



# Water Pollution Control Authority

## REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 MINUTES

**Members Present:** Dan Parisi, Shawn Koehler, Paul Gilbert, Tom Walker

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Tom Modzelewski (WPCA Admin), Phil Kidney (WPCA Crew Chief), Marshall Gaston (Fuss & O'Neill), Kevin Flood (Fuss & O'Neill)

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman, Dan Parisi called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

### **2. Citizen's Forum (non-agenda items)**

None

### **3. Approval of July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOVED (GILBERT), SECONDED (KOEHLER), (PARISI ABSTAINED) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2025, REGULAR MEETING.**

### **4. Old Business**

#### **1. Development of parcel 046-003-0002**

No Update.

#### **2. 7 Hilltop Extension Easement**

No Update.

#### **3. 79 Windermere Ave. & 14 Village St. Parcels**

No Update.

#### **4. Proposed Changes to the Vernon/Ellington Municipal Agreement**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that he had received the fully executed updated agreement. He reiterated that the only change is how Ellington will be billed by Vernon. The billing will now be based off of metered flow through the pump station, rather than water meter readings.

#### **5. 53 Wappingwood Rd. Sewer Expansion**

No updates.

#### **6. 70 South Rd.**

No Updates.

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## **5. New Business**

### **1. August Sewer Refunds**

#### **i. Santini**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE A REFUND FOR THE EXCESS PAYMENT OF SEWER TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30.22 FOR ERIC SANTINI, 9 ELLRIDGE PLACE.**

#### **ii. Big Y Foods**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE A REFUND FOR THE EXCESS PAYMENT OF SEWER TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,903.39 FOR BIG Y FOODS INC., 135 WEST RD.**

### **2. 12 Highland Ave. Credit Request**

Tom M. (WPCA Administrator) presented an email from Connecticut Water to the Tax & Revenue Collector's Office concerning 12 Highland Avenue. The property experienced a leaking toilet, which resulted in excessive water usage. Connecticut Water offered the resident a credit equivalent to 94,500 gallons of water and asked the WPCA, on the property owner's behalf, to consider issuing a corresponding credit on the next sewer bill.

After discussion, the WPCA determined that no sewer credit would be granted. When a toilet leaks or runs, the excess water still flows into the sanitary sewer system and must be treated. As a result, the Town of Ellington incurs the cost of processing this additional water.

### **3. 63 North Park Flow Approval**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that he has approved flow for a 3-bedroom home on this lot. The owner is seeking a variance through Planning to allow this lot to be listed as an approved building lot. To do so the property needed to be allocated for flow. The 3-bedroom allocation is consistent with other properties in this location.

### **4. 5 Elm St.**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that this property is allocated for 3 bedrooms and is in the process of P&Z approval.

## **6. Administrative**

### **1. Fuss & O'Neill project updates**

#### **i. Vernon Pump Station**

##### **a) Pay Requisition 21 & 22**

Kevin (F&O) reviewed the work that was completed in requisition 21. Tom M. (WPCA Admin) noted that this billing is mostly for the paving, in which we are expecting reimbursement for the Town of Vernon for approximately \$57,000.00.

Requisition 22 is a retainage billing.

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT FOR THE VERNON PUMP STATION UPGRADE TO THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR APPLICATION #21, INVOICE 23105-17 FOR WORK COMPLETED THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,856.26.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT FOR THE VERNON PUMP STATION UPGRADE TO THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR APPLICATION #22, INVOICE 23105-18 FOR WORK COMPLETED THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,263.79.**

**b) Schedule**

Kevin (F&O) and Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) updated the Board that the project is essentially complete. The Associated Construction Company is due back this week to finish up a small amount topsoil to complete the outdoor site restoration.

**c) Change Orders**

Kevin (F&O) stated that there will be one more credit change order prepared with the final pay requisition and project close out. There is approximately \$19,000 left in allowances.

Discussion was held on pipe bonding and grounding. F&O's electrical engineers agreed that how the station is currently meets code. Tom M. (WPCA Admin) also had an additional electrical engineer review the response of the electrical contractor on the project and also determined that the additional specified bonding is not needed. Tom M. also stated the Electrical engineers felt Ellington is due a credit due to specified work not being completed. Kevin stated that F&O's opinion of cost for the credit is around \$2,200.00 and that the contractor will likely only offer half of that amount. The Board has requested Kevin prepare a request for the credit.

It was brought to the Town's attention, via a letter from The Associated Construction Company's insurance company, that their COI for was soon to be cancelled due to non-payment. When Associated was asked to provide a renewed certificate, they inquired if one was needed as the project as the project is near completion. Tom M., Kevin and all Board Members agree that a current COI is needed as the project is not 100% bill and they are still due on site for topsoiling.

**ii. Task 4D I&I Phase 4**

No update at this time. This task will be completed once sufficient I&I work is identified in Task 5 to make the contractor's remobilization financially practical.

**iii. Task 4E I&I Phase 5**

This task remains on hold.

**iv. Task 15 Windermere Ave. Sewer Extension**

Marshall (F&O) presented preliminary drawings for this sewer extension. Tom M. has asked that the location of the current sewage pipes on the homes be measured to ensure accuracy in the design plans.

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) inquired how the Board would like to address the assessments that will be in place for the properties that will benefit from this extension. Tom M. will have a document prepared for October's meeting for the Board's review. Once all details are settled a public hearing will be set.

**v. Task 18 Crystal Lake Force Main Sampling**

Marshall (F&O) reviewed the sample report. He recommends resampling in the low flow season. It was mentioned that there are only about 24 seasonal users sampling in the winter months may not produce different results. Marshall would still like to complete another sample so that there are comparative results.

Paul (Member) inquired about dosing the station with bioxide, and if doing so will help with the situation while investigation of the matter is ongoing. Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) and Marshall mentioned that the pump station is not set up for dosing. Marshall/ Tom M. will be reaching out to Xylem to see if a mobile dosing unit is an option. Shawn (Member) has asked that they ask about any possible environmental problems with a portable unit as the pump station is close to the lake.

**a) Amendment 1**

Marshall (F&O) disclosed that the reason for amendment 1 is due to an overage in costs to complete task.

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE AMENDMENT 1 FOR TASK 18 CRYSTAL LAKE FORCEMAIN SAMPLING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,419.00.**

**vi. Task 16 Data Transcription**

Marshall (F&O) updated that data transcription has been completed and that he just needs to review that it has been transcribed correctly.

**7. Fuss & O'Neill Billing**

The billing for July was reviewed:

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0274729 FOR WORK FROM, JUNE 28, 2025, THROUGH JULY 25, 2025, FOR TASK 3C FOR A TOTAL OF \$15,191.39.**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNAN TO APPROVE INVOICE 0274730 FOR WORK FROM, JUNE 28, 2025, THROUGH JULY 25, 2025, FOR TASK 4E FOR A TOTAL OF \$122.00.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0274731 FOR WORK FROM, JUNE 28, 2025, THROUGH JULY 25, 2025, FOR TASK 15 FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,788.75.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOULY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0274732 FOR WORK FROM, JUNE 28, 2025, THROUGH JULY 25, 2025, FOR TASK 16 FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,515.00.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0274733 FOR WORK FROM, JUNE 28, 2025, THROUGH JULY 25, 2025, FOR TASK 17 FOR A TOTAL OF \$885.25.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0274734 FOR WORK FROM, JUNE 28, 2025, THROUGH JULY 25, 2025, FOR TASK 18 FOR A TOTAL OF \$5,520.75.**

The billing for August was reviewed:

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0275340 FOR WORK FROM, JULY 26, 2025, THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2025, FOR TASK 3C FOR A TOTAL OF \$3,329.25.**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0275341 FOR WORK FROM, JULY 26, 2025, THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2025, FOR TASK 15 FOR A TOTAL OF \$4,184.00.**

**MOVED (GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0275342 FOR WORK FROM, JULY 26, 2025, THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2025, FOR TASK 16 FOR A TOTAL OF \$730.00.**

**MOVE (GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 0275343 FOR WORK FROM, JULY 26, 2025, THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2025, FOR TASK 17 FOR A TOTAL OF \$92.25.**

## **8. Other Administrative Topics**

### **1. Budget**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) presented the end of month collections.

### **2. User Insurance Updates**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin.) provided an update that he has been dealing with a new Representative of HomeServe and has received the corrected mailers. The data department has asked the WPCA to provide service addresses on top of the mailing addresses already provided. Once this task is completed, the mailers will be able to be distributed.

### **3. Generator Quotes/Valve Pit Repairs**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) updated that the Town Electrician had completed the transfer switches at the Meadowbrook and Route 140 Pump Station and that by utilizing the Town Electrician the projects came in well under budget.

He also noted that the Ketchbrook generator is fully commissioned and operating as expected. The fence that contains the pump station and generator is now a bit too small due to the new generator being larger in size. He would like to take this into consideration when replacing other generators and additional fencing will potentially be required as part of the project.

Tom M. also provided a reminder that this year's budget included a new generator for the High School pump station and that he will be starting the process of acquiring it soon.

### **4. Asset Management Proposal**

No updates, Tom M. (WPCA Admin) has a call with another potential vendor scheduled.

## **9. Design, Construction & Maintenance Reports**

### **i. Pump Station Updates**

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) stated that the Vernon Pump Station was experiencing high H<sub>2</sub>S levels. Upon investigation it was discovered that County Pure had run out of Bioxide. There were a few days when he and other staff could not enter the station due to the unsafe limits, and complaints of the smell were coming in from neighboring properties.

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) sent correspondence to Country Pure stating the imperative need to address the issue, outlining the hazards. Country Pure discovered that due to a staff change the invoices from the Bioxide company were being sent to a previous employee's email. This has sense been rectified and they are once again dosing with bioxide.

**ii. Overtime Report**

Phil updated that there were 3 hours of overtime for Sam Hubbard, WPCA Maintainer I, in August for a call to Route 140 Pump Station.

None.

**10. Misc. Communications**

Paul (Member) asked if we will be looking at the area of sewer that runs along the Hockanum trail for I&I. Tom M. (WPCA Admin) disclosed that Task 4E encompasses that area, but it has been on hold due to the low water table.

**Adjournment**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AT 8:09 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:



Carolyn Kidney, Administrative Assistant II, DPW