

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

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APPROVED

MINUTES
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
100 WINDSORVILLE ROAD

October 27, 2022

7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Carmen Melaragno, Ray Weaver and Andrew Tedford. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Heatheryn Leduke, Financial Analyst; Mike Becker, Tighe & Bond; and Ken Radziwon, Ellington WPCA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tedford at 7:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 25, 2022
AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2022

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the August 25, 2022 Public Hearing as presented. The motion passed (2-0-1) with Mr. Melaragno abstaining.

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the August 25, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed (2-0-1) with Mr. Melaragno abstaining.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the October 13, 2022 Special Meeting as presented. The motion passed (2-0-1) with Mr. Melaragno abstaining.

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Becker updated the Authority regarding the progress of the upgrade and answered questions. Work during the past month included fine screen startup in the preliminary treatment building; demolition of the #1 screw pump; primary clarifier work; and the delivery of 17 out of 20 trailer loads of IFAS media. Mr. Becker reported that work continues on the blower, filter, primary sludge, secondary sludge, and solids buildings. He reviewed a schedule of upcoming work that will include the demolition and removal of the carbon silo. Discussion took place. Mr. Becker said that as of October 26th the project schedule is 75% complete and the substantial completion date is September 19, 2023. The final completion date of December 18, 2023 is 374 days behind the original date of December 11, 2022.

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REFUNDS FOR ACCOUNT #2014 AND #3537

Ms. Leduke provided background information relative to the refunds. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion to authorize a refund to Account #2014 of \$96.74. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Tedford to authorize a refund to Account #3537 in the amount of \$2,677.46. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

DISCUSSION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Grasis reviewed a project update summary that was distributed to the Authority. He updated the Authority regarding Exits 66 and 67 sewer extension, sewer rehabilitation contracts, and improvements to the Brookview and Talcottville pump stations.

DISCUSSION OF ENERGY STORAGE FACILITY AT TREATMENT FACILITY

Mr. Grasis provided details on this item and answered questions from the Authority. Discussion took place. Mr. Grasis asked the Authority to review the information for future discussion.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske presented an overview of processes for September and answered questions. He specifically noted BOD removal and suspended solids removal. Regarding the monthly summary, he said that a line will be added for seasonal phosphorous and the line for solids regen pounds will be replaced by TWAS solids trucked. Mr. Weaver complimented Mr. Boske on keeping the plant processes running during construction. Regarding current activities Mr. Grasis reported that Ellington is implementing its own meter deduct program; the Talcottville pump station flow meter work is progressing; the development permit for 129 Talcottville Road was sent to the property owner; there has been no reply from DEEP regarding the NOV response; HVAC controls are being installed; OIT Luis Simoes passed his Class 1 Certification exam and Plant Foreman Joe Julian passed his six-month probation; backflow preventers had their annual inspection; the FOG Coordinator job is posted; grit screenings can no longer be sent to Manchester; the hot water heater in the Process Control Building was replaced; 20,000 feet of sewer pipes were treated for roots this week; 10 manholes on Grove Street will need to be reset; OIT employees are being trained for Collection System duties; and the six month inspection of pump station generators was completed. The Talcottville Pump Station pump #4 motor has been repaired and returned; and the station's force main air release valves are slated to be replaced next week.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Ms. Leduke reviewed a summary of the October 2022 billing. She reported that CWC sent the wrong data for about ¼ of the April 2022 invoices. The credit adjustments were applied and were reflected in the October 2022 invoices. She reported that online payments were about 19% for the April 2022 billing and is at 27% for the October 2022 billing. She reviewed a chart indicating the decrease in foot traffic at the tax office and said that the online bill pay option is well liked. Ms. Leduke reported that the Town's energy contract is expiring at the end of November and the Town has elected to wait to see what the pricing will be. She said that energy pricing will revert back to market rates as of December 1st and she will provide an update to the Authority. Ms. Leduke reviewed a Capital Projects summary and cost estimates for FY 2023 to FY 2029-2033+. Because the WPCA does not have any guaranteed funding for these projects, she said that the Authority will have to determine what capital projects are important. Mr. Weaver said that CTWEA is working with DEEP to have collections systems and infrastructure rehabilitation be included for grants/funding from the state. Discussion took place relative to the reserve fund. Mr. Grasis updated the Authority regarding invoices returned from the post office and landlord requirements relative to billing addresses. Discussion took place. Ms. Leduke updated the Authority relative to the state's Government Finance Officers Association conference that she attended last week.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Mr. Grasis provided background information regarding a waiver to connect to the sanitary sewer at 624 Talcottville Road. Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Melaragno made a motion to waive the sewer line connection requirement allowing the owner of 624 Talcottville Road to repair their septic system as needed. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

A draft copy of the Tolland Intermunicipal Agreement was distributed to Authority members. Mr. Grasis reviewed proposed changes and discussion took place. Mr. Melaragno, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Tolland and the Town of Vernon as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

It was the consensus of the Authority to wait until the septage receiving station is complete before giving Skip's/Wastewater Services access to septage disposal. Discussion took place.

It was the consensus of the Authority to have a letter sent to Gordon Gibson thanking him for serving on the Authority.

Mr. Grasis spoke to Information Item #1.

ADJOURN

Mr. Grasis, Mr. Weaver and Mr. Tedford welcomed Mr. Melaragno to the Authority. Mr. Melaragno, seconded by Mr. Weaver made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control