

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 7:00PM
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: None.

Mr. Butler called to order the Special Meeting of the WPCA at 7:00PM.

1. MINUTES – DECEMBER 6, 2016 2016:

The December 6, 2016 Minutes should be amended to include the following statement on the second page, under Agenda Item *4C. ESA - Discussion*: "...Mr. Jerram said the rest of the town would remain unclaimed if the town declared an Exclusive Service Area for water distribution based on the WPCA's sewer service map..."

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, to approve the December 1, 2016 Minutes as amended; unanimously approved.

2. OPERATIONS REPORT – WATER & SEWER:

A. Discuss Highlights.

Mr. Butler reported that water consumption has continued to decline since summer, with the last report showing a drop of 162K gallons from the previous month. He said the continuing decline will be reflected in revenues. Mr. Toro questioned whether earlier readings are available, noting that the former laundromat was one of the biggest users in Pine Meadow and that there are currently several empty buildings in that section of Town that were not there a year ago.

Mr. Butler reported that the WPCA's application for a permit to discharge treated effluent from the sewer plant into the Farmington River must be submitted by March 21, 2017. He explained that this permit must be renewed every five years. Mr. Butler indicated that he began the process two weeks ago. Noting budgetary issues, Mr. Butler reported that the permit would cost about \$4K, including filing fees; and that there have been several problems with pumps at the sewer plant. He said the cost of repairs are relatively modest but do mount up.

Mr. Butler reported that Aquarion is doing a better job of settling out sludge and only one truck load was hauled away in December, 2016. It was noted that sludge removal is a major expense.

Ms. Greenwood shared her observation regarding grinder failure alarms, noting that all seem to happen on Wednesdays. Mr. Butler noted that a power failure transfer appears to occur every Wednesday and thought it likely that grinder failures are probably caused when the power doesn't transfer back. Mr. Butler reported that a firm is scheduled to assess this and other issues on January 17, 2017.

3. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Ms. Greenwood questioned whether the WPCA should adopt a surcharge for what she characterized as unusual demands from businesses on its sewer plant. Mr. Butler recalled that there had been discussion of a cheese manufacturer coming to Town which would have affected the chemistry at the plant. He also noted that a schedule of yeast-laden releases from the new brewery was worked out resulting in “zero impact” on the plant.

Mr. Toro noted that such a surcharge could be tied into regulations for Fats, Oils and Greases (FOG) discharged by restaurants.

Looking ahead, Mr. Butler shared a list of big-ticket items that must be addressed in the coming year, including repairs to one water tank, an inspection of the other, a delayed water supply plan that must be completed in the first half of 2017 at a cost of more than \$32K, and to repaying the Town the \$22K advance it gave the WPCA against a state grant for a planning study. Mr. Butler noted that the State of Connecticut has yet to give the WPCA the grant.

Ms. Greenwood said she had done a projection of budget needs for the next fiscal year. She reported that she was interested in seeing how it plays out if the WPCA remains on this trend. She noted that the figures developed revealed a \$40K deficit before the outlined expenses were even factored in.

4. UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS:

A. Election - Chairman - Vice Chairman.

MOTION: Ms. Greenwoods, Mr. Marsh second, to appoint Denton Butler as Chairman; unanimously approved. Prior to the vote on the preceding Motion, a motion was made by Mr. Marsh, seconded by Ms. Pobuda, and unanimously approved to close the nominations.

MOTION: Ms. Pobuda, Mr. LeClaire second, to appoint Joe Toro as Vice Chairman; unanimously approved.

B. Vacancy - Recommendations

Mr. Butler reminded the Board that with the Mr. Surber not continuing, a replacement is required. He noted that he and Mr. Toro will screen candidates in order to make a suggestion to the Board of Selectmen for an appointment.

Mr. Toro reported that two people expressing interest in the position had approached him, but that one had dropped out due to lack of time. Mr. Toro explained that he would like to make the process opened up as much as possible so that they can get multiple people to interview.

Mr. Butler reminded the group that five people were interviewed for the last opening. He opined that it is more important to find someone to do a good job rather than rush to judgement.

C. Asset Evaluation Review - Status Check

Mr. Butler reported that the Asset Evaluation Taskforce has not met since the last meeting of this Board. He noted that he would request that First Selectman Dan Jerram schedule a meeting next week.

D. ESA - Update

The Exclusive Service Area (ESA) was briefly discussed. It was noted that a declaration had been made for water service by the Board of Selectmen. Subsequently, it was observed that it needed to be modified after the discovery that several agencies had also declared for parts of

the Town. Mr. Butler reported that he had read the Statute and that he believes that if the Town declares for the entire town, the WPCA could be demanded to provide service in areas currently not served. He reminded the Board that the issue is ultimately under the authority of the Commissioner of Health.

Mr. Marsh indicated that other agencies cannot usurp an existing service area. Mr. Butler reminded the Board that the area the Town originally declared for its ESA follows the proposed sewer service area map currently awaiting state approval. Ms. Pobuda questioned whether it had been approved. Mr. Butler indicated that it has not as the representative working on it was tapped for jury duty.

Mr. Marsh reported that the next meeting of the Water Utilities Coordinating Committee will be devoted to conflict resolution, noting that New Hartford is on the agenda.

E. Rules & Regulation - Continuing Review.

The Board began a discussion of revisions to the Rules and Regulations governing it. The review was deferred to January 19, 2017 at 6:00PM after an extensive discussion of the first item, a change in the balance of the WPCA. The change calls for four users and three non-users on the WPCA, rather than the current five users and two non-users. Mr. Toro strongly objected to the change, opining that the balance should remain as it is to ensure users who bear the cost of building the oversized sewer treatment plant to have the greatest representation. Mr. Toro pushed for a vote on the matter but was the only member who voted to keep the status quo.

MOTION: Mr. Toro, Mr. LeClaire second, **to adjourn at 8:40PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**