MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410

Present
John Perrotti, Chairman; Steve Carroll, Vice Chairman; Abdul Abdelghani, Jason Beach(via conference call), Tom Scannell, James Urbano, Zack Wellburn
Absent: Aboud Abdelghani
Staff: Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer

Chairman Perrotti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the emergency notice.

ROLL CALL
The Clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Perrotti moved agenda item #2a to current status on the agenda.

2. APPLICATIONS

a. Cheshire Craft Brewing, 125 Commerce Court, Unit #7
Ryan McEvoy, P. E. Milone and MacBroom, represented the applicant, and Scott DeMeo (applicant) was also present at the meeting.

The subject application is for final design and award of capacity for extension of public sanitary sewers at 125 Commerce Court, Unit #7, an existing commercial building. The unit #7 size is 2,440 S.F. and occupancy will be for a brewery and tasting room. This application is similar to the WPCA approved feasibility application for a brewing operation on off days when there is no customer service.

Estimates for flow associated with the cleaning of tanks and external seating areas have been submitted. The largest flow day will be 710gpd based on average estimates per customer. The facility will have no food service and food trucks will be outside on the premises.

The building has one combined sewer outlet lateral for the entire building on the west side of the structure. It discharges to a duplex pump station which includes two Barnes Pumps that discharge via a 1.5 inch sanitary forced main lateral out to the gravity sewer in Commerce Court. Based on tests the estimated drawdown is 25 gallons per minutes (gpm). The applicant has provided a series of documents related to chemicals to be used during the equipment cleaning and brewing process. Staff correspondence on this matter indicates the volumes do not represent a major concern.

In response to a letter from Mr. Gancarz requesting information on the pumps themselves, Mr. McEvoy said the maximum discharge is 5gpm based on equipment to be used. There will be no flush coming out of the tanks; this is within pump capacity along with flow from other units in the building (i.e. bathrooms). The prior use of unit #7 was an office space with an estimate of 13 gallons per employee per day (6-7 employees) with sewer generation of about 80gpd.

Mr. Gancarz stated he reviewed the supplemental information provided and is satisfied with the exception of Supt. Hallier's questions about screening devices to prevent solids entering the system. The applicant requested this be a condition of approval. These are private pump stations, and Mr. Gancarz said we do not want to run into clogging issues or problems with the forced main. When there is an issue, the first call is usually to the Town that their sewer is backed up.

With regard to Supt. Hallier's e-mail, Mr. McEvoy said Chesprocott discussed the filter issue as a good idea. This was reviewed with the plumbing contractor who has done multiple breweries in Connecticut, and he advised this screening system is not used on other breweries in the region. The pumps are all grinder pumps, and they can handle any minor solids escaping during the brewing process.

Scott DeMeo, 10 Iris Court, Cheshire CT, partner in the business, advised the solids will be bio-degradable material, i.e. small pieces of grain. He explained the overall process with raking out material not being used to convert to beer. This solid waste will be disposed off-site or given to local farmers or with garbage disposal. There will be some particulars left in the tanks when the clean-in-place procedure is done; it goes into a holding tank; this must be within the ph designated levels; there will be once a week dump of materials; anything of size will be sorted out and not go into the sewer. The plumber informed the applicants that no breweries in the State use a filter going into the sewer because of the small amount of particular that gets into the system.

A recommendation was made by Mr. Gancarz that the brewery keep a log of the ph system and materials. The applicant was in agreement.

Mr. Carroll asked about the tanks and brewing process.

Mr. DeMeo described the tanks as five (5) barrel fermenters, 151 gallons; mash tanks are larger; 2 times a week the tanks will be cleaned as beer is brewed twice a week. What is settled goes into the holding tank; the water is treated to get ph right on it before it goes down the drain; any matter of substance settles to the bottom; it is extracted and discarded to local farmers or dumped off-site. Waste water goes to the holding tank, is treated, and liquid off the top goes to the sewer system.

It was noted by Mr. Urbano that this is not a large facility at 2,440 S.F.

The Authority members discussed the flow, amount of solid materials, number of employees not being significant to the gpd, and stipulations to the approval. Mr. Gancarz cited two conditions for approval…keeping a log of ph discharge for possible inspection, and capacity fee adjustment for 620gpd increase.

MOTION by Mr. Carroll; seconded by Mr. Beach.

MOVED that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves the application for Final Design and Award of Capacity Approval for Extension of Public Sanitary Sewers to Cheshire Craft Brewing, 125 Commerce Court, Unit #7, with the stipulation that the applicant keep a ph log levels or discharge, and capacity fee adjustment based on 620gpd increase per day.

VOTE The motion passed with 4 in favor and 1 abstention (Mr. Urbano).

1. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. City of Waterbury Inter-municipal Agreement Sanitary Sewage

Mr. Gancarz advised that no action from WPCA is required for this matter. The City of Waterbury and Town of Cheshire have had an agreement for 12 homes that drain to Waterbury. At any time Waterbury upgrades its plant there is an assessed pro-rated share to other municipalities. The city has a 50Mgpd plant. Cheshire's payment under the recent agreement was a small share of the $32M…about $3,200 per year. Cheshire uses about 2400gpd out of the 50Mgpd, and the town's share will be determines per the agreement. The last agreement has been paid off by Cheshire.

Mr. Gancarz noted if there was such an agreement in place with the DOC/prison court case, the Town would have gotten about 25% of the WWTP $32M upgrade costs from the DOC. He will review the Waterbury-Cheshire agreement; it will be reviewed by the Town Attorney; submitted to the WPCA; and the estimated Cheshire cost will be about $5,000 annually.

2. APPLICATIONS
a. Cheshire Craft Brewing, 125 Commerce Court, Unit #7
(moved to earlier in the agenda)

3. PROJECTS
None

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – no report

5. TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Gancarz updated the WPCA on the hiring of a new town engineering firm/consultant. The RFP went out; 12 responses received and reviewed with a short list of five (5) firms; two firms (2) had waste water experience and three firms (3) had civil engineering experience. The five (5) firms were interviewed by the panel (Mr. Carroll, Supt. Hallier, Mr. Gancarz, Mr. Noewatne).

It is expected the town will hire a primary firm for waste water with a backup and same for civil engineering side. The final decision and contract will go through Town Attorney Al Smith for legal review.

The Authority members discussed the particulars of an engineering consultant or firm handling the WPCA scope of work. They noted the work includes WPCA along with roads, projects, planning and zoning etc. with the $45,000 appropriation split between all these departments and projects. The Authority members questioned whether the Town Council thinks it is saving money, whether the Council is being short-sighted on the town engineer issue, and noted Mr. Gancarz has paid for himself many times over.

Mr. Perrotti commented on WPCA needing an engineer to review its scope of work, matters/information/regulations etc. prior to and up to the day of a meeting, and having an engineer available for WPCA meetings. A delay may require moving applications out to the next month.

Mr. Gancarz commented on his work hours on WPCA applications and related matters. He cited 3-4 hours of work on just one application…the Craft Brewing application, and adhering to the deadlines in the process. Mr. Gancarz will put together information for the selected engineering firm, and advised the Town's plan is to have the engineering consultant by next month.

6. NEW BUSINESS
None

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Calvary Life Church – Correspondence
The letter from Calvary Life Church (Pastor Sam) was reviewed by the Authority members. In the letter, the Pastor cited no response from RWA until 8/10/20. The cause of the increase in water usage is attributed to a continuously running toilet, which was repaired by congregation members. RWA confirmed to the Pastor that this toilet could be the cause of usage increase. In that regard, Pastor Sam is asking for help with the cost of this usage increase and direction to move forward on this matter. Chairman Perrotti stated there has been an extension given to the Church, and that the WPCA must receive a more formal statement from the RWA on the relief for the Church.

The WPCA was informed by Mr. Gancarz that RWA gives a "one time only" relief to a customer. RWA looks at the average water usage, checks calculations, the situation (i.e. broken pipe in a basement), quantifies it, and gives a one-time relief with a bill reduction. Mr. Gancarz told Pastor Sam to get everything in writing from RWA and provide a copy to the WPCA.

Mr. Carroll said relief was provided by RWA, and WPCA does not want to set a precedent in these types of situations.

The matter was given a one-month extension pending receipt of the RWA formal statement, and Mr. Gancarz will follow-up with Pastor Sam.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 22, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Scannell; seconded by Mr. Urbano.

MOVED that the WPCA approve and accept the minutes of July 22, 2020 subject to corrections, deletions, additions.

Correction – name should read "Aboud" Abdelghani.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Before adjournment, the WPCA members discussed scheduling and confirming the date for the September meeting.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 – 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, Town Hall, Cheshire CT, was approved as the September meeting date.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Carroll; seconded by Mr. Scannell

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

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Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk