



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CALL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2021

Attendees:

Ken Boynton (arrived 7:42 p.m.), Kevin Kearney, Andrew Tedford and Ray Weaver. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Heathersyn Leduke, Financial Analyst; Mike Becker, Lori Carriero and Molly Tettermer, Tighe & Bond; and Tim Webb, Ellington WPCA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2020

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Kearney made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Virtual Conference Call Meeting as presented/amended. The motion passed (2-0-1) with Mr. Weaver abstaining.

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Becker reviewed the progress of work done during the past month. The work included items relative to the: influent pump station, regen building, aeration tank #5, filter building, UV channels, solids building, and the south substation. He updated the Authority regarding planned work for next month. With the inclusion of Draft Payment Application #18, Methuen will be 37.6% complete for the upgrade. There were no questions from the Authority.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION SURVEY; AND PROPOSAL AND DISCUSSION OF PEARL DRIVE/MAPLE AVENUE DESIGN SERVICES

Ms. Carriero recapped the Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES) that included an Infiltration and Inflow Study, fieldwork, and smoke testing results. She also provided a detailed report regarding the overall results of the survey, a summary of recommendations and a cost effective analysis. She reported that the cost to rehabilitate the sewers in the study would be approximately \$2,100,000. She answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place. Ms. Carriero presented a sewer feasibility study for Pearl Dive and Maple Avenue that included options for gravity sewer and low-pressure sewer systems. She answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place relative to gravity sewers, pump stations, low pressure sewers, grinder pumps and septic systems. It was the consensus of the Authority to have Mr. Grasis follow up on sewer regulations and conducting a survey of the residents regarding low pressure sewers. The Authority members

said that they want to look at the area on their own and further discuss this item at the next meeting. Mr. Tedford thanked Ms. Carriero for her work.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske reported that the plant is running well and spoke to November 2020 and December 2020 operations summaries. He noted that the average BOD removal for 2020 was 98.5%; septic gallons increased by approximately 50,000 gallons; and natural gas usage decreased due to less use of the regen unit. Mr. Grasis updated the Authority on current activities that included: COVID-19 procedures are the same; two plant foreman positions are open; Mike Baran and Steve Crowley both completed one year of perfect attendance and Nick Campolongo passed the Class III Wastewater exam. Mr. Grasis noted the unexpected passing of Operator II, Jim Pikul. Mr. Grasis provided an update of the north generator insurance claim and said that collection system personnel have been flushing critical areas.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke reported that an internal audit is being conducted. The audit includes gathering information from surrounding towns; researching water meters that have had no consumption in the past three years; and updating addresses. She also said that the office is getting data ready for the next billing cycle.

DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #8518

Mr. Grasis referenced email correspondence regarding this item. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Weaver, made a motion to refund \$902.13 and to end billing the well rate in the future for this account. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #9927

Ms. Leduke provided background information on this item and answered questions from the Authority. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Kearney made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves a credit in the amount of \$5.02 due to a conversion miscalculation from the previous billing software. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF QUOTE FROM HACH COMPANY FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE & SERVICES

Mr. Grasis provided background information on this item answered questions from the Authority. Mr. Weaver expressed concern relative to the timing of the implementation of the software, and reports once the facility upgrade is completed. Discussion took place. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Boynton made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorizes the Director of Water Pollution Control to proceed with the purchase of Water Information and Management Software and Services in the amount of \$37,178.00, payable to Hach Company, P.O. Box 608; Loveland, CO 80539. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF QUOTE FROM ALLMAX SOFTWARE, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE

Mr. Grasis provided background information on this item answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place. Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Kearney, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorizes the Director of Water Pollution Control to proceed with the purchase of data management software in the amount of \$14,265.00, payable to Allmax Software, Inc.; 911 South Main Street; Kenton, OH 43326. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

ELLINGTON FLOW ALLOCATION

Mr. Webb asked the Authority if any member recalled whether the Town of Vernon, or Town of Ellington, calculated a \$4.81 cost per gallon levied in 2003 or 2004, by the Town of Ellington. Discussion took place. Mr. Webb said he will continue to research the cost. Mr. Webb asked the Authority if it would consider billing off of the Ellington pump station meter reading in the future. He said he spoke to the Ellington WPCA last week regarding this option. Discussion took place. The Authority asked Mr. Webb to provide archival data relative to the pump station meter readings.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Boynton made a motion to have Andrew Tedford continue as Chairman. The motion passed (3-0-1) with Mr. Tedford abstaining. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Kearney made a motion to elect Ray Weaver to serve as Vice-Chairman. The motion passed (3-0-1) with Mr. Weaver abstaining.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

None.

ADJOURN

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Kearney made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost, Secretary
Water Pollution Control