

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013 – 6:00PM  
NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL – 530 MAIN STREET**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Robert Krzys, Steve Hanright, Kenneth Krohner, Michael LeClaire, David Rosengren.  
**ABSENT:** Bill Michaud, Joe Nerney.

Chairman Robert Krzys called the meeting to order at 6:03PM. Mr. Michaud arrived to the meeting at 6:08PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The proceedings were recorded digitally and copies are available at Town Hall.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. November 7, 2013 regular meeting.**

**MOTION** Mr. Hanright, second Mr. Krohner, to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2013 regular meeting as written; unanimously approved.

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A member of the audience asked whether the Board planned any line extensions down Wickett Street at any time in the future. Mr. Krzys stated that line extensions were not planned at any time in the foreseeable future, due to the high cost and the Board's current financial situation. The resident explained that her septic system was approaching the end of its useful life, and she would like to connect if it was possible; she asked if there was someone in Town government she should speak with about this matter. It was suggested that she contact the Board of Selectmen and/or the Board of Finance to find out if they had any plans to fund such a project.

**3. ACCOUNT BALANCE AS OF 11/30/13:**

Mr. Krzys informed the Board that he had received an update on the balance in the Board's account as of December 3, 2013. As of that date, the Board had \$220532.45 in income. Mr. Krzys stated that he had approved for payment \$53851.80 in outstanding invoices. This left a net of \$166681.65, of which approximately \$120,000 was money in reserve that had originally been designated for payment of the Board's portion of the USDA loan due September 2013; the exact amount due from the Board to the Town was still under discussion with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

**4. USDA LOAN – STATUS OF SUBCOMMITTEE CONSENSUS:**

Mr. Krzys informed the Board that he had received an email from Ben Witte, Chairman of the Board of Finance, on November 25<sup>th</sup> which summarized the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, which he distributed to Board members; he then forwarded the full minutes of the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to all Board members. Mr. Krzys stated that at this time, there was no plan in place to implement consensus that had been achieved at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. He explained that members of the BOF raised concerns about the WPCA's efforts regarding the pursuit of delinquencies, filing of liens, instituting additional septage receiving contracts, attempting to finance additional sewer line extensions, and finalize orders to connect. Because of these concerns, the BOF had made no motion to act on the consensus achieved at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Krzys stated that the next subcommittee meeting would be held within the next few weeks, and the BOF wanted to develop further opportunities for the WPCA and stated it would be willing to fund contracted help outside of current WPCA budget in that regard.

Mr. Krzys noted that he had in fact filed some liens on behalf of the Board. He noted that two of the three outstanding accounts for 283 Main Street had already been paid in full. The largest one was still outstanding; however, the receiver of rents for the property had contacted him and informed him that it would be being paid in full shortly.

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Regarding delinquencies, Mr. Krzys stated that \$56,000 was currently due for bills aged 31-60 days from the October 2013 billing. The total due aged 91 days and over was \$103,000; however, this included the 283 Main Street account that would shortly be paid. Taking that into account, the total over 91 days was \$83,000.

Mr. Krzys informed the Board that he had asked Jason Hofmann of The Water Planet to do a study of the total costs of receiving septage at the plant from the program's inception to the present day. Mr. Hofmann was currently working on this project. He noted that there has been a high overtime related to the septage receiving program due to the slow processing time; in winter, the sludge does not settle out as quickly as it does in the summer.

Mr. Krzys stated that the Board would still have to finalize orders to connect and act on any deferral requests. He noted that the Freedom of Information Act complaint against the Board had been withdrawn. The property in question was found to be not subject to mandatory connection as it was not an abutting property to the sewer line.

Mr. Michaud suggested that, in addition to the research Mr. Krzys requested from The Water Planet, they also ask for a definitive opinion regarding whether the treatment plan can safely accept more septage without putting its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the Farmington River in general at risk. He stated he felt this issue of obtaining additional septage receiving contracts was being used as a delay tactic by certain groups in order to avoid the real issues facing the Board. Mr. Michaud said that Board members had explained repeatedly at several joint meetings that the plant could only accept so much septage without putting its permit at risk; perhaps if the Board had a professional opinion in writing on this subject, the matter could finally be resolved. Mr. Krzys stated that he had asked for Jason Hofmann to give his professional opinion on this subject and it would be included in his report. He explained that he had informed the BOF that the Board was conducting its own analysis on this subject with The Water Planet; if they wished to have an independent analyst perform this study, then they could do so at their own expense.

Mr. Michaud expressed frustration that the BOF had asked for a meeting with the Board 1-1/2 years ago to discuss several of these issues, and they were still raising the same issues now despite the fact that the Board had already addressed many of these issues. He expressed a desire for other groups in Town to stop "blaming the messenger" and start taking the problem seriously and work with the Board to develop realistic solutions. Mr. Michaud said that expecting the residents of Cottage Street to solely fund their own line extension would mean an assessment of \$34,000 per resident, which he believed was unfair to expect. Mr. Rosengren concurred, expressing the opinion that the Town needed to run the lines and finance the cost with a 20 to 30 year loan. He noted that there would be a very small cost per resident when spread over the entire Town. Mr. Rosengren noted declining property values for those homes along the sewer line, which the Board had warned would happen if the Town did not act to assist users. He noted a poster in the Town Hall by the elevator that said that the Farmington River is an economic resource for the entire town; the poster did not say it was a resource just for those on the sewer line.

## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING WATER OPERATOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:**

**MOTION** Mr. LeClaire, second Mr. Hanright, to enter executive session at 6:24PM for the purpose of discussing negotiations on the water operator and billing and collections contract; unanimously approved.

The Board came out of executive session at 6:45PM. No action was taken during the executive session.

**MOTION** Mr. Krohner, second Mr. Michaud, to enter into a contract for water operator and billing and collections for both water and sewer with The Torrington Water Company as per the draft agreement with Appendices A, B, C, D, and E as proposed for the period from February 1, 2014 through January 31, 2016 and to authorize Robert Krzys as Chairman to sign and execute the agreement; unanimously approved.

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Mr. Krzys and Mr. Rosengren stated that they would review the final agreement and distribute copies to all Board members. Mr. Rosengren noted that, compared to the Board's previous contract, the Board could potentially save \$9000 to \$10,000 on routine charges, notwithstanding unforeseen nonroutine charges.

### **6. DESIGNATION OF WPCA CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Krzys informed the Board that his term would expire at the end of month and he would not be seeking reappointment. He stated that new appointees would be seated effective January 1, 2014 and elections could then be conducted; however, in the meantime someone would have to be willing to be chairman at least on an interim basis. Mr. Krohner offered to be acting chair and handle invoices until the first meeting in January.

**MOTION** Mr. LeClaire, second Mr. Michaud, to nominate Ken Krohner to be Acting Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority as of January 1, 2014 until such time as the Board selects a permanent Chairman; unanimously approved.

A member of the audience, Joe Toro, expressed a desire to serve on the WPCA and noted that he had tried to contact the Selectmen's Office to volunteer; he had not yet heard back whether or not he was being considered. Another member of the audience, Mary Beth Greenwood, also stated that she had contacted the Selectmen's Office to volunteer for this position, and she too had not heard back. The Board discussed the need for a certain number of users and non-users on the Board.

Members of the Board agreed to recommend both Joe Toro and Mary Beth Greenwood for open positions on the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Maria Moore, resident, and several members of the Board thanked Mr. Krzys for his years of service on the Board and his efforts on behalf of the sewer and water users of the Town.

### **7. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** Mr. Krohner, second Mr. Rosengren, to adjourn at 6:57PM; unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stacey M. Sefcik**  
**Commission Clerk**