

Water Pollution Control Authority
November 16, 2011
Regular Meeting
Town Hall – Council Chambers

Members Present: Mr. Steve Eberle
Mr. Walter Gancarz
Mr. Tim Pelton (Chairman)
Mr. John Perrotti
Mr. Mark Witek

Members Absent: Mr. Mark Korman
Mr. Thomas Scannell

Others Present: Mr. Dennis Dievert, Superintendent, WPCD
Mr. Donald Chelton, AECOM
Mr. David Schrumm, Town Council Liaison (8:30)
Town Attorney Andrew Lord

Chairman Pelton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum determined. The assembled group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Pelton explained to the audience how to exit the chamber in the event of an emergency, in compliance with the Fire Marshal's order.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to come before the Authority.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SEWER USE FEE

Authority members noted that there was no public input regarding the sewer use fee at the public hearing conducted prior to this meeting.

Mr. Pelton moved that the annual Sewer Use Charge Fee be established at \$345.00 per single family equivalent dwelling unit. Non-residential users shall pay an amount based on their relative water usage in accordance with the format outlined in the Sewer User Charge Regulations but not less than \$345.00 per year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Witek and carried 4-0-1. Mr. Eberle abstained.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications to come before the Authority.

PROJECTS

Mixville Pump Station

Mr. Dievert reported that this project is still under the warranty period. He stated that the station performed very well during the storm, despite the fact that power to the station was out for four days. The pump operated by generator, which uses 8-10 gallons of fuel per hour.

WPCD Influent Pump Station—Project Progress Schedule

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that his firm is proceeding with design of the upgrade without the disk filter. Preliminary design should be available in April with a 90% cost estimate number.

WPCD Plant Upgrade Design—Project Update

Mr. Dievert stated that he met with architects from AECOM regarding the design of the facility. He stated that the footprint of the project is still the same. It was noted that although the disc filters have been removed from the project, there will be some chemical treatment for the reduction of phosphorous.

Mr. Witek moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #991970259 of AECOM in the amount of \$48,360.58 for design work relating to the WPCD Plant Upgrade Design Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz and carried unanimously.

I & I Program – Interceptor Manhole Rehabilitation

Mr. Chelton reported that work on this project is complete. The two guarantee periods are over and all invoices have been paid. The project will be removed from the agenda.

Cook Hill Road Pump Station Design Project

Mr. Mariusz Jedrychowski of Wright-Pierce addressed the Authority and stated that he provided the final updated report regarding the Cook Hill Road Pump Station upgrade to Mr. Michelangelo on Monday. The project will contain a wet well and two pumps. The existing building will be used for electrical equipment, and a new addition to the building will be constructed.

The estimated cost of the project is \$590,000, including contingency and oversight of the project. This report relates to Task 1 of the agreement. It is anticipated that design costs will be \$35,000. Mr. Pelton suggested that Mr. Jedrychowski continue to maintain discussion with administrators of Elim Park regarding the progress of this project.

Mr. Dievert stated that Mr. Scott Hallier has reviewed this report.

Mr. Witek moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorize payment to Wright-Pierce in the amount of \$9,535.70 for work relating to the Cook Hill Road Pump Station Design Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz and carried unanimously.

West Johnson Avenue Pump Station Design Project

Mr. Chelton presented the Conceptual Design Report for the West Johnson Avenue Pump Station Design Project. Total estimated costs for the upgrade include an estimated allowance for engineering and construction contingencies. The estimated cost for the upgrade is \$2.4 million. Mr. Chelton noted that this project is similar to the Elmwood Drive pump station upgrade. He recommends not utilizing the architectural roof with this project. There will be some rehab of the building. Mr. Dievert and Authority members will review the report.

Mr. Eberle moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #992235362 of AECOM in the amount of \$4,400.00 for design work relating to the West Johnson Avenue Pump Station Design Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz and carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Storm Report

Mr. Dievert reported that the recent storm Alfred caused a great deal of difficulty relating to the WPCD. The storm began on October 29, and shortly thereafter power was lost to the plant and all nine pump stations. Mr. Dievert stated that his staff was as prepared as possible for the storm, and all necessary equipment immediately switched over to generator.

On October 30 the water pump failed at the West Johnson Avenue pump station and there was no power or generator. Mr. Dievert made several emergency calls and power came back to that station on that date. He detailed when the power stations came back, which was scattered over the next several days. The last pump came back on November 3. Over the course of those days Mr. Dievert became increasingly worried about the function of the plant, as problems started to arise with the generators. He commented that the generators are not expected to run for that length of time.

Mr. Dievert stated that his experience was the same as most in the State, in that there was very poor communication with CL&P. The Army Corps of Engineers sent two engineers to assist, and another generator for the Town was promised should there be another major storm.

There also was a problem obtaining regular and diesel fuel. Mr. Dievert commented that he has never seen a storm like this which caused such severe power outages over so many

days. Other towns experienced severe problems; Middletown lost its generator and Southington had severe problems with its plant.

Mr. Dievert noted that the generators are emergency generators, not backups. As such, they are not intended to run the number of days necessary during this storm. He also stated that although the generator is a good one, it is 27 years old. With the new plant upgrade the generator will be a 100 % backup generator and thus more reliable.

Mr. Dievert expressed concerns with the E-1 pumps, as they were full for five to six days. The flow into the plant was not a problem, as there was not a lot of rain during this storm. Problems related more to wind and snow covering trees close to power lines. He noted that it is difficult to design for a storm of this nature, which is extremely rare. In response to a query from Mr. Eberle, Mr. Dievert stated that there was no permanent damage to the plant. The DEP was calling 2-3 times a day to check on the functioning of the plant and pumps.

Revenue from New Fees

Mr. Dievert stated that he read comments from the last meeting regarding the proposed new fees for applications which come before the Authority. He is in agreement with the suggestion that the fees be billed monthly. Attorney Lord will investigate the proper way to institute these fees, and advise the Authority at the next meeting.

Sump Pump Committee

Mr. Gancarz informed the Authority that there is nothing to report at this time.

Update on Phosphorous Meeting with Southington, Wallingford, Meriden

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that he met with representatives of the above municipalities last week via a conference call. All parties are in disagreement with the proposed phosphorous limits and discussed methods to try to resolve this issue. It was agreed that once a draft permit is received, that the opposition should be expressed to the DEP. All parties will get together again once draft permits are issued. It is anticipated that at that time parties will request a meeting with DEP to discuss the phosphorous limits.

Mr. Dievert stated that it is very difficult to find something with a scientific basis regarding phosphorous and its effects. Mr. Chelton commented that the DEP is on an accelerated program to get the permits out to municipalities. Cheshire is not on the list of the first 18 municipalities to receive the permit. Mr. Dievert noted that there is nothing in writing at the present time regarding phosphorous limits.

Town Manager Milone is working diligently to get the prison on board with funding for phosphorous removal.

Mr. Schrumm entered the meeting at 8:30.

NEW BUSINESS

Referendum Vote

Mr. Pelton stated that the referendum for the upgrade to the Treatment Plant failed and the Authority must decide how to proceed from here. Design of the upgrade will continue, as there is money appropriated for that phase. Mr. Gancarz commented that now that the disc filters have been removed from the project the total cost will be less than the figure on the referendum ballot. He noted the importance of continuing to seek assistance from the State for the prison use of the plant.

Mr. Perrotti referred to the issue of perception regarding what the Town is getting for its money. Mr. Pelton followed that with the suggestion that more must be done regarding public relations and information getting out to the public. He further commented that this issue is not going to go away. Staff and the Authority are doing everything possible to avoid a catastrophic failure, at which time the DEP will force the Town to act to upgrade the plant.

Mr. Schrumm commented that the State must be clearer on phosphorous removal expectations. He also offered that even if State funding is forthcoming for the prison, the entire amount of the project must be placed out to referendum.

Mr. Chelton stated that the focus at this time should be on funding for the CCI issue. He has been informed by representatives of the State that funding from the Clean Water Act has been committed for the next two years.

Mr. Pelton inquired of Mr. Dievert as to what items of a critical nature regarding the plant upgrade should be presented to the Town Council at this time. Mr. Dievert stated that there will have to be repairs made to some components that will eventually have to be replaced in the project upgrade. This is money that will be spent on temporary fixes until the project goes forward.

Mr. Dievert estimated that it will cost approximately \$175,000 to do the necessary repairs to keep the plant in operation. Mr. Schrumm explained that money can be spent if it is determined that the operation of the plant may cause a public emergency. The question remains as to where that money will come from. If there is a DEP decree to fix problems, then Town funds will have to be expended.

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that the digesters are not in good condition. However, it is not recommended that the digesters be repaired until other necessary work is completed. Mr. Pelton requested that a list of items which must be addressed be prepared for consideration of the Authority. Mr. Schrumm requested that the list be in writing and presented to the Town Council so there is documentation regarding the issues that must be addressed.

October CAWPCA Meeting

Mr. Pelton attended this meeting and noted that much discussion centered on conditions which occurred during hurricane Irene. There was an emergency operations center at the State Armory and this will be available in the future as well. The Town is to call if there are any problems.

OLD BUSINESSRiverside/Applewood Drive Assessment

Mr. Pelton presented a detailed analysis of past assessments on sewer projects since 1992. The assessments range from \$6,000 to \$9,200 in addition to a \$500 connection fee. The Glenbrook Drive assessment was \$9,200, and a professional appraisal was done which revealed that the average market value increase due to the sewers was \$14,000. It was noted that the topography of that area was very difficult, in that there was a great deal of rock and ledge.

The report noted that the projected cost range to replace septic systems is \$26,000 - \$38,000. The analysis revealed that the total cost per property is \$14,320. It was suggested that the cost of the property which was added towards the end of the project be removed from the total cost, which would result in a cost per property of \$12,318.

In response to a query from the Authority, Mr. Chelton offered that the Authority typically recovers 80% of project costs, which would result in an assessment of \$9,854.

Mr. Eberle stated that he would like to see a professional appraisal of the added value to the properties for the sewers conducted. That information can be presented to property owners at the public hearing, which will lend credence to the amount of the assessment.

Mr. Gancarz questioned the appraisals, noting that the numbers are “soft” and not as exact as he would like to see. He also noted that the estimate to replace a septic system is really in the \$25,000 range for an engineered system. Mr. Eberle concurred with the issue with the appraisal number, not noted that it still presents a defensible position to property owners.

Authority members agreed to proceed with the property appraisal, as the cost is minimal and the information will be helpful to present to property owners. Mr. Pelton will investigate the cost of the appraisal. Mr. Schrumm suggested that funding for the appraisal come from funds remaining in the project budget.

Mr. Eberle moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorize the Town Engineer to obtain a benefit assessment figure for the Applewood Drive/Applewood Drive sewer project, if the cost of the appraisal process does

not exceed \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Witek and carried unanimously.

Mr. Schrumm offered that it may be necessary to meet with bond counsel regarding the use of project funds for the appraisal. Mr. Chelton commented that having an appraisal done does help to diffuse any disagreement with property owners. What is important is the value that is added to the properties because of the sewer installation.

Chesprocott Information

Authority members received copies of the monthly report from Chesprocott detailing septic system failures and repairs for the month of October. There was nothing of significance to discuss relating to the report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Eberle moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of October 26, 2011, as presented, subject to correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Witek.

Corrections:

Page 5, paragraph 5, line 3, should read, “.....original estimate of \$32.2 million...” relating to the projected cost of the plant upgrade project.

Page 5, paragraph 7, last sentence, should read, “Mr. Chelton stated that his firm will *advance the design to the 90% stage.....*”

Page 2, paragraph 3, and Page 8, paragraph 2, replace *Attorney Knott* with *Attorney Lord*.

The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pelton advised that the next regular meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority will be held on December 14.

Mr. Witek moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourn at 9:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberle and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Pelton, Chairman
Water Pollution Control Authority

Attest:

Susan F. Zwick

Distribution:

Members: W.P.C.A.
Michael Milone, Town Manager
David Schrumm, Town Council Liaison
Andrew Lord, Town Attorney
Donald Chelton/Jon Pearson, AECOM
Joseph Michelangelo, Ex-Officio Member
George Noewatne, Operations Manager
Dennis Dievert, Superintendent [WPCD](#)
Susan Zwick, Recording Secretary

