

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013 – 7:00PM  
NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL – 530 MAIN STREET**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Krzys, Steve Hanright, Kenneth Krohner, Michael LeClaire, Bill Michaud, Joe Nerney, David Rosengren; Jason Hofmann, The Water Planet; Julio Segarra, and associate, United Water.

**ABSENT:** None.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Robert Krzys called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Kenneth Krohner arrived to the meeting at 7:02PM, and Mr. Rosengren arrived to the meeting at 7:05PM. 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. March 14, 2013 special meeting.**

**MOTION** Mr. Michaud, second Mr. Krohner, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 special meeting as written; unanimously approved.

**B. April 4, 2013 regular meeting.**

Mr. Krzys noted that there was not a quorum of the Board at this meeting; therefore, no votes were held and no action was taken. He explained that those present held an informational meeting; these were therefore not official minutes requiring approval. The Board did obtain for the record the full names of those present from United Water so that the record could be updated.

**3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mary Beth Greenwood addressed the Board regarding the status of the proposed benefit assessments. Ms. Greenwood reiterated that the approximately 270 users of the sewer system had seen a 71.7% increase in their sewer rates over the past 5 years, from \$11.69 per thousand gallons to \$20.08 per thousand gallons. Ms. Greenwood noted that while the Board had said that they would eventually eliminate the \$5 sewer surcharge, they did not specify exactly when that would happen; if this surcharge were effective at the same time as the benefit assessment was implemented, this would have adverse financial consequences for sewer users.

Mr. Krzys explained that the Board had postponed setting a date for the public hearing on the benefit assessments, as they were waiting for resolution of several key issues, such as the possible deferral of the principal payments for the USDA loan as well as review of the Board's budget in light of the recently implemented septage receiving contract. Mr. Michaud explained that the sewer surcharge is used to pay off capital debt. He explained that the surcharge would be eliminated once the benefit assessment is implemented; the two would not exist at the same time. Mr. Michaud said that all budgeting information he had created was based on this assumption. He noted that the budget and rates would be discussed in more detail at the June regular meeting, and he recommended that interested parties attend that meeting for further information.

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Maria Moore, resident and member of the Board of Finance, next addressed the Board. Ms. Moore stated that she felt there needed to be a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, and Water Pollution Control Authority. She expressed the belief that the sewer treatment plant was part of the Town's infrastructure and was intended in part to help with the Town's economic development. Ms. Moore stated that the Town was currently sitting on approximately \$4 million in undesignated reserves. In addition the \$150,000 bond for Bakerville School would be paid off in 2014. With both of these in mind, Ms. Moore stated that she saw no reason why the Town should not be asked to step up and help pay an increased portion of the debt. She stated that even if the principal portion of the payments were deferred, the Town was only delaying the inevitable, as they would eventually get hit with a more sizable payment.

A resident named Mr. Riley addressed the Board explaining that he had an 8-year old septic system; he also had no direct access to the sewer line and would require an easement from his neighbor. Mr. Krzys reviewed the Board's statutorily granted right to order connection for sewer line abutters. He also explained the deferral request process, and suggested that Mr. Riley submit any documents related to his request by the May 27<sup>th</sup> deadline for the Board to review. He stated that the Board might not order connection of those who do not have direct access to the sewer line. Mr. Michaud explained that the reasons for mandatory sewer connection were not just financial, but were also for public health reasons as those being ordered were within the aquifer area for the public wells. Mr. Riley then submitted his materials for consideration of his deferral/exemption request. John Shackett, 341 Main Street, also addressed the Board on this same issue, stating that he too does not directly abut the sewer line. Mr. Shackett stated that he had dropped off paperwork related to his deferral/exemption request a few weeks ago. Mr. Krzys explained that all deferral requests would be discussed at the Board's June 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Mary Ann Gunning then addressed the Board, noting that they had heard a great deal of negative public comment about the orders to connect. She stated that the Board needed to re-think its decision on this mandatory connection, particularly in light of the new septage receiving contract. Mr. Michaud stated that the Board had largely heard from those who were ordered to connect, and he could certainly understand why they were not happy; however, he stated that there was another side to the discussion, which was the needs of those already connected to the system who have been paying high fees and who may have some financial relief from the Board's decision to add additional users. Mr. Michaud explained that the Board owed them responsible action to mitigate increases to their rates; this included the authority to issue orders to connect and benefit assessments. Mr. Michaud stated that no one was taking this step this lightly; this is why the process was taking so long. Mr. Rosengren explained that he personally agreed with the comments heard at this meeting from concerned residents; however, he expressed the opinion that while the Town wanted this size sewer plant for economic development reasons, they were adamant that the payments for it should largely be made by the system users. However, since system users were vastly outnumbered by the rest of the Town, there was little that could be done to address this situation. Ms. Greenwood again commented, noting that that arrangement was based on the Town working to expand economic development, which had not happened.

### **4. STATUS OF USDA CHANGE ORDER; REQUEST TO USDA FOR DEFERRAL OF PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS FOR YEARS THREE AND FOUR OF PLANT UPGRADE LOAN:**

Mr. Krzys stated that there had still been no word on either the change order or the deferral.

**5. OPERATOR REPORT – THE WATER PLANET – INCLUDING DOMESTIC SEPTAGE UPDATE:**

Mr. Hofmann reviewed with the Board his report for the previous month. He noted that the \$105,000 to be received from Russ's Septic Service on a calendar year basis was not pure profit; the increased septage had led to increased sludge hauling costs. He explained that they would be paid \$16,008 for April septage; however, they had spent \$9,000 for sludge hauling, so the Board should assume for budgeting purposes that half of the money coming in from that contract would be used to pay for the increased sludge hauling costs. Mr. Hofmann said that in March, there were 33,900 gallons of sludge removed; in April once the contract started that number rose to 213,450 gallons. He stated that he received 5-6 trucks per day from Russ's Septic Service.

Mr. LeClaire asked how the ammonia and nitrate levels had been since the contract had started. Mr. Hofmann said that they were very high the first week. He explained that the domestic septage was very strong, and the biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels were three to four times higher than normal influent BOD levels. Mr. Hofmann said that 200 was a normal level; it was currently 780. He explained that he had included laboratory data in his monthly report. Mr. Hofmann said that the plant was designed to handle 400,000 gallons per day, and it had been doing 79,000 gallons per day; the contract with Russ's septic service added 10,000 more gallons per day. However, because this was such strong septage, the plant was essentially running as if it were 2/3 full now. Mr. Hofmann stated that although the numbers were higher than usual, the plant was still operating in compliance with its permit. He said that they have been working to make changes as needed in order to ensure full compliance.

Mr. Hofmann stated that, due to the way in which the septage is being brought in, the area around the plant smells very bad. He said that they had to have all lids open in order to pump the septage from the receiving area to the head of the plant; therefore, the odor problems would continue until the USDA change order was finally approved and they could do the necessary work to have the septage properly pumped to the head of the plant underground. Mr. Hofmann also stated that they had already burned out two of the smaller pumps and had two more backups available; he explained that the smaller pumps were really not designed to handle the size and volume of septage that was being brought in on a daily basis.

Mr. Hofmann then explained that they had done the work to re-install the VFD on the blower and a new UV sensor on Unit #2 as discussed at the previous month's meeting. He noted that he had included two quotes in his report for UV meters. Mr. Hofmann explained that the plant's permit changed as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, and they were required to take four UV disinfection measurements per day. He said that he had borrowed a meter from another plant his company managed in order to see if it would work well at this plant, which it did; however, the price for the meters was between \$5,000 and \$8,000. Mr. Hofmann asked Mr. LeClaire what meter they used at his plant; Mr. LeClaire stated that the Simsbury plant only had to take one measurement per day, and explained that the meter used there was even more expensive than those in Mr. Hofmann's quotes. Members of the Board asked Mr. Hofmann which meter he recommended, and Mr. Hofmann stated that he recommended the YSI meter which would cost \$5,500.

**MOTION** Mr. Michaud, second Mr. LeClaire, to authorize Jason Hofmann of The Water Planet to purchase a YSI meter for no more than \$5,500 as detailed in the quote from Anthony Papile of New England Environmental Equipment; unanimously approved.

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Mr. Krohner questioned whether Mr. Hofmann thought the plant could handle any additional septage besides that which they were receiving from Russ's Septic Service. Mr. Hofmann stated that they could not right now. He said that they still had low flow; however, since the septage was significantly stronger than normal influent, the plant was operating 2/3 full at this point. Mr. Michaud then asked Mr. Hofmann if he could put together a list of short-lived assets in the plant and any capital equipment or maintenance expenditures that he believed were necessary over the next five years for the Board to review as a part of their budgeting process. Mr. Hofmann stated that he would do so, and he recommended they have a workshop meeting to review this list.

### **6. OPERATOR REPORT – UNITED WATER – INCLUDING LOW PRESSURE ISSUE DOWNTOWN:**

Julio Segarra and his colleague, Mr. O'Brien addressed the Board with their monthly report on water operations. Mr. Segarra explained that within the past few days, approximately 6 locations within the Town Center had been identified as having very low water pressure. He said that they were on a 6-inch line which had a ¾-inch feed to individual water laterals; this restricted flow into each building. Mr. Segarra said that they investigated the valves on these connections and found them to be completely clogged and unable to be opened. When they tested the water pressure in one of the offices, they found that it was only five gallons over the course of a minute. In working with the valve they managed to increase this to 15 gallons per minute. Mr. Segarra said that this appeared to indicate the presence of debris within the water line. He explained that they then tried to locate the blowoff at the end of this water line and were unable to do so; while the maps said that one was present, they could not find it in the field. Mr. Segarra said that the collapsed valves were all ultimately repaired and the flow was somewhat better for now, but he was not sure how long this would last. He suggested that the Board consider finding the end of the 6-inch line and constructing a blowoff; there was a manhole nearby that they could connect to. This would enable them to flush the entire line. Mr. Michaud questioned whether any fire hydrants were in this area, and Mr. Segarra responded negatively, noting that this was a dead end line.

Mr. Rosengren questioned why this had suddenly become a problem; Mr. Segarra said that while they were working, residents had come up to them and told them they had had low water pressure issues for years. Mr. Krzys stated that he had spoken with Bert Brander, who owned the building where the Muddy Moose used to be located. Mr. Brander explained that he also had 8 apartments in the building, and his tenants were threatening complaints to the Health Department regarding the low water pressure. Mr. Brander stated that this issue had been ongoing for at least the last 10 years; however, it had recently gotten worse.

Mr. LeClaire suggested that there could also be problems with the individual laterals. Mr. Segarra concurred, but stated that in his opinion, the ¾-inch feed was too small for the buildings there. He explained that a ¾-inch feed was usually used for a single family residence; here there were restaurants and multiple apartments on that one feed. Mr. Segarra said that he had researched the Board's regulations and found that from the curb box forward, it was the property owner's responsibility to maintain the water line. However, he noted that the Town's feed at the curb box was also only ¾-inch, so that too would cause restriction of flow. Mr. Segarra therefore suggested that the Board consider installing a blowoff on this line and replacing the feeds at the curb boxes for approximately 8 properties. He explained that the residents would then be responsible for either updating their own lines from the curb box forward, or else they could install a 150-gallon water tank at their property to enable them to withstand periods of low flow.

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The Board requested Mr. Segarra provide estimates for the cost of constructing the blowoff as well as the cost of upgrading the line to the curb stops. Mr. LeClaire observed that the feed would need to be changed to a 1-1/4-inch to 2-inch feed. Mr. Krzys questioned whether a 6-inch line was sufficient, and Mr. Segarra stated that he believed it was; however, the line did need to be flushed.

Mr. Segarra said that everything else was running well. He informed the Board that the electrical issues at Blackbridge well that he had mentioned last month had been repaired and everything had been working well since. Mr. Segarra said that it was time to clean out the tanks. Mr. Rosengren requested that Mr. Segarra also provide a cost estimate for this work. Mr. Michaud stated that he had the same request for information for Mr. Segarra as he had for Mr. Hofmann regarding short-lived assets and necessary capital improvements over the next five years.

Mr. Krzys informed the Board that he had received a call from Fire Chief Mark Worsman on April 24<sup>th</sup>. While there was no immediately public safety risk, Mr. Worsman had provided a list of fire hydrants in Town that were not working properly. The Board then reviewed the list, which included a hydrant at 603 Main Street that had been knocked over, perhaps by a State DOT snow plow. Mr. Krzys said that United Water had inspected each of the hydrants listed; the results of that inspection could be discussed with Mr. Worsman at the June meeting. The Board briefly discussed the possibility of obtaining reimbursement from the State DOT for the hydrant that had been knocked over; Mr. Krohner stated that he had reported this to the First Selectman's office when it had initially occurred.

The Board then briefly discussed delinquent accounts. Mr. Krzys said that the number of delinquent accounts had actually increased from the previous month. He noted that the bulk of the outstanding balance was due from Blackhammer, LLC for their fire and sprinkler accounts for 283 Main Street. Members of the Board agreed ample time had been given, and they should now just lien the properties in question. Mr. Rosengren and Mr. Krzys stated that they would work together on this issue.

### **7. SPECIFICATIONS FOR NEW SEWER CONNECTIONS:**

Jason Hofmann addressed the Board on this issue. He stated that he had read the initial 1968 ordinance which created the Water Pollution Control Authority, as well as the proposed Rules and Regulations drafted in 2004. After a brief discussion, the Board determined that while the Rules and Regulations had been drafted in 2004, they had never been officially adopted; therefore, the Board did not have any Rules and Regulations currently in effect for the sewer operation. Mr. Hofmann said that in his opinion, the proposed specifications for new sewer connections submitted by Mr. LeClaire were in alignment with both the initial ordinance and the proposed Rules and Regulations. He said some minor changes would be needed to change "Town of Simsbury" to "Town of New Hartford" and to enter appropriate dates for adoption of ordinances and regulations in New Hartford, but other than that, he had no changes. Mr. Hofmann stated that he recommended adopting both the draft 2004 Rules and Regulations, and the specifications submitted by Mr. LeClaire as Appendices A and B, once the minor changes were made.

The Board briefly discussed the process for adopting the regulations and specifications. Mr. Krzys explained that a public hearing would be required. Mr. Hofmann said that he would have the document scanned into a computer file, and Mr. Rosengren said that he would make the modifications to the specifications. Mr. Krzys said that once this was done, they could then

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schedule the public hearing. He stated that he would contact Murtha Cullina to prepare the necessary legal notices.

### **8. ORDERS TO CONNECT STATUS UPDATE.**

Mr. Krzys reiterated that all deferral requests were due by May 27<sup>th</sup>, and decisions on those requests would be made at the June 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

### **9. BUDGET REPORT:**

Mr. Michaud distributed copies of his report. He stated that the first 3 quarters of this fiscal year saw revenue only \$20,000 below projections; he attributed this disparity to the amount of delinquent accounts. He explained that over the same period, expenses were \$50,000 lower than projected. He informed the Board that he would have budget projections for the upcoming fiscal year by the next meeting; these would take into account increases in revenue from the septage receiving contract, and increases in expenses due to increased sludge hauling. He stated that the Board would need to consider several capital improvement issues, as well as the fact that both the water and sewer operations contracts would be up by end of year. He explained that the Board could either re-bid the contracts or re-negotiate terms with the current operators. Mr. Michaud said that he would try to get his report out before the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting so members could review it in advance.

### **10. BENEFIT ASSESSMENT STATUS REVIEW; STEAP APPLICATION; DEEP SET-ASIDE FOR COTTAGE STREET:**

Mr. Krzys briefly reviewed the history of the USDA loan debt service payment 61%/39% split between the system users and the Town. He reviewed the reasons why the Town applied for the \$500,000 STEAP grant to expand sewer lines, and he noted that as of now, the State had not rendered a decision as to whether or not the Town would receive this grant.

### **11. CANTERBURY VILLAGE PROPOSED RESOLUTION.**

Mr. Krzys reminded Board members that in March 2011, Tim Bobroske had come before the Board regarding the installation of water pipes at Canterbury Village that had not been done according to the Board's regulations. He explained that they had passed a motion agreeing to a resolution whereby the matter would be satisfactorily resolved if Mr. Bobroske filed a deed restriction ensuring the buildings would be brought into conformance at the time of sale, paid a fine, and installed individual meters for each unit.

Mr. Krzys explained that Mr. Bobroske agreed to install individual and pay for individual meters as of March 2013; he also agreed to file the deed restriction. However, he requested that the Board waive the fine. Mr. Krzys stated that he found this acceptable as Mr. Bobroske had never once been late paying any water bills.

**MOTION** Mr. Rosengren, second Mr. LeClaire to agree to waive the fines against Tim Bobroske of Canterbury Village with the understanding that all units must have individual water meters for which Mr. Bobroske will be billed effective March 2013, and a deed restriction must be placed on the property requiring all buildings' connections to the water line be brought into conformance with Water Pollution Control Authority requirements in the event of sale or transfer of the property; unanimously approved.

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**12. OLD BUSINESS.**

**A. Flagging and Painting of Fire Hydrants.**

Mr. Krohner informed the Board that this work had not yet been started. He explained that he still needed to meet with Fire Chief Mark Worsman regarding color-coding of all fire hydrants; once he had this information, he would schedule the painting and flagging. Members suggested he discussed this with Mr. Worsman when he came to the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**13. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Septage Odor.**

Mr. Hanright informed the Board that the odor from the wastewater treatment plant was significant, particularly for Buildings 10, 11, and 12 of River Run Condominiums. Mr. Michaud suggested that the condominium association write a letter about this issue to the Board, which could then be forwarded to Mike Rendulic of the USDA in an effort to speed up the change order application. Mr. Hanright stated that they had already begun drafting such a letter. He stated that the condominium association was also having problems with the sludge truck using their driveway to back into the wastewater treatment facility; since the sludge truck was coming to the facility more frequently now, this was becoming a significant problem. Mr. Hanright said that there would be a letter about this issue as well. He stated that he had already spoken with Mr. Hofmann about this issue, and he was trying to figure out an alternative.

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** Mr. Krohner, second Mr. Nerney, to adjourn at 8:52PM; unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stacey M. Sefcik  
Commission Clerk**