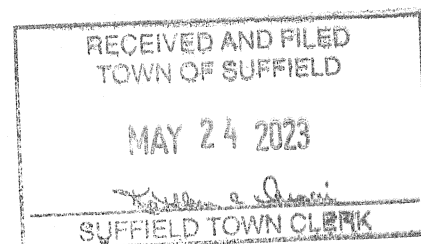


Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the
Suffield Water Pollution Control Authority & Treatment Facility
May 9, 2023



MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Janet Davis, Chairman
Frank Bauchiero
Jeff Davis
Dan Holmes
Roger Ives
John Murphy (7:22pm)

MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Chris Rago

ALSO PRESENT:

Jamie Kreller, Superintendent
Julie Nigro, Business Administrator
Mike Headd, Woodard & Curran
Andrew Lord, WPCA Attorney

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Janet Davis called the Regular Monthly Meeting for May 9, 2023 to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **CITIZEN INPUT:** None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - April 11, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes Review & Approval.
Jeff Davis requested a change to the meeting minutes (page 1, under CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE) change "March 31, 20204" to "March 31, 2024".
 - Frank Bauchiero motioned to approve the Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2023.
 - Roger Ives seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
4. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**
 - Jamie Kreller requested the addition of "9e 1300 East Street South" to New Business.
 - Jeff Davis motioned to add "9e 1300 East Street South" to New Business.
 - Frank Bauchiero seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
5. **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:** None
6. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**
 - Administration (O&M) Bills 2022/2023: \$181,930.58
 - RCM Bills 2022/2023: \$61,897.19
 - Administration fund distribution: \$72,351.86 (April's payroll)
 - Jeff Davis motioned to accept the Treasurer's report
 - Frank Bauchiero seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
7. **STAFF REPORTS:**
 - a. **Superintendent's Report-(attached)**
 - Jamie Kreller reported we've been having trouble with denitrification at the Plant. He and Alex have been working to determine the problem, and they will continue to work with Woodard & Curran Engineers Mike Headd & Paul Dombrowski, as well as our attorney Andrew Lord, who specializes in Environmental Law. They will be inquiring with some of the industrial users in Town as to their usage of quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC). It's used as a disinfectant, among other uses.

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- Maintenance – 1.3 miles of gravity sewer pipe were cleaned last month.
 - Wet well cleaning was completed and only ps#3 remains for this year.
 - UV Maintenance was completed by Operators, and overseen by Chief Operator Alex Kaminski. This is the 2nd year in a row we've done this in-house, saving approximately \$20k per year.
 - Jamie Kreller stated semi-annual calibration of the flow meters was completed, and the flow meters (from 2001) are beginning to not function properly. We've received a quote of \$4,000 to replace them.
 - Operators installed new clarifier launder brushes on all 3 secondary tanks. Performing the work in-house saved us about \$4,500.
 - Jamie Kreller thanked Jeff Davis for his Excel table that can be used to track sludge disposal. Janet Davis requested to add a column for the dry tons as stated on the MDC bill, as well as maintaining the WPCA dry tons for comparison. Jamie Kreller stated he's keeping track of both, and we tend to run 1.2% higher than the MDC number. This will allow us to see how close we are to approaching our maximum allowable disposal volume measured in dry tons that is brought to MDC for incineration. Jamie Kreller added, April is 20 lbs less in dry ton than March. He went on to say that WIMS (Workflow and Interface Management System) advises how much to waste daily in order to maintain SRT (solids retention time.) We didn't waste one day each week. We came close to blowing out (overflow into the river) one day during the rain storm. When it's dry, we can keep more sludge in the tanks, but when it's raining, it doesn't settle right and could blow out. We blow out at 12' and we were at 9' during the storm. We will continue working with Woodard & Curran to come up with solutions.
 - Our new Operator, Kevin Bertrand passed his CDL exam and received his license. He's also begun a wastewater class at Gateway Community College. He's only been employed for two months, and is doing very well.
 - Jamie Kreller reported we will replace the clarifier drives the first week of June. New England Pump & Valve will perform the work, taking about 10 days for each clarifier (3 total clarifiers). Each clarifier will go offline while the work is being done, leaving two clarifiers online during the repair work.
- b. Business Administrator's Report-**
- Julie Nigro reported on the March, 2023 financials (attached)
 - Delinquent accounts were discussed, and Julie Nigro reported lien notices will be mailed on Friday, May 12, 2023.
 - Annual collection rates were discussed as summarized in the monthly attachment.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Stony Brook Study** – Mike Headd reported the design report has been submitted to DEEP.
- b. **Morton Building Progress** - Jamie Kreller reported we're waiting for Morton to give us a quote on the extra work for the foundation. Janet Davis asked if we get our money back if this turns out to be too expensive. Jamie Kreller stated we were told that if we ran into any problems, we would be refunded.
- c. **Proposed Bill No. 94** – Jamie Kreller reported CTWEA are still working with legislatures on this bill. The bill is directed at "disadvantaged communities".
- d. **STIF Account** – Andrew Lord stated there's no downside to putting our money into the STIF account and he will be following up again with Attorney Derek Donnelly regarding the suggestion to add a WPCA member (WPCA Treasurer or the WPCA Business Administrator) as the designee for signature control over the account, as allowed by the Town Charter.

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- e. **Quotes for SCADA upgrade** - Jamie Kreller explained he's received two quotes for the SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) upgrade (NIC and Woodard & Curran). We currently use NIC and there's a \$235 difference between the quotes. Jamie indicated he and Alex have been very happy with NIC's service (used since 2016) and would like to continue with them.
 - Jeff Davis motioned to approve the contract with NIC for \$47,435 to upgrade the SCADA system.
 - John Murphy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Draft Budget 2023/2024 Review & Discussion** – Julie Nigro went over the changes from last month's discussion. The changes reflected a decrease in the Administrative O&M budget from a proposed \$4,329,960 to a proposed \$3,983,000. Additionally, the RCM (Capital Projects) proposed budget was decreased from a proposed \$4,090,000 to a proposed \$3,737,000. The sewer residential and commercial rates are the same as proposed last month. Julie reported that we should end up with a fund balance by year end 23/24 of \$2.3m. Jamie Kreller stated that he would like to revisit the "Pump Station 1 Pump" project (\$180k) in the middle of the year, and if we've spent less on other projects, he'd like to complete this project in 23/24 since the pumps are over 30 years old and we've been having issues with wipes and inflow and infiltration.
- g. **Hill Top Farm Planning Application** – Tabled. The planning application was not complete.
- h. **140 South Main Street Planning Application** –
 - Jamie Kreller stated the application is for 16 units.
 - Frank Bauchiero motioned to approve the planning application for 140 South Main Street and award capacity for 16 units.
 - John Murphy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Woodard & Curran Work Order No. 31.035 (Solids Evaluation)** –
 - Janet Davis explained that Woodard & Curran would be looking at the influent and effluent over the last several years, and will look at the septic hauler dumping as well.
 - Jeff Davis motioned to approve work order 31.035 (Solids Evaluation) for \$34,500.
 - John Murphy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
- b. **Contractors Dumping at WPCA – Cost & Impact: treatment, contamination, solid disposal**–
 - Janet suggested looking at the hauler's impact on the Plant with regard to fees charged and the impact on the Plant with respect to cost to treat, contamination, solid disposal etc.
 - Frank reviewed hauler fees he gathered and compared it to the information provided by Jamie Kreller and stated we're comparable to surrounding towns. He went on to say his only concern would be how do we know what is being dumped? Jamie Kreller stated there are several towns on the list that don't accept septic for that reason. Frank also asked how much of this septage could be impacting our deliveries to MDC. Jamie stated we average 45,000 gallons of septage per month, during the season (April – November). Julie Nigro stated our revenue for the year is about \$54,000. Mike Headd added that the WPCA has been receiving septage for a long time and have not had an issue with what's been delivered, nor has the Plant process been impacted by receiving the septage. Jamie Kreller added that the work order would determine whether we're being impacted enough toward our MDC limit and is it worth the \$54k revenue. Jamie stated the total daily flow is about 1.3m and we receive about 6k to 8k gallons of hauler septage per day. Jeff Davis stated, in addition to not knowing what's being dumped, he's concerned with the solids as well – particularly if a tank hasn't been pumped in a while. Frank inquired how many administrative hours are involved in septic

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hauling? Jamie indicated there's about 15-20 hours per month spent double-checking the septic tickets, checking the camera, billing, etc.

- This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

c. **469 Hickory Street Capacity Letter**

- Dan Holmes motioned to approve the capacity letter for 469 Hickory Street.
- John Murphy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

d. **Remington Street – Odor**

- Janet Davis stated Jamie Kreller responded to Lauren Perleoni's email regarding what has been done over the last 10 years to combat the odor problem in the area.
- Lauren Perleoni of 302 Remington Street spoke and verified that this has been going on for 10 years, and that many of the residents in the area weren't aware their neighbors were dealing with the same issue, as they thought it was within their own homes. She stated the suggestion of putting water down the traps is not the issue. She stated she had a septic company come to her home to confirm her house is properly connected to the public sewer. She went on to say that 11 of the 30 homes (that she knows of) in the area have this smell within their drains. Jeff Davis asked if they've checked their vents. She stated they've just replaced their vent. She went on to say that each household experiencing this issue has tried something different to stop the odor. She indicated that people are frustrated and have given up on complaining about it. Janet Davis asked when the last formal complaint was made, and Jamie Kreller confirmed it was in 2019. Mike Headd (WPCA Engineer) asked if they noticed the smell only when they're using water. Lauren indicated it's always there, but it's more pungent when the water is on. She stated the odor is not present in the shower and that she's on well water, but other homes with the issue are on public water.
- Raymond Perleoni of 274 Remington Street spoke and stated that about 10 years ago, the west winds were blowing over the manholes and they, and other neighbors were getting the smell in their yards. He stated WPCA personnel came out and put a 50lb bag of disinfectant into the manhole. Jeff Davis responded that is a common solution. Mr. Perleoni stated no one came out to replace it when it dissolved, and the smell persisted. He added, the smell then began in their sink drains. He went on to say that he believes the numbers are much greater, but people aren't complaining. Mike Headd asked if he noticed the smell more at different times of the day. Mr. Perleoni stated it seems to be more in the morning. He notices it in his sinks but not the toilet or the shower. Attorney Andrew Lord explained the reason the Engineer is asking is because the pumps station runs at different times of the day, depending on the flow. Therefore, if it sits in there too long, it can go anoxic and creates the odors.
- Lauren Perleoni added there are two issues – an in-home smell and a yard smell. Lauren stated she has the smell all the time, and not just in the morning. Jeff Davis added, that we're asking these questions because we're trying to help. He stated he's an Engineer, as well as Dan Holmes, and we have our WPCA Engineer Mike Headd. Additionally, Frank Bauchiero has been a contractor for years, and he and Frank both work at MDC (Metropolitan District) in Hartford, where they deal with this every day. The questions asked aren't to be critical, it's to gather information and come up with a solution if we can. Lauren stated she received the email from the WPCA listing all the things that were tried. She'd like to know if something different will be done to resolve this. Jamie Kreller stated an OdaLog was installed in the manhole for 5 weeks to determine the amount of H₂S (Hydrogen sulfide). He went on to say the next step is to introduce a nitrate at the pump station, which would not let H₂S form in the sewer line. Mike Headd confirmed with the Perleoni's that the smell was a rotten egg smell, which would be H₂S. He went on to say that the data gathered shows the level of H₂S fluctuating throughout the day, and logging higher levels in the morning and later in the

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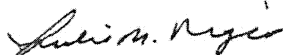
afternoon. Jamie Kreller stated he's working with a vendor now to determine the best chemical to use, based on the measured levels of H₂S. Attorney Andrew Lord asked if they have water treatment on their water supply. Mike Headd added that when treating the manhole with chemical, if you're still getting the smell, it could be high sulfur levels in your well water. In addition, he requested the residents keep very good records of when they notice an odor, noting the following: the time, was it raining, cloudy, sunny, and what was the temperature. Jamie Kreller will use Lauren Perleoni as the main contact, with copies to Janet Davis, Mike Headd, and Andrew Lord.

- Lauren Perleoni added her concern regarding the proposed additional 24 homes to be built on Remington Street, and whether this will impact the odor problem. Dan Holmes suggested it has the potential to actually help the situation if the flow were to travel to the pump station. Jamie Kreller added that the additional flow could scour the pipeline for those homes after the manhole. Jamie went on to say that we will continue to monitor with the OdaLog, after the chemical is added, to determine the status of H₂S. It's important to get the residents feedback as well, while making adjustments to the level of the chemical.
- Marla Adelsberger of 327 Remington stated she has smelled it outside, but not inside her home. She asked if there would be re-testing. Jamie Kreller stated we would continue to monitor H₂S levels, and adjust chemicals as necessary. Mike Headd stated the end goal would be to fully correct the issue and not just make it tolerable. Her concern was if the chemical being added is hazardous. Mike Headd stated it's very benign, and basically adding a form of Oxygen that the bacteria in the sewage like to eat (preferable over the form causing the smell).
- e. **1300 East Street South** – Jamie Kreller stated that Deming Electric owns this property which is very close to the Windsor Locks town line. In order to connect to public sewer, they're about 50' from a manhole in Windsor Locks versus 450' from the closest connection in Suffield. Brian Denno (Deming Electric's surveyor), noted that if the pipe were to be installed at minimum slope from the suffield sewer connection point, there pipe would not have enough ground cover over the pipe by the time it connected to the proposed addition. Jamie Kreller stated that Windsor Locks will take the flow if Suffield is agreeable to them connecting in Windsor Locks. Attorney Lord stated he could assist Jamie Kreller in drafting a response to express our agreement with the proposal as presented to us at the meeting, and described in the letter from the Director of Public Works, Philip J. Sissick, of the Town of Windsor Locks.
 - John Murphy motioned to allow Jamie Kreller and Andrew Lord to draft a response to the applicant and the Town of Windsor Locks, in favor of the proposal as presented
 - Frank Bauchiero seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

- Frank Bauchiero motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2023 at 8:42 pm
- Jeff Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Julie M. Nigro
Business Administrator