



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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APPROVED

MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

July 22, 2021

7:30 p.m.

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
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Attendees:

Ken Boynton, Andrew Tedford and Ray Weaver. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Heatheryn Leduke, Financial Analyst; Steve Seigal, Tighe & Bond

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24, 2021

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Boynton, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the June 24, 2021 Virtual Conference Call Regular Meeting as presented. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Seigal updated the Authority on the progress of the upgrade. He reported that the project is 85 days behind the contract completion date and the delays are attributable to COVID; the contractor is looking at options to further compress the schedule. Mr. Seigal said that the budget for the project is on schedule and electrical, mechanical, process and site work are all progressing on schedule as well. Mr. Grasis and Mr. Seigal answered questions and discussion took place. It was the consensus of the Authority to include a change order summary in future agenda packets.

DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #1787

Discussion took place relative to the sale of the property and sewer use fees. Chairman Tedford, seconded by Mr. Boynton, made a motion that in light of a town tax sale taking the property of 98 East Main Street, Vernon Connecticut, the WPCA will close and absolve the fee associated with the account #1787 which is totaled at \$1,598.92 due to the tax sale and the inability of the WPCA to recover any of the sewer fees. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF EXITS 66 & 67 SEWER AREA

Mr. Grasis updated the Authority regarding discussions he had with Administration, and follow-up conversations with the Town Engineer and the Economic Development Coordinator. He presented plans relative to each exit and distributed maps to Authority members. Discussion took place. Mr. Grasis said that he will provide updated maps at the next meeting.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske reported that the water quality was good in June despite the rainfall and the UV system is running well. He referenced a Plant Operations Summary that was distributed to members and noted nitrogen, phosphorous, natural gas and septage figures. Mr. Weaver said it is a very good job, especially during construction. Regarding current activities, Mr. Grasis reported that he will be obtaining more quotes for electrical work on the Talcottville Pump station. He said the two Plant Foreman positions and one Operator II position remain open. Discussion took place. Regarding the collection system, Mr. Grasis said that the rainfall significantly affected the Talcottville pump station due to the surging of the Talcottville trunk line. He said that he will investigate the possibility of raising the sewer manholes in this area and will walk the easement. Discussion took place.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke reported that a back billing of accounts that were found in the audit is complete and the billing increased receivables by approximately \$36,000; work continues on the system integration with the online payment vendor; eight of the 12 properties slated for tax sale have paid their balances; and the full audit of the billing system continues.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SEWER USER CHARGES FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 AND THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

Ms. Leduke referenced a 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Revenue Projection that was distributed to members and answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place relative to irrigation system credits, past and proposed sewer user fees, the reserve fund and rate structure.

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF SEWER USE CHARGES, AND FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE

It was the consensus of the Authority to schedule a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on August 19th followed by a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. on August 19th, and to cancel the regular meeting on August 26th. Discussion took place regarding budgets, receivables, catastrophic events, and surrounding towns' user rates. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion to raise the sewer user rates by a straight 5% to \$6.04/1000 gallons and \$154.09 for wells. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

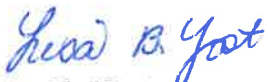
ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

None.

ADJOURN

Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control