



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

5 PARK STREET, 2ND FLOOR VERNON, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3699

Fax: (860) 870-3584

DRAFT

MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

May 27, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Ken Boynton, Gordon Gibson, Kevin Kearney, Andrew Tedford and Ray Weaver. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Heatheryn Leduke, Financial Analyst; Mike Becker, Tighe & Bond and Tim Webb, Ellington WPCA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 22, 2021 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 3, 2021

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Kearney, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the April 22, 2021 Virtual Conference Call Meeting as presented. Mr. Weaver asked to amend Page 2, Plant Summary, by adding "due to a construction error" in sentence three. The amended motion, made by Mr. Tedford, and seconded by Mr. Kearney passed (4-0-1) with Mr. Gibson abstaining.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kearney, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the May 3, 2021 Special Virtual Conference Call Meeting as presented. The motion passed (4-0-1) with Mr. Gibson abstaining.

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Becker updated the Authority regarding the progress of the facility upgrade and answered questions from the Authority. He reported that: work continues on Aeration Tanks 1,2,5 and 6; the secondary clarifiers, the filter building, the UV channels, the solids building, and the north substation. Planned work for next month includes work on the secondary sludge tanks/tunnel and work on the RAS Meter Vault #3, Mr. Becker said. He reported that as of May 15th the project schedule is 56% complete to final completion and approximately 86 days behind the contract deadline. A Four Week Look-Ahead & Milestone Report, CPM Schedule Narrative and Change Order Summary was distributed to Authority members.

DISCUSSION OF EXITS 66 & 67 SEWER AREA

Mr. Grasis updated the Authority relative to a Plan of Conservation and Development public participation workshop that took place in April. Mr. Grasis said that the development of sewers were met with favor for Exit 67 but there was some concern about the impact on the environment; sewer development off of Exit 66 was received with less favor.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
21 JUN - 2 AM 10:21

DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #2671

Ms. Leduke provided background information on this item. Discussion took place. It was the consensus of the Authority that this invoice is due and payable.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FROM ELM ELECTRIC FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER AT THE TALCOTTVILLE PUMP STATION

Mr. Grasis provided background on this item and answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place. It was the consensus of the Authority to have Mr. Grasis obtain two additional proposals for this work.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mr. Grasis provided background on this item. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Kearney made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves the allocation of Invoices #2690, #2698 and #2790 for Control Systems of Connecticut, Inc., from the Treatment Plant Operations Budget Account to the Connection Account in the amount of \$11,600.00 as recommended by the WPCD Director. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Grasis referenced an operation summary and specifically noted solids regen pounds, phosphorus levels, chlorine usage, and septage gallons. He answered question from the Authority. Mr. Grasis reported that current activities included: an agreement has been drafted for 992-994 Hartford Turnpike; two plant foreman positions are still open; the new lab analyst began work yesterday; Operator II interviews were conducted; OSHA training was conducted; FOG inspections have started and maintenance flushing has increased.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS

Ms. Leduke referenced a memo that was distributed to Authority members. She explained that the balances will not be written off, rather that the balance is uncollectable after utilizing various collection tools and effort. The account will continue to be billed. She answered questions from the Authority and discussion took place. Mr. Boynton suggested that research be conducted relative to the legality of continuing to provide sewer service. Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Weaver, made a motion that the WPCA suspends Account #6999 and #8916 for all of the presented bills from FY-12 to current, starting on July 15, 2011, and the WPCA suspends these two accounts as we continue to bill them. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke referenced a list of accounts slated for tax sale. The total amount due that would be going to tax sale is approximately \$74,722.34, she said, and the majority of the accounts do escrow, so it is anticipated that most will be paid prior to the tax sale date. She reported that as of May 21st about 79% of receivables were collected and a second set of delinquent notices will be sent out next month.

DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNTS #6313 AND #8921

Ms. Leduke provided background information on the accounts. Discussion took place. Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Gibson, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority waives a credit in the amount of \$8.00 for Account #6313 and waives a credit in the amount of \$1.16 for Account #8921 due to a billing error. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Mr. Grasis provided background on this item and referenced an invoice from VMS Construction for an emergency sewer repair they performed on East Main Street. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion to pay VMS Construction \$38,267.00 for the repair work on East Main Street. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

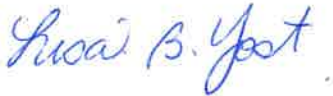
The Authority discussed ideas relative to one-time credits for sewer use and payment plans; contacting the Town's Ethics Commission; a consumption threshold; analysis on a case by case basis; the possible impact of credits on the rate structure and loss in revenue. Mr. Weaver said that any policy should be thoroughly researched and not be retroactive. It was the consensus of the Authority to have Mr. Grasis research a draft policy and to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Boynton asked Mr. Grasis to include Tim Webb on the June agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Gibson inquired as to the internal policy regarding the disposal of the agenda packets and documentation. Discussion took place.

ADJOURN

Mr. Gibson, by Mr. Boynton made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9: 11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control