

**New Hartford Water Pollution Control Authority
TOWN OF NEW HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 7:00 PM
New Hartford Town Hall
530 Main Street, New Hartford, CT
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman Bill Michaud, Ken Krohner, Denton Butler, Steve Hanright, Mary Beth Greenwood.

ABSENT: Robert Fulton, Michael LeClaire.

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: Troy LeMare, Joe Toro, Bob Moore, New Hartford Independent.

Chairman Bill Michaud 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. Additional discussion and action to resolve the public health & safety emergency created by a sewer line collapse at the intersection of Central/Bridge/Rt.44.

Mr. Butler addressed the commission with an update on current work underway to resolve the public health and safety emergency created by a sewer line collapse at the intersection of Route 44, Central Street, and Bridge Street. He reminded members that at the last meeting, they spoke of the need to take effluent from the collapsed line MH#19 -#18 over to MH# 20 with the understanding that they would look at MH#18-20 to get a perspective of the line's condition. Mr. Butler reported that Tuesday's work revealed that there was only one route to get there as a number of unmapped utilities showed up in the trench. For example, at thirty-two (32) inches down from the surface, there was a two inch water pipe. They reasoned that at thirty-two (32) inches, it was likely a dead line because it would have frozen during the winter months and they would have been aware of it one way or another. This line was cut and it was indeed dead. There was a second line found that was not mapped. The plan was to cut this as well but to also have a repair kit on the line as a precaution. However just prior to this action, a representative from Torrington Water Company showed up with a device that could reveal whether there was water flow. It turned out that this line did indeed have water flow. Therefore the sewer line will be underneath this by one-half inch because of two communication cables that are dead center that were also there and were also not identified by CALL BEFORE YOU DIG (CBYD). The company, AT&T, has been advised to be present tomorrow (Wednesday, July 30) or the work will commence under the wire and AT&T will be responsible for digging it up. Mr. Butler advised the commission that the WPCA will not be incurring any additional charges as a result of unmapped utilities.

Mr. Butler reported that a pipe is laid more than halfway across and that manhole is cored. MH #19 cannot be cored given the block structure that's there. MH #19 will have to be broken apart and the wall rebuilt. Mr. Butler continued that the previous Friday (July 25), Mr. Tim Traub of Hemlock Construction, the contractor performing the repair work, had reported to him that it was the worse sewer pipe condition he has encountered in his 35 years of doing this.

Mr. Butler said that after reviewing the video he can attest that essentially what was there was huge cracks and fissures the entire length of the pipe. He explained that Hemlock Construction cored the highway to get to the manhole, put a riser and put a new lid on it. He explained that he is sure the work changed the dynamic for vibration on that line by bringing that manhole to the surface. He said that when the crawler was run through with the camera on it last week and was idling once it reached the belly in the line, and heavy trucks were going over it, you'd see the flutter on the top of the water. This confirmed to him that vibration is down through.

Mr. Butler reported to the commission that while Mr. Traub initially thought the line was not in imminent collapse mode, he revised that opinion on Friday (July 25). Mr. Butler thought it was advisable to prepare a cost estimate to go through there and link back up to MH#18. He reported that initial thinking was that work would involve cutting through the corner of the outdoor dining area of Chatterley's. Today, an option was worked through wherein work would go further out, a sweep into a new manhole would be installed and the work would continue straight across to MH#18. In order to do that, they would pipe burst. Mr. Butler reminded the group that pipe bursting is the process of feeding a cable into the line, fracking the line, which then allows the pipe to be pulled in from behind. Mr. Butler reminded the group that a potential problem is if for some reason from MH#20 to the unknown manhole, an open trench would be necessary. The cost of open trench would be susceptible to the issue of when that happens and what the weather conditions are. If it happens in dead of winter in February, it's going to be considerable more. He

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reported that it is still slightly less expensive to do open trenching at about \$125,000 to get to where they need to go versus pipe bursting which is \$136,000.

Ms. Mary Beth Greenwood inquired as to whether this sum was in addition to the expenditure approved at last week's WPCA Emergency Meeting (July 23). Mr. Butler affirmed that it was.

Mr. Butler reported that he sent an email to George Hicks who put him in contact with an engineer on staff, Mr. Steve Rouleau. Mr. Rouleau provided some reference points to look at. The \$3.7 million dollar reserve priority list carries with it a designation that it is for remediation in an area of Cottage Street or Pine Meadow where the town's oldest septic systems are subject to failure. Therefore, Mr. Butler explained, if line additions were sought, the money could be used in those areas but under that set of circumstances, not to replace a normal trunk rooting or a failed collection system. Mr. Rouleau discussed a fund set aside in the amount of \$20 million which they have no applications as of the day Mr. Butler had talked with him, for remediation of collection lines. Mr. Butler explained that the fine print of the application is that in order for a town to qualify for that, trunk lines must be unable to be lined. It simply read available for remediation of trunk lines that can't be lined, according to Mr. Butler. This \$20M allocation is not grant money but is instead a very low interest, 2% loan. Mr. Butler reported that while he has downloaded the application and thought New Hartford would be qualified to apply, the other prerequisite of applying is preapproval of the legislative body of the town of New Hartford for the full amount.

Mr. Michaud summarized that from MH#18, the flushing has been done so it is confirmed that it can take some flow. Also, between MH#18 and MH#20, there's a belly in the line, a drop and plenty of joints and problems. Mr. Butler agreed that although it's only a matter of time before the commission is left without a choice, at the present time, without the funds and not yet a public health and safety issue, it does by default become a deferral.

Mr. Butler reported that he had a conversation with First Selectman Dan Jerram as to whether he could assign a crew to begin cleaning the right of way on the main trunks.

Ms. Greenwood asked about the manhole that is now exposed that may result in more vibration to the line as a result. She was curious as to whether this might be monitored somehow. Mr. Butler responded that it could not, at least from a practical standpoint. He is attempting to find the tapes that were done in 2010 so he could make a comparison of what has happened in the ensuing four years. While he has the summary report, he is seeking to find the CD so he can see how it has physically changed.

Ms. Greenwood asked whether everything from MH#18 on was okay. Mr. Butler replied that he is not saying it is clean. As he recalled from 2010, the crawler got as far as it could but the pipe steps down which resulted in it not going any further as it did not have the minimum clearance.

Mr. Butler expressed his gratitude for the local company, Hemlock Construction, and their prompt response to the emergency situation. He also acknowledged Berkshire Industrial, the camera company whose owner is a resident of New Hartford as well.

Ms. Greenwood asked whether the work described for \$125K could be performed in pieces. Mr. Butler said it could not. Mr. Butler reported that he had spoken to Ms. Lila Tuxbury, Assistant Bookkeeper about status of account balance. He would like to have more camera work done as a necessary first step in assessing whether the town's trunk system would qualify for the loan interest loan.

Mr. Krohner asked whether they should begin with along the Farmington River or the railroad tracks. Mr. Butler responded that he's inclined to think the railroad system due to the recent land clearing performed on Jones Mountain and the impact the change in watercourse has had. Discussion ensued as to whether Berkshire Industrial would own an off-road vehicle that could access the site it would need to. Mr. Steve Hanright shared some pictures of the box truck and the crawler. Commission members agreed that DEP as part of their approval process would likely want to see that the lines are not "lineable".

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Mr. Michaud pointed out that the condition of the system needs to be examined particularly if WPCA is looking to put more users on the line. The group agreed that while no one wants to spend money, the alternative is to keep dealing with problems as they come up and maybe not having access to the low interest loan later.

MOTION: Mr. Krohner, Ms. Greenwood second, to adjourn at 8:00PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Commission Clerk**