

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017, AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

John Perrotti, Chairman; Steve Carroll, Vice Chairman; Matthew Bowman, Tom Scannell and James Sima Absent: Ken Cianci
Staff: Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

Chairman Perrotti read the emergency evacuation notice.

1. Executive Session: Discussion of the WPCA's consideration of Action to enforce or implement legal relief or a legal right.

MOTION by Mr. Carroll; seconded by Mr. Scannell.

MOVED that the WPCA enter Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. to include Town Engineer Walter Gancarz and Town Attorney Joseph Schwartz, to discuss the WPCA's consideration of action to enforce or implement legal relief or a legal right.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Sima; seconded by Mr. Carroll.

MOVED that the WPCA exit Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION by Mr. Scannell; seconded by Mr. Carroll.

MOVED that services described under Articles 2.4.5, 2.4.15, 2.5 and 2.6 of the third amendment to the Agreement between the Town of Cheshire and AECOM Technical Services Inc., that a Negotiating Committee be created consisting of John Perrotti, Walter Gancarz and George Noewatne, to negotiate the services listed in this articles with AECOM.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attorney Schwartz left the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Rate memo to Michael A. Milone

The memo from Walter Gancarz to Town Manager Milone was read for the record.

Mr. Gancarz stated the memo summarizes the recommended modification in the commercial rate for next year. No action is required by the Authority until the rate is set. Mr. Gancarz explained that in the last six (6) months of last year the flows were so low at the plant, reflecting base flows with no I&I. Staff looked at the good records from the prison on what they discharge at their facility; there are good water records from commercial users on their charges; and the number of residences and how much flow is attributed to them. Mr. Gancarz reported an average residence discharges 217gpd; the past assumption number was higher at 266 gpd; and the difference with assumption of the higher number than actually occurs, it drives down the commercial rate artificially low. The estimated discharge comes from a number of years ago. With flow saving devices, the amount of water discharged from an average household has dropped. This is how we got to this point...and the commercial rate was never adjusted to reflect this. The recommendation is to readjust the commercial rates. It will affect commercial and the prison complex, but will not affect the 5,000 residences connected to the system.

The Town Council actions are supportive of this recommendation. Mr. Gancarz advised this will be discussed later in the year when setting of rates is discussed.

Mr. Perrotti informed the Authority that the City of Meriden has posted increased sewer rates. He read an excerpt from a newspaper article into the record, which cited a four(4) person residence water bill increasing by \$10.08 for quarterly billing cycles...an annual increase of \$43.00. Cheshire resident rates are lower. This is all attributed to phosphorous reductions.

When the Authority discussed setting the rate, Mr. Sima noted the number was \$399 versus \$400 based on information at that time. It came down to \$400 covering the operational costs of the plant. With new data, the residents of Cheshire are overpaying with \$400. He said WPCA should look at reducing the residential rates, instead of just raising the commercial and prison rates.

Chairman Perrotti said this is an issue which the Authority will be discussion.

Mr. Bowman stated that commercial rates are different; the uses are not showers, sinks, toilets etc., so their differences will be much greater and could be increasing.

3. PRE-APPLICATIONS

a. Sewer Main Extension Village Drive, Far Horizon Drive

Mr. Gancarz advised this is for a sewer connection due to failing septic system and the homeowner has contacted the Town about the connection. The question is whether the

Authority wants to go through the entire application process, or just do a single connection. The manhole is a few hundred feet away from the house; this an area to be served by sewers; and is shown as an in-fill property. The house can be connected. Rather than just connect running a lateral, there could be extension of the sewer right-of-way about 100 feet and terminate it in the manhole, and it would be kept at the same grade. There are other properties that could possibly fail in the near future and could have sewer access. This is in the best interests of the Authority, and Mr. Gancarz said every household would have to connect to this in the future. Presently, there is one (1) house connecting now. The Authority can go through the whole pre-application, water capacity and final design. It is straight forward; it can be reviewed as a connection; and the house no longer has septic problems.

Mr. Sima thanked Mr. Gancarz for the maps he requested last month. It looks like this site is the same sewer main talked about at the end of the year. The service would be put into Wallingford Road. He wants to make sure, with Charles and Sir Walter Drives on the end of it, and asked if we are close to capacity. There seems to be more houses on a small pipe. Mr. Sima asked for the capacity.

The Authority was informed by Mr. Gancarz that this part of the infill area was part of that sewer, and it was designed for this area in the future.

Mr. Bowman noted that Copper Beach was added to this line.

According to Mr. Sima there should be some information so this sewer line is not over-loaded.

At the present time, Mr. Sima said there is a 24 inches going into Mansion and a 24 inches going into West Johnson. If there is nothing written on the map, the assumption is an 8 inch. For a lateral there is no issue with the recommendation, but with a main extension and another manhole, Mr. Sima said it should go farther.

Mr. Gancarz does not want a septic system failing. With just a lateral in, 150 feet to the manhole, and future service, someone cannot tie into the lateral. Next month he will provide the Authority with information about capacity on this line.

4. PROJECTS

- a. AECOM invoice #37899072 dated April 12, 2017 in the amount of \$29,562.49 for the WPCP.

MOTION by Mr. Scannell; seconded by Mr. Carroll

MOVED that the WPCA approve payment of AECOM invoice #36899072 in the amount of \$29,562.49, dated April 12, 2017.

Discussion

Mr. Gancarz has reviewed this invoice and approves it for payment. Most of the costs are for record drawings.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- b. AECOM invoice #37899264 dated April 12, 2017 in the amount of \$28,185.66 for WJ Pump Station

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Scannell;

MOVED that the WPCA table this item per the bid documents.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- c. Cost to Complete

Mr. Gancarz submitted a handout on this agenda item. He reported most items are completed or near completion, with a minimal amount of time. The items left are the O&M Manual and final record drawings to be done by the middle of May. There is a need to close on the project by the end of June, and make the first payment in July. The estimate is \$29,391 to finish, and surplus will be \$31,857.

- d. Contingency Status

Mr. Gancarz said Carlin has been aid in full; only AECOM has encumbered money. The partial fixed fees are what is charged, and total \$262,035.10; the contract fixed fee is \$265,000; remaining to be billed is \$2,964.90; estimated cost to complete is \$29,391; total AECOM remaining invoices total \$32,355.90; paid to date \$2,995,028.61; total is \$3,027,671; available account is \$35, 286.49; \$37,470 which will be used for legal fees for closings on the final loan agreement document; previous legal fees for first closing were \$43,140.09, and \$24,487.18 for closing to secure the phosphorous grant.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Status of Plant Operations

Supt. Dievert was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Gancarz read Supt. Dievert's report.

Last four days of March average plant flow of 3.4 mgpd; maximum daily flows 10.1 mgpd; April was a very wet month; 4/7 – 6.45 mgpd; 4/3 10.2 mgpd; monthly average is 4.0 mgpd. The plant handled high flows with no issues; highest flows in two years; and plant will be seeing some higher flows as influent pumps are bigger and can handle more. The average phosphorous for April is .12 milligrams per liter; ultra violet disinfection starts up this week in preparation for May 1st; all other plant process are operating well.

6. TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

a. Cook Hill Pump Station

Mr. Gancarz reported there is a price for installation of electrical with the funds remaining. With that, WPCA will know how much is left to be requested for the capital budget to finish the pump station.

b. West Johnson Pump Station
Will wait to be discussed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. West Johnson Pump Station construction Administration Contract
No discussion

b. Letter re: West Johnson Pump Station from AECOM, dated 4/10/17

c. Other new business of the WPCA.

The Authority was informed by Mr. Gancarz of a recent issue. Finance Director Jaskot is in the process of renewing insurance policies. There has always been flood insurance for a few buildings at the plant, at a premium of \$5,000 to \$6,000 annually for \$260,000 worth of coverage. Because it is mapped in a flood zone the plant is excluded from general liability, which has a \$5 million policy. Mr. Gancarz said an effort should be made to get the plan removed from the flood zone. The reason it is in the flood zone is due to the plant flooding in 1982. As a result of that, the dike was built in 1989-90; it is two (2) feet higher than the 100 year flood; there is also an internal drainage system with storm water pumps that pump out water collected inside the dike into the Quinnipiac River. An analysis of the Quinnipiac River was done in the mid-1980's, and when done the dike was not there. Therefore, the flood maps show the plant as being part of a flood zone. Mr. Gancarz has been researching, contacting some people, and found plans. The Soil Conservation Service was the one that designed and got the contract for the dike to be built. Now, we have to go through a process called levy accreditation. A process starts with FEMA, with submission of lots of documentation, which will take a while (6 – 9 months). We have design plans, design specifications, approval letter from DEEP, the dike is at correct elevations, the pumping system was just upgraded. Mr. Gancarz said there are some memos on it, and he is working off them. There are steps to be followed and he sees the data needed.

Mr. Carroll clarified that the plant is under-insured, but there is a reasonable argument to be removed from the flood zone.

Stating he is comfortable with \$5 million insurance on the plant, Mr. Gancarz said we will be dealing with FEMA, possibly Army Corps of Engineers will be involved before this is over.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Solar proposals for WPCA

Mr. Perrotti stated there are two proposals from a prior meeting.

There are two different proposals from Solar City and Tessler, and Mr. Gancarz said they would generate some electric and savings, about 2%. They will not do much to reduce electricity. One of the companies could be selected, and negotiations started. ZEREC numbers (emission credit numbers) come out once a year, and the opening period should open any day for six (6) weeks. This is a subsidy and to make the solar work we must apply for ZEREC. In order to do it, the WPCA should have started working with one of the firms so they can apply for ZEREC.

Mr. Carroll talked about his recollection of savings over 20 to 30 years not being tremendous. It is relatively insignificant. He thought energy credits were expiring soon.

The Authority was informed by Mr. Gancarz the energy credits expire this year or next year.

If those energy credits disappear, Mr. Carroll asked about the impact on the financials.

Mr. Gancarz said if they went away, there is probably no savings.

Chairman Perrotti is not sure how much funding will be needed for these programs going forward, and this is a concern. He said the Authority could table this matter, but questioned if there is a disadvantage to doing that.

Mr. Gancarz said a special meeting could be held, with the Authority acting on an application for ZEREC credits by the end of May or early June. And, WPCA must be working with a company very soon. He has mixed feelings about the solar proposals. He likes the idea of clean energy, saving some money, but not tying up part of the plant.

Mr. Bowman asked who is responsible if there was a levy breach and solar equipment damaged.

Mr. Gancarz said the equipment is leased, so whoever owns and installs the equipment owns it and must carry insurance.

b. Other business of the WPCA

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- REGULAR MEETING MARCH 22, 2017

MOTION by Mr. Carroll ; seconded by Mr. Scannell.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2017 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Mr. Sima.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk