

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL  
AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017,  
AT 7:30 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 85 SOUTH MAIN STREET,  
CHESHIRE CT 06410.**

Present

John Perrotti, Chairman; Steve Carroll, Vice Chairman, Matthew Bowman, Ken Cianci, Tom Scannell, James Sima.

Chairman Perrotti called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the emergency evacuation notice.

**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.

**1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

**2. APPLICATIONS**

**3. PROJECTS**

**a. Possible September AECOM Invoice for WWTP Renovation  
(included in packet, if applicable)**

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

MOVED that the WPCA approve AECOM invoice #37966451, dated September 13, 2017, in the amount of \$1,937.99.

Discussion

Chairman Perrotti reviewed this invoice with Town Engineer Gancarz, who recommended for approval of payment.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**b. Possible September AECOM invoice for WWTP pump station  
(included in packet, if applicable)**

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

MOVED that the WPCA approve AECOM invoice #37954097, dated September 20, 2017, in the amount of \$4,930.93.

Discussion

Chairman Perrotti reviewed this invoice with Town Engineer Gancarz, who recommended for approval of payment.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**a. Status of Plant Operations**

In the absence of Supt. Dievert, Mr. Perrotti visited the plant. He stated the plan is running very well and there are no odors.

**5. TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT**

No report.

**a. Cook Hill Pump Station**

**b. West Johnson Pump Station**

Chairman Perrotti reported on a project initiation meeting with Delray Contractors. The process is starting; internal prep work is being done (organization, permits, drawings, getting materials etc.); and this is part of the invoice approved by the WPCA.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Other new business of the WPCA**

**b. Sewer Usage Fee for the upcoming year.**

**i. CT Municipality Comparative Sewer Charges Worksheet**

There was a memo from Town Engineer Gancarz to the Authority members which was sent in April. Mr. Carroll read an excerpt from this memo into the record, which cited breaking down fees for non-residential/commercial use fees. In the memo, Mr. Gancarz noted inequality between residential and non-residential rates. Therefore, there is a suggestion to calculate non-residential rates to be on par with residential rates, which would result in a new revenue increase.

Chairman Perrotti cited the facts on the flows to the plant. Commercial accounts are 23% of plant flow; CCI (prison) is 26.6% of the flow; residential is 50.4% of the flow. Commercial entities make up 19.4% of the revenue vs. 23% of the flow; CCI (prison) makes up 24.4% of the revenue vs. 26.6% of the flow; residential makes up 59.2% of the revenue vs. 50.4% of the flow. These facts show that residents have the higher percentage of actual usage, and the WPCA is looking at a strategy for parity.

With regard to setting the rates for sewer usage, Mr. Perrotti said he welcomes a dialogue to look at setting the 2018 rates, having a public hearing noticed, talking about the rates, and then WPCA decides and votes on what the rate will be for next year. The process must go through the appropriate channels before implementation of the rates. He noted there must be a rate set by the WPCA before holding the public hearing.

Mr. Carroll stated there is usually public notice that comes out on the residential rates, i.e. no higher than \$400, and equivalent non-residential rates. He said the WPCA could state it is considering commercial rates being on par with residential rates. Any language must be passed by the Town Attorney for legality.

In the materials provided by the Town Engineer to the Authority members, Mr. Carroll noted that Cheshire has the lowest rate for residential and commercial usage in the area of surrounding towns. Even with an increase in non-residential rates, Cheshire still has a lower status. The concept of parity between residential and non-residential rates seems right. In looking at the top 50 users, in terms of billing for sewer use, he said there will be no serious impact with a rate increase. It was noted by Mr. Carroll that the WPCA is discussing this issue because the Town Council has built this revenue into the operating budget.

The question of how much money will be generated by the non-residential rate increase was raised by Mr. Sima.

Mr. Carroll said it is about \$317,000 from commercial and prison usage.

When the lawsuit was moving forward a few years ago, Mr. Sima said there was a difficult time with some of the numbers regarding the amount of flow coming out of the prison. At one time it was stated that the prison only accounted for 19% of the flow, then 20%, and then the meters were fixed and the flow was closer to 25%. Mr. Sima stated the WPCA must be sure of the percentages cited.

Chairman Perrotti asked for feedback from Authority members. One item for consideration is billing. It is done on an annual basis, and the question is whether it should be a semi-annual billing process. This is a decision to be made by the Authority. Mr. Perrotti noted that the numbers for the non-residential rate were based on the residential rate of \$400 per year.

Mr. Carroll commented on the estimates for residential use, which have been higher than actual usage. The average home has not used 9,790gpd, but more in the range of 7,925 gpd. These numbers are estimates and must be accurate.

It was stated by Mr. Sima that there must be parity with rates and usage numbers, and keeping the residential rate at \$400 per household.

With regard to the memo from Town Engineer Gancarz, it was stated by Mr. Carroll that all members need a copy of this memo and the list of top 50 users in town. This is information for the October meeting and questions and answers.

There was a brief discussion on the dates for WPCA to meet, discuss and set the rates, give notice of the public hearing, followed by WPCA decision and vote on the rates.

Following this discussion, the Authority members decided to set the rates at the October 25, 2017 meeting, and schedule a public hearing at the November 2017 meeting.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. CCI Court Case Update**

Chairman Perrotti reported that the Judge requested a three-month extension. The Town could have said "no", which would have started the process over again, with additional legal costs.

### **b. Other business of the WPCA**

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **a. Regular Meeting held August 23, 2017**

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

MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of August 23, 2017, subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

VOTE           The motion passed unanimously by those present.

ATTEST:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk