the proposed sewer line going down Route 44 while the other proposed a line going through the back yards of homes, noted to be the Old Farmington River canal bed. She noted that the two options need to be costed out. Ms. Wagner noted that

health department records were reviewed for both Pine Meadow and Cottage Street neighborhoods looking to ascertain the number of failing systems reported. She reported that a few were repaired due to age or undersized tank, and not necessarily actual failures. Ms. Wagner commented that with a few failures, there are notable environmental considerations and reasons to extend the sewer lines but in the short term, no area with immediate health impacts exists. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Marybeth Greenwood as to how far back in time was reviewed, Ms. Wagner indicated that the on-line access tracks back quite a ways. Mr. Michael LeClaire noted that it likely goes back to the 1970s.

Ms. Wagner requested from Mr. Butler a list of addresses of properties connected to the sewer and water.

Ms. Wagner then provided two drafted alternatives for sewer extension of the Cottage Street area, noting that one included sewerage all of Cottage Street, up Reservoir Road, and then over to Canterbury Village. Another option that CDM Smith will research and investigate costs is bringing sewer across the river utilizing a syphon. She noted that the costs and work involved in obtaining permits for this option will likely result in the determination that this would not be the recommended alternative.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Toro, Ms. Wagner opined that the entire report would likely be complete by early April, 2016.

Individual properties were questioned as to whether they were included as well as the reasons discussed and explained why they were or were not.

2. APPROVAL FEBRUARY 4TH MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Greenwood second, **to approve the February 4, 2016 Minutes; unanimously approved.**

Ms. Maria Moore of 104 Town Hill Road requested that documents relating to WPCA be included as attachments, specifically past budgets, to Minutes and be available for review through the office of the Town Clerk. Mr. Butler explained that there are limits to the amount of data and records that can be reasonably filed with the town clerk from a records storage perspective. He noted that Ms. Lila Tuxbury, the WPCA Clerk whose office is located within the First Selectman's office, has all routine reports and past budgets available.

3. BUDGET DISCUSSION – 2016-2017:

Mr. Toro and Ms. Greenwood sought feedback from the board on format with drafting the budget. Mr. Butler shared his preference for a one page document that provides a broad perspective at a glance, with a more detailed report behind it providing the finer details of individual accounts.

4. VACANCY DISCUSSION:

Mr. Butler reported that due to his and Mr. Toro's personal scheduling conflicts, they have not yet been able to meet with the few candidates from the non-user community that have come forward expressing interest in the board's vacancy. Mr. Butler and Mr. Toro both agreed and commented that they would like to fill the vacancy soon and expect to have interviewed the prospective candidates prior to the next Board of Selectman's regular meeting.

5. ROUNDTABLE INPUT REVIEW:

Mr. Butler reminded the board that the Board of Selectman are hosting a roundtable discussion on Thursday, February 18, 2016, beginning at 6:00PM with a dinner and a meeting following at 7:00PM.

Ms. Greenwood reported that an issue she was only recently made aware of, in terms of magnitude of, is that of water quality for some residents. Ms. Polly Pobuda reported having also received complaints regarding water quality. Mr. Butler shared with the commission the issues he has communicated with residents who have phoned with water quality issues, the repairs and replacements that are being undertaken to remedy them including addressing the water pump on Steele Road.

Ms. Susan Stagg of 9 Brook Street relayed the chronic problems she has endured at her residence, detailing how often her water is discolored, preventing her from doing laundry, taking baths, etc.

Ms. Natalie Sipohl of 16 Steele Road also relayed the water quality issues her residence has encountered, sharing the frustration expressed by Ms. Stagg.

Mr. Butler noted that the issue is being addressed and that Torrington Water Company will be undertaking measures to remedy same in the very near future.

6. ALL OTHER REPORTS, MEETINGS, CORRESPONDENCE AND BUSINESS ITEMS TO COME BEFORE THE WPCA:

No other business discussed.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY RENEWAL – WASTE WATER OPERATION CONTRACT RFP – POTENTIAL SALE OF ASSETS:

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Greenwood second, **to enter into Executive Session at 8:42PM; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Ms. Greenwood second, **to come out of executive session at 9:40pm; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. Surber second, **to adjourn at 9:41pm; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Colombie
Recording Clerk