

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL MEETING - MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014 – 7:15PM  
NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL – 530 MAIN STREET**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Bill Michaud, E. Kenneth Krohner, Denton Butler, Rob Fulton, Steve Hanright, Mary Beth Greenwood, Michael LeClaire.

**ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Joe Toro, Maria Moore, Bob Moore, Kim Estep, Scott Estep, Troy LaMere.

Chairman Bill Michaud called the special meeting to order at 7:55PM. All regular members present were seated for the meeting. The proceedings were recorded digitally and copies are available at Town Hall.

**1. FY 2014-2015 Rate Discussion and Rate Setting**

**MOTION:** Mr. Denton Butler, Mr. Michael LeClaire 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve the budget as presented; unanimously approved.

Mr. Butler requested to bring forward some observations and comments on connection fees. The town of New Hartford has thirty eight outstanding abutters who have an unresolved disposition with regards to their connection to the sewer system. Mr. Butler understands that, based on discussions, there appeared to be some hardship basis previously and that x number should connect and did receive a connection notice. Mr. Butler would like to see the board re-review all thirty eight applications of the abutters to better understand the determination of those eliminated and for what reasons. Further, he would like to discuss a real incentive for those people to hook up within the 90 day connection periods starting with an as yet undetermined date. The motivation would be, subject to the approval of the board, that a real incentive be created to hook up to the system with some immediacy. Also, he thought they might develop an understanding that a yet to be determined charge of far greater magnitude would be applied to those that drag their heels. Mr. Butler thought it wise to seek some counsel in regard to the effectiveness of these connection charges relative to other people that have connection charges in their system. He observed that as one looks at some of the other nearby towns that have systems, none of them have a fee as low as New Hartford's, \$250.

Mr. Michaud reported that benefit assessment/connection charges would be discussed at the next meeting of the WPCA. He quoted from the State of Connecticut Department of Environment Protection's Methods of Capital Cost Recovery on Water Pollution Control Projects, "A connection charge, referenced in CSG 7-255, may be levied at the time of connection with the sewer and is generally in addition to the benefit assessment. Connection charges take basically two forms. The first, which exists while the debt for the sewer system is still active, generally covers the municipal cost of processing a permit to connect, including the inspection of the connection." He paused from reading at this point and interjected this is what WPCA'S connection fee currently covers. He then finished what he had been reading, "The second, which usually occurs after the capital debt for the sewer has been paid off, covers both the permit processing costs and a lump-sum payment in lieu of a benefit assessment. In the latter case, the funds collected in lieu of a benefit assessment are available for use for any capital costs within the existing or proposed municipal sewerage system." He concluded by saying that this is the basis for WPCA's current policy which is based on DEP

guidance. He pointed out that what has been discussed in the past is a benefit assessment. He stated that benefit assessment could be charged to all thirty eight abutters tomorrow. Mr. Michaud commented that if the WPCA were to start a benefit assessment, the benefit assessment would be equal for all properties based on equivalent dwelling units. Single family home here would pay the same as a single family over there. Also, because some users have been paying some of the capital, he would propose that their benefit assessment be reduced by the amount of the charge that they've paid to date.

Ms. Greenwood asked whether when an assessment is applied, would it be paid as a lump sum and then people pay so much per year towards that or would they pay certain amount every year forever.

Mr. Michaud responded that there are different ways it could be applied such as financed over 10 or 15 years. That is unless the property is sold at which time the remainder of the benefit assessment is due as a lump sum payment.

Mr. Butler clarified that these rates and charges are subject to review and change upon advance notice of the commission at any time. Mr. Michaud confirmed that to be true.

**MOTION:** Mr. Butler, Mr. Krohner 2<sup>nd</sup>, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Colombie  
Commission Clerk