



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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AMENDED

MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CALL MEETING April 22, 2021

Attendees:

Ken Boynton, 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, Tighe & Bond; Aaron Foster and Tim Webb, Ellington WPCA

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Schwend – 17 Grandview Terrace: Mr. Schwend said that his sewer bill is grossly over-inflated due to watering his lawn. The water did not go down the sewer and it is not right to charge a resident when it was not used for sewer and for a service that wasn't received. He wants his bill corrected because he usually pays \$70 for the same period and his current bill is \$1555. He asked how sewer bills are calculated and how is the rate determined. He said that the billing dates don't coincide with the Connecticut Water Company's and asked why does the rate fluctuate from period to period. He said that there is not enough information on the bill and it is very confusing. He does not have a problem paying Connecticut Water because he used that water and he doesn't think it should be up to the resident to read a deduct meter.

Charlotte Ward, Ellington, CT: Ms. Ward said that her sewer bill in the off season was \$300 and when her irrigation system and pool are used it is \$1700. She asked if this is legal to charge people for a service that they are not using; what is the cost to read a deduct meter – would it be a nominal fee; and has this been discussed before.

Tim Webb, Ellington WPCA: Mr. Webb said that he reached out to Connecticut Water and they responded that they have worked with other communities in the past relative to Ms. Ward's request. He also spoke to the Town of Enfield relative to the deduct meters and said that information regarding the deduct meters can be found on the website. The Town of Ellington is full steam ahead as to what would be the best practice moving forward. He thinks that as we work together we can come up with a good solution.

Norma Marchesani – 18 King Street: Ms. Marchesani said that she has yet to receive a sewer bill before the due date since the twice yearly billing began. She would rather get the bill 2-3 weeks prior to the actual due date because you don't know what your sewer bill will be. She asked if there is a possibility to get the bill earlier.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 25, 2021 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2021

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the March 25, 2021 Virtual Conference Call Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Boynton, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority

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accepts the minutes of the April 8, 2021 Special Virtual Conference Call Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Becker updated the Authority on the progress of the facility upgrade and reviewed a schedule for upcoming work. He answered questions from the Authority. He reported that there is an average of about 50 construction workers on-site daily. The upgrade included work on the secondary clarifier #4, the filter building, the UV channels, and the solids building. Some of the work planned for next month includes work on the aeration tanks, filter building, solids building, and UV channels; the demolition and replacement of secondary clarifier #3; and the installation of the new septage receiving area outside the preliminary treatment building. The contractual project schedule is 53% complete to final completion Mr. Becker said. The phosphorus removal milestone is scheduled to be completed on May 10th and the final completion milestone is tracking at approximately 90 days late from the contract dates he said. Mr. Weaver expressed concern that the phosphorus and UV system installations will not be rushed; things will be missed and it will impair the equipment and process for long term usage. Mr. Becker said that he does not have any worries or misgivings about the equipment being installed incorrectly. Mr. Grasis provided information on operator training. The Authority thanked Mr. Becker.

DISCUSSION OF EXITS 66 & 67 SEWER AREA

Mr. Grasis reported that discussions have taken place with property owners for the preferred areas for the location of pump stations. The property owners are amendable to having a pump station on their properties and would like more details he said. He referenced photographs of pump stations that was distributed to Authority members. Discussion took place relative to the exterior appearance of the stations. Mr. Grasis said that he will speak with the Town Attorney to draft an agreement before an engineering firm is secured for the formal design of the stations.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske said that the plant performance was spectacular last month. Also, suspended solids removal was 97.7% and nitrogen removal increased by 188 lbs/day compared to last year at this time. A suspended solids violation occurred on March 17th due to the startup of the new #4 clarifier and the violation, **due to a construction error** was reported to DEEP Mr. Boske said. He answered questions from the Authority. Regarding current activities, Mr. Grasis said that interviews for the lab analyst were conducted; the two plant foreman and operator positions remain open; the 818 Supervisors contract was ratified at the last Town Council Meeting; and Anocoil has sold its property and the company will no longer discharge to the sewer system.

DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #8862/#100085

Ms. Leduke provided background on this item. It was the consensus of the Authority to keep the new account number #100085. Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Boynton, made a motion that the WPCA for the account #8862 absolves the principle of \$34.81 and the interest of \$16.19 which is a total of \$51.00 flat, due to an account that is duplicate during the conversion of our billing system. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke reported that the Business Office is in the middle of the collection period for the April billing and as of today, 57% of receivables have been collected and posted. She said that the Business Office is preparing for the possibility of a tax sale in the future.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Mr. Grasis provided information to the Authority relative to a proposed sewer connection for 992-994 Hartford Turnpike. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Tedford, made a motion to allow the house lateral to be tied into the business lateral, with the understanding that the connection be outside of the right of way, and a caveat filed on the land records stating that both properties have shared responsibility for the lateral in case the property is subdivided. Discussion took place. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). Discussion took place relative to water consumption and conservation, deduct meters, irrigation systems, the rate structure, wells, other municipalities' policies for deduct meters, and liability when reading deduct meters.

ADJOURN

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Boynton made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control