



# Water Pollution Control Authority

## PPUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 17, 2026

MINUTES

### Public Hearing

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Tom M. (WPCA Admin), Carolyn Kidney (WPCA Recording Secretary), Phil Kidney (WPCA Crew Chief) Marshall Gaston (Fuss & O'Neill), David Stavens (Selectman), Sheila Herring (ASL Interpreter), Richard Mannarino (Mannarino Builders), Eric Peterson (Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC), 20 Town Residents

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Dan Parisi called the Public Hearing for the proposed grinder pump policy and 2026-2027 sewer user fees to order at 6:01 PM by reading the attached legal notice and recommended rules.

#### 2. Public Comment

**Shannon Mallett, 1 Boulder Ridge Dr.-** Expressed concern that sewer system costs should be treated as a shared municipal service and not disproportionately charged to specific neighborhoods. Stated that residents already bear costs associated with maintaining grinder pumps and questioned the fairness of additional targeted fees.

**Shannon Kent, 41 White Rd.-** Questioned whether sewer-related costs are being distributed equitably, noting that businesses within the district also benefit from the system and should share responsibility for associated expenses.

**Bill Keohane, 2 East Shore Rd.-** Commented on significant property tax increases for lakefront homeowners and asked whether the Town could provide relief. He later stated that larger homes do not necessarily result in greater sewer usage and opposed assumptions that larger properties create higher costs.

**Stu Lanz, 8 Moser Dr.-** Requested consideration of a deduct meter program for properties connected to both public water and sewer systems so that outdoor water use would not be included in sewer billing calculations.

**Seth Wilson, 4 East Shore Rd.-** Expressed concern about rising costs associated with homeownership, including taxes and proposed grinder pump requirements. He questioned the proposed grinder pump agreement, citing concerns about liability, maintenance responsibilities, and changes from the original sewer arrangements.

**Jim Kent, 41 White Rd.-** Asked for clarification regarding sewer district boundaries and questioned why certain recently constructed homes were not connected to the sewer system.

**Michael Wilkie, 7 Highland Oak Dr.-** Requested clarification regarding sewer user fees and whether rates had increased.

**Zach Antil, 214 Mountain Rd.-** Sought clarification regarding the proposed fee structure and whether his sewer charges would increase. After discussion, it was clarified that his rates would decrease slightly from the prior year.

**Susan and Jim Pederson, 129 West Shore Rd.-** Requested clarification regarding sewer charges and how they relate to private well water usage.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (P. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**Cathy Pinard, 12 East Shore Rd.-** Questioned the rationale for requiring grinder pump ownership and responsibility when homes are substantially reconstructed. Later suggested that homeowners who cause damage during construction should be billed directly rather than imposing broader policy changes.

**Bob Brennan, 6 Elm St.-** Requested clarification of the proposed sewer rates and billing structure and sought confirmation of the annual increase.

**Patty Perkins, 80 Ellington Ave.-** Asked for clarification regarding annual sewer fees, metered water charges, and later asked whether grinder pumps throughout Town are inspected.

**Linda DeYoung, 30 East Shore Rd.-** Requested clarification on the effective date of the proposed grinder pump policy and whether existing homeowners would assume new responsibilities. She sought confirmation that only future substantial reconstructions would be affected.

**Tammy Brennan, 6 Elm St.-** Expressed concern regarding maintenance responsibilities for grinder pumps and how those responsibilities apply to properties constructed after the original sewer agreements.

**Walt Moody, 32 East Shore Rd.-** Requested information regarding the historical performance, replacement cycle, and lifespan of grinder pumps and related infrastructure.

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PROPOSED GRINDER PUMP POLICY AND 2026-27 SEWER USER FEE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:48 PM.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**ELLINGTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**  
**PROPOSED GRINDER PUMP POLICY AND**  
**PROPOSED SEWER USER CHARGE**

**NOTICE** is hereby given, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 7:255, that the Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a Public Hearing on **June 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Public Works Office, located at 21 Main Street, Ellington, Connecticut**, for the purpose of hearing comments by property owners concerning the proposed grinder pump policy and the sewer user charges to be assessed upon owners permitted to connect to the sewer system.

At the hearing, the owner of each property against which charges are to be levied shall have the opportunity to be heard. All charges shall be in accordance with the Sewer Use Charge System.

**Hockanum Sewer System**

Hockanum annual fixed fees (all users)	\$254
Hockanum annual variable fees (well users)	\$402
Hockanum prices per 1000 gallons of water (CT Water users)	\$8.0166

**Crystal Lake Sewer System**

Crystal Lake annual fixed fees (all users)	\$274
Crystal Lake variable fees (full-year users)	\$812
Crystal Lake variable fees (seasonal users)	\$543

Said charges will be effective October 1, 2026.

Tom Modzelewski, Administrator  
Water Pollution Control Authority

### **Suggested Rules for Public Participation**

- The public hearing will be limited to 30 minutes unless voted to extend by the Ellington Board of WPCA.
- This is an opportunity for public comment. This is not intended to be a question-and-answer session.
- Address the issue, do not address specific people.
- Refrain from personal attacks.
- Approach microphone state name and address.
- We will allow all room participants to speak first and then allow TEAMS participants to speak.
- Comments will be limited to 3 mins per person.
- If you wish to speak again, you will be recognized after all others have had their first opportunity.
- Be respectful of other speakers.

Thank you for coming out tonight and participating.

## Regular Meeting

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Tom M. (WPCA Admin), Carolyn Kidney (WPCA Recording Secretary), Phil Kidney (WPCA Crew Chief) Marshall Gaston (Fuss & O’Neill), David Stavens (Selectman), Richard Mannarino (Mannarino Builders), Eric Peterson (Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC)

### **1. Call To Order**

### **2. Citizen’s Forum (Non-Agenda Items)**

No citizens spoke.

### **3. Approval of the May 20, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (D. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2026, REGULAR MEETING.**

### **4. Old Business**

#### **1. 180 West Rd. – Dollar General**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) reported that required sewer inspections had been completed and the benefit assessment has been paid. The inverts are still being built and another inspection will be completed at that point.

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

Tom M (WPCA Admin) reported that easement maps were completed and forwarded to legal counsel for preparation of the final sewer easement documents. The property owner reviewed the proposed easement and requested clarification regarding restoration of any driveway or property disturbed during future maintenance activities. The Board reviewed the draft language and agreed that the existing restoration provisions were adequate. He will continue coordinating with the property owner to finalize the easement.

#### **3. 79 Windermere Ave.**

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) stated that this property is all tied in and inspections have been completed. It was also mentioned that the benefit assessment was paid in full. This item will be removed from the agenda.

#### **4. 53 Wapping Wood Rd. Sewer Expansion**

The subdivision sewer plans were reviewed. Tom M. (WPCA Admin) mentioned that the proposed developer’s agreement limiting discharge to 5,000 gallons per day has been drafted but he has not received the final reviewed draft yet. Discussion included grinder pump specifications, force main design, air release valve locations, and the need to secure easements for portions of the existing sewer main located on private property, including an easement at 51 Wapping Wood Rd.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (P. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PLANS SUBMITTED FOR WAPPINGWOOD ESTATES PREPARED BY GARDNER & PETERSEN ASSOCIATES, LLC DATED 5/14/2026, CONTINGENT ON FINAL APPROVAL BY FUSS & O'NEILL AND RECEIPT OF EASEMENT FROM 51 WAPPINGWOOD RD.**

**5. 5 Elm St.**

No update.

**6. 267 Sandy Beach Rd**

No update

**5. New Business**

**1. Approval of the Proposed grinder Pump Policy**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) reviewed the history of the Crystal Lake grinder pump system and explained that the proposed policy would apply only to properties undergoing substantial reconstruction exceeding 50% of the structure. Existing property owners would remain grandfathered under current arrangements. Discussion focused on maintenance responsibilities, access issues created by redevelopment activities, liability concerns, and the ability of property owners to assume ownership of grinder pump systems when rebuilding.

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED GRINDER PUMP POLICY AS WRITTEN EFFECTIVE AS OF JUNE 17, 2026.**

**2. 2026-27 Hockanum User Fees**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (D. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR HOCKANUM SEWER USER FEES, STARTING ON THE OCTOBER 1ST 2026 BILLING AS: ANNUAL FIXED FEES (ALL USERS) \$254.00, ANNUAL VARIABLE FEES (WELL USERS) \$402.00, PRICE PER 1,000 GALLONS (CT WATER USERS) \$8.0166.**

**3. 2026-27 Crystal Lake Sewer user Fees**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SET THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR CRYSTAL LAKE SEWER USER FEES, STARTING ON THE OCTOBER 1ST 2026 BILLING AS: ANNUAL FIXED FEES (ALL USERS) \$274.00, ANNUAL VARIABLE FEES (FULL YEAR USERS) \$812.00, ANNUAL VARIABLE FEES (SEASONAL USERS) \$543.00.**

**4. Refund 12 Lake St.**

It was reported that an overpayment had been made on the sewer account for 12 Lake Street and recommended a refund of the excess payment.

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE A REFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$173.82 FOR AN EXCESS PAYMENT ON 12 LAKE ST.**

## **5. Fuss & O'Neill contract Extension**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) recommended exercising the first of two available one-year contract extensions with Fuss & O'Neill. The recommendation was made to satisfy the contract's required notice period and maintain continuity of engineering services.

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (D. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH FUSS & O'NEIL, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 9, 2026, THROUGH AUGUST 8, 2027.**

## **6. Administrative**

### **1. Fuss & O'Neill Project Updates**

#### **a) Task 4E I&I Phase 5**

Marshall (Fuss & O'Neill) provided a summary of ongoing inflow and infiltration investigations. Dye testing and flow monitoring indicated that most portions of the collection system are performing well with only minor isolated areas of infiltration identified. Additional CCTV inspections and manhole evaluations are planned to further investigate several localized areas and develop future repair projects. A full report of this study was sent to Tom M. (WPCA Admin) and will be available for the Boards review in the July Meeting.

#### **b) Task 15A**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that bids had been received through the Town's Bonfire procurement system and that Barber Utilities submitted the lowest qualified bid. Discussion followed regarding benefit assessments, anticipated homeowner connection costs, potential subsidy levels, and scheduling of a public hearing to establish assessments for affected properties.

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (P. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM BARBER UTILITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$397,776.00 FOR THE WINDERMERE AVE. SEWER EXPANSION PROJECT.**

**MOVED (D. GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 15, 2026, AT 6:00PM REGARDING THE BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE WINDERMERE SEWER EXPANSION PROJECT.**

#### **c) Task 16A**

Marshall (Fuss & O'Neill) provided an update to say that this task has been fully reviewed and completed. The final draft was sent to Tom M. (WPCA Admin) this afternoon. Tom M. mentioned that the data had been added to the existing spreadsheet now with an added column to determine district.

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

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 283489 FOR WORK FROM APRIL 25, 2026, THROUGH MAY 22, 2026, FOR TASK 4E IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,261.75**

**MOVE (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 283484 FOR WORK FROM APRIL 25, 2026, THROUGH MAY 22, 2026, 2026, FOR TASK 15A IN THE AMOUNT OF \$419.25**

**MOVED (P. GILBERT) SECONDED (KOEHLER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 283487 FOR WORK FROM, APRIL 25, 2026, THROUGH MAY 22, 2026, FOR TASK 16A IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,419.00**

**MOVED (KOEHLER) SECONDED (WALKER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE INVOICE 283493 FOR WORK FROM, APRIL 25, 2026, THROUGH MAY 22, 2026, FOR TASK 17 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,770.50.**

## **Other Administrative Topics**

### **1. Budget**

The end-of-the-month sewer collection report was presented. Collection is approximately 95.3%.

#### **a) Rate Study / Capital Reserve and Rate Stabilization Policy**

This is on hold as Tom M. (WPCA Admin) continues to work with the consultant.

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

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) reported that there are 32 new plans in place.

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

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that the new generator for the High School Pump Station is expected to be delivered in September, and it should be fully commissioned in October.

He also updated that the lead time on the materials for the valve pit repairs at the Crystal Lake Pump Station is quite long. He anticipates the project to take place in November.

These are both capital projects that were expected to take place in fiscal year 2025-26, therefore the unused funds have been reallocated through the budget for fiscal year 2026-27

### **4. Data Transcription**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting under Fuss & O'Neill Project Updated task 16A.

### **5. New Developments and Requests**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that there have been quite a few requests for additional bedrooms and accessory units in the past month. He is recommending a moratorium of approximately 18 months for allowing these additions. This is due to him having the complete data transcription for both districts and will allow him time to decipher how much flow we still have available. The Board would like to table this item for now.

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

### **1. Pump Station Updates**

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) provided an update that he continues to monitor the H<sub>2</sub>S at the Vernon Pump Station. The readings have been good.

### **2. Overtime Report**

3 hours for a grinder pump call was reported.

### **3. Other**

Phil (WPCA Crew Chief) provided an update on the status of his quarterly goals. 50 manhole inspections were completed. Some minor repairs were made, and larger need repairs have been documented. They still have some sewer flushing to complete, but he expects it to be done in the next week.

#### **10. Misc. Communications**

Tom M. (WPCA Admin) provided an update that the application for the CDS grant for the Longview Clay Main repairs has moved forward another step toward approval. He has a new application to submit.

Shawn (Member) asked for an update on the new truck. Tom M. stated he is hoping to receive it next week.

#### **Adjournment**

**MOVED (KOEHLER), SECONDED (P. GILBERT) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AT 8:25 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Kidney".

**Carolyn Kidney**

**WPCA Recording Secretary**