



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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MINUTES
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
100 WINDSORVILLE ROAD

October 28, 2021

7:30 p.m.

APPROVED
RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
21 DEC -9 PM 2:48

Attendees:

Ken Boynton, Andrew Tedford (via telephone) and Ray Weaver. Also present: Robert Grasis, Director Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Heatheryn Leduke, Financial Analyst; Jeff Polhemus, Skips/Wastewater Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tedford asked Vice-Chairman Weaver to conduct the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Weaver at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2021

Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the September 23, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Boynton, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the October 18, 2021 Special Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF 30 TUNNEL ROAD WAIVER TO CONNECT TO THE SANITARY SEWER

A letter from North Central District Health Department was distributed to members. Mr. Grasis provided details on this item and discussion took place. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves a waiver to connect to the sanitary sewer, and allow the repair of the existing septic system for 30 Tunnel Road. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF 78 MAPLE AVENUE WAIVER TO CONNECT TO THE SANITARY SEWER

Mr. Grasis provided details on this item and answered questions from the Authority. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves a waiver to connect to the sanitary sewer, and allow the repair of the existing septic system for 78 Maple Avenue. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF 53 WILSON LANE WAIVER TO CONNECT TO THE SANITARY SEWER

Mr. Polhemus provided details on this item. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Tedford, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves a waiver to connect to the sanitary sewer, and to allow the repair of the existing septic system for 53 Wilson Lane. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF 315 SOUTH STREET WAIVER TO CONNECT TO THE SANITARY SEWER

No action was taken on this item.

DISCUSSION OF SEWER ACCOUNT #4707

Mr. Grasis provided background information on this item and answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place relative to connection fees, future sewer connections, and billing for the property. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Tedford, made a motion that because this property was six units and went to two units and is now going back to six units, the Water Pollution Control Authority would waive any connection fees because there is no physical connection being done. Mr. Weaver asked to amend the motion to include: "based on the fact that there is no physical work being done, and there are no new connections being done, it is reverting back to the original usage". Mr. Boynton withdrew the original motion and made a second motion to include the amendment. The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Tedford and passed unanimously (3-0-0).

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Grasis updated the Authority regarding the treatment facility upgrade that included work on the filter building, electrical work throughout the facility, roofing, and disc filter #3. Discussion took place. He referenced a letter from Methuen that outlines a claim for a 71-day extension due to the *Force Majeure* weather delay. The claim has been submitted and is under review by the Town Attorney. Methuen is not seeking additional compensation Mr. Grasis said. When delays due to COVID-19 are included in the 71-day extension, final completion is approximately 130 days behind the December 11, 2022 deadline. The report by Tighe & Bond is in progress regarding the underground storage tank removal.

DISCUSSION OF EXITS 66 & 67 SEWER AREA

Mr. Grasis requested that the Authority conduct an Executive Session at the next meeting to discuss this item.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRICING FOR REPLACEMENT OF ODOR CONTROL TANK FOR THE TALCOTTVILLE PUMP STATION

Mr. Grasis reviewed three quotes for the replacement tank and answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Boynton made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority gives Mr. Grasis the authority to purchase the tank at a maximum cost of \$14,098.75 and to allow Mr. Grasis the flexibility of ordering from either of the two low [quoted] companies. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF DESIGN PROPOSAL FROM TIGHE & BOND FOR THE TALCOTTVILLE/BROOKVIEW PUMP STATIONS

Mr. Grasis provided an update on this item and answered questions. Discussion took place and the Authority provided recommendations to Mr. Grasis.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske reported that September flows were up compared to last year at this time. He reviewed a summary of plant operations and answered questions from the Authority. Current activities as reported by Mr. Grasis included that both plant foreman positions are still open; deduct meters are still on the Ellington WPCA agenda; DEEP has all of the updated information for the expired NPDES permit; phosphorus season ends November 1st; the annual crane inspection was performed; the fire alarm system was inspected and will eventually be upgraded; computer upgrades at the plant and annex are almost complete; the odor tower was acid washed; maintenance flushing continues and root treatment will be done next week; trees will be removed at the Phoenix pump station; and six sewer manhole frames and covers will be replaced. Also, FEMA determined that \$45,000 will be issued for expenses incurred during tropical storm Isaias for the north generator. Mr. Grasis reported

that a second request to the insurance company has been made for reimbursement of expenses for emergency generators that had to be rented during the storm. Lisa Yost achieved seven years of perfect attendance.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF REFUND FOR ACCOUNT #3093

Ms. Leduke provided background information on this item. Discussion took place. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority issue a refund in the amount of \$114.68 to the estate of the former owner of 20 Knollwood Drive. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke reported that the collection rate for the October billing is approximately 75%. A lockbox service was used this billing period and has processed about 57% of payments received. The lockbox service has worked out well she said and it will be utilized going forward. Ms. Leduke reported that she is still working on electronic payments and that option should be up and running by the April billing period. She said delinquent notices will be sent out within the next couple of weeks. Discussion took place relative to fees and electronic payments.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Mr. Grasis spoke to Information Items.

ADJOURN

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Boynton made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control