

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority  
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 7:00 PM  
New Hartford Town Hall  
530 Main Street, New Hartford, CT  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairman Ken Krohner, Denton Butler, Steve Hanright, Mary Beth Greenwood, Robert Fulton, Michael LeClaire.

**ABSENT:** Bill Michaud.

Vice Chairman Ken Krohner called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The proceedings were recorded digitally and copies are available at Town Hall.

**1. Meeting minutes:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler, second Ms. Greenwood, **to approve the September 4, 2014 Minutes; unanimously approved.**

**2. Opportunity for public comment:**

Mr. David Childs, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, addressed the WPCA on behalf of the commission urging them to seek funding that will encourage additional hook-ups to the sewer line. He noted the concerns of area businesses as they have expressed to the commission the high cost of water and sewer usage as it impacts adversely to the economic development of the town. Mr. Denton Butler read into the record the correspondence from Mr. Childs in which he urges the WPCA to seek financial aid from the town so the number of users can be substantially increased in order to lower the unit costs.

Mr. Bob Moore, alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, concurred with the issue and concern identified in Mr. Child's correspondence and opined that it will likely be part of the revision items of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

**3. Operations:**

**a. Sewer Operations Monthly report - The Water Planet Company.**

Mr. Jason Hoffman, Manager of Operations of The Water Planet, noted key points occurring in the past month. He noted that the average daily flow for the month of September was 40,000 gallons with a total flow of 1.15 million gallons, removed 6,500 gallons of sludge for final disposal. Mr. Hoffman further noted that the expenses for plant supplies for both the months of August and September were \$857.95. Also, Mr. Hoffman reported that on September 17, 2014, the stationary generator at the plant received 262 gallons of diesel. He further noted that on September 30, 2014, HACH Instrumentation calibrated the sensors in the SBRs. Also on this date, Black Equipment replaced the faulty water control valve on the influent screen.

Mr. Hoffman also submitted a report detailing results from a smoke test on the system conducted during August, performed with the assistance of board member, Mr. Michael LeClaire. He reminded the board, and noted it in his report, the manhole covers and frames that are in need of repair or replacement. A copy of the report is attached to this report and identified as Addendum A.

Mr. Hoffman indicated that he is not armed with information as to which of the properties, identified through this test and detailed in his report, are being properly billed for services. Ms. Mary Beth Greenwood clarified that if smoke was identified as emerging from a home during this test, and identified on this report, that it may be concluded that the home is connected to the town's sewer line. Mr. Hoffman and Mr. LeClaire both confirmed.

Discussion ensued regarding the identification of man holes and their corresponding numbers.

**Mr. Joe Toro, 565 Main Street**, questioned the identification of the addresses on the report, and whether the hyphens represented "through" or whether only the numbers listed reflect which properties smoke was detected. Mr. Hoffman indicated that only these numbers smoke was detected. Mr. Toro pointed out that his own home, which is connected, is not reflected on this report. Mr. LeClaire explained that a different venting system may account for why no smoke was evidenced from coming from Mr. Toro's system. Mr. LeClaire indicated that the smoke test is not a fail-safe comprehensive measure to include every single user on the system. However, a house identified as producing smoke during the test is definitely on the system.

**b. Monthly Operations Monthly Report - Torrington Water Company.**

Mr. Steven Cerruto, Vice President of Operations, while not present at the meeting, submitted a monthly operations report. A copy of this report, less the work order status report, is attached as Addendum B.

**c. Monthly Financial Report.**

The board agreed to table this item.

**4. Correspondence.**

Mr. Child's letter was discussed and a suggestion was made that it be submitted for print in the circulated *The Independent Community News*. Mr. Butler also reported to members that there is some sentiment, on behalf of the Board of Finance, that the issue of adding users to address the growing concerns of the increasing cost of water and sewer usage for the town's customers must be addressed soon.

Mr. Krohner acknowledged a communication received from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the process of updating its Plan of Conservation and Development. Feedback is being sought from the WPCA, in writing, by November 24, 2014 in advance of a collective town wide commission and agency meeting scheduled for December 1, 2014. Mr. Butler suggested that an agenda item be added for the WPCA's November 6, 2014 regular meeting that discusses and records the group's input for the Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Krohner concurred with this.

**5. Ongoing Business**

**a. Fire hydrant condition assessment, improvements, and planning**

Mr. Butler reported that he had requested that the hydrant at the corner of Route 219 and Route 44 has been repaired as well as the hydrant at the end of line along Route 44.

Mr. Butler contacted the chairman of the Fire District Commission, Dr. Bill Reiger, requesting that discussion on the inoperable fire hydrants be added to the agenda for an upcoming October 9, 2014 meeting. He explained in his letter the plight of the WPCA and possibly requesting shared capital budget allocations for repairs to the hydrants.

Mr. Krohner indicated he provided a copy of the map to the First Selectman's office outlining the location of all fire hydrants to assist in the efforts of snow removal.

In response to inquiry made by Mr. LeClaire regarding the hydrant located near New Hartford Elementary School, Mr. Butler reported that the water needs to be turned off for repairs thus resulting in this work being scheduled for Columbus Day weekend.

#### **b. Smoke testing report**

Mr. Butler referenced an email that he had provided to board members in advance of this meeting regarding research into the issue of back charging users who have been hooked into the town's sewer lines but have failed to pay for services. He noted that his research revealed that in 1995, South Windsor, who for various reasons was faced with the need to back bill sewer customers who had received services without paying for them, and that even after litigation, were allowed to go as far back as fifteen (15) years. Mr. Butler also relayed to board members an incident recently occurred wherein a property owner in town was seeking some type of verification as to their sewer system connection for purposes of listing the home for sale. As the property owner was told that a sewer usage bill would suffice as means for the WPCA to provide the owner with the substantiation that was needed, it was revealed that this owner has never been billed nor has ever paid for the services the residence has been receiving in terms of sewer line use.

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler, Ms. Greenwood second, **that the WPCA investigate the statutory limitations of fifteen (15) years for back charging anyone who has not paid for sewer services they have received and it would be applied; unanimously approved.**

#### **c. Back-charges and lien policies and procedures**

Ms. Greenwood commented on her discussions with Wright Pierce, specifically 571 Main Street. According to Wright Pierce, odd numbered properties on Main Street are not connected, on that side of the street. This was immediately determined by board members to be incorrect. Ms. Greenwood confirmed that it appears Wright Pierce has missed some properties. She noted that a summary of the process of Wright Pierce has not been provided.

Mr. Butler noted independent work he conducted with assessment maps and additional research within the Land Records he had undertaken years before. He provided Ms. Greenwood with a new assessor's list and a detailed billing list of all the existing water and sewer customers.

#### **d. Sewer system assessment**

Reference was made to discussions that occurred regarding back charges and lien policies and procedures.

#### **e. Sewer service area map**

Mr. Butler reported that the WPCA's representative has had a difficult time in ascertaining from the state's Office of Policy and Management confirmation on the sewer service area map. Mr. LeClaire

reported that DEP confirmed that the sewer service map would be looked at by DEP so long as there was no conflict.

**f. Analysis of sewer extension alternatives**

Mr. Butler reported that the subcommittee will be meeting next week.

**g. FOG program**

Mr. Hoffman indicated that pricing will be solicited in the next two weeks to clean out the pump stations again. He further indicated that Route 219 is going to necessitate someone go down in it, lower him twenty feet and then pressure wash the walls.

Ms. Greenwood reminded that the board has authority to address the FOG program. Mr. LeClaire confirmed that there was a list with food service properties and recalled that only thirteen were on it. Ms. Greenwood reported that from the list, it appeared the only fully compliant food service customer was Chatterly's. Ms. Greenwood was unsure whether the Wright Pierce representative had personally visited the companies. Mr. Krohner recollected that she had and provided them with information as to compliance directives. Mr. LeClaire explained that Farmington Valley Health District is the authority in charge of making sure that the food service entities are equipped with grease traps.

Mr. Butler clarified that the grease buildup is necessarily related to only commercial customers. Mr. Hoffman indicated that it is. Mr. Hoffman opined that a few action items needing to be undertaken are: establish who has the grease traps, establish regular inspections of the grease trap ensuring that they are operating properly, require regular pumping of grease traps, and the tracking of this process.

Mr. Butler requested that Mr. Hoffman submit in an email his opinion as to what steps and processes the WPCA should be undertaking to combat the grease problem. Mr. Hoffman requested that the consultation of Mr. LeClaire in this regard. Mr. LeClaire agreed.

Mr. Butler made inquiry as to whether the Farmington Valley Health District has the charge of conducting inspections in this regard. Mr. Hoffman indicated that they do not have that obligation.

**h. Continuity of sewer system operations**

No action taken.

**i. Orders to connect**

Mr. LeClaire confirmed that last fall, communications had been sent out informing the various recipients that they were possibly going to be receiving further letters ordering them to connect.

**6. Executive session to discuss collections on specific accounts**

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler, Mr. LeClaire second, that if the town attorney is unable to render an opinion within two weeks, the WPCA retain Murtha Cullina for the purposes of discerning the Connecticut statute limitation and put together an advisory letter for those people not paying that will protect the interests of the WPCA; unanimously approved.

**7. Other business**

**Mr. Joe Toro, 565 Main Street**, inquired as to why the people that the board has determined should be connected and are ready to connect, not being ordered to connect not being ordered to do so. Ms. Greenwood expressed her reluctance to order only some people to connect, knowing that the list is incomplete and not fair that other people should be included in the list and are not presently included on it. Mr. LeClaire added that another reason for delaying the order is waiting for the assessment on the condition of the line from Berkshire prior to adding any additional users.

**MOTION: Ms. Greenwood, Mr. LeClaire second, to adjourn at 8:32PM; unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Pam Colombie  
Commission Clerk**

DRAFT

