

Water Pollution Control Authority
April 25, 2012
Regular Meeting
Town Hall – Council Chambers

Members Present: Mr. Matt Bowman
Mr. Steve Carroll
Mr. Walter Gancarz
Mr. Tim Pelton (Chairman)
Mr. John Perrotti
Mr. Thomas Scannell

Members Absent: All members present

Others Present: Mr. Dennis Dievert, Superintendent, WPCD
Mr. Donald Chelton, AECOM
Mr. David Schrumm, Town Council Liaison

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

Mr. Pelton referred to communication from Mr. Garry Brumback representing Southington in the coalition relating to changing the EPA methodology, regarding water quality limits. It was noted that Cheshire has withdrawn from the coalition in order to pursue funding for the plant upgrade.

ALTER AGENDA

Mr. Eberle moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority alter the agenda to move Item 4a up to 2a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perrotti and carried unanimously.

Cook Hill Pump Station Design Project

Mr. Mariusz Jedrychowski of Wright-Pierce addressed the Authority and stated that the project is on schedule and the internal review is being finalized. Final drawings will be submitted the second week of May. At that time a meeting will take place with representatives of Elim Park to discuss their financial contribution to the pump station, as their facility is the primary user. Mr. Jedrychowski will update the Authority at the May meeting on the progress of the project.

Mr. Jedrychowski explained to the Authority that the propane generator at the pump station will be replaced, but it is only 12 years old and can still be used at another location. Mr. Dievert noted that he will find a use for the generator somewhere in town. In response to a query from Mr. Bowman, Mr. Jedrychowski stated that he is not aware of whether natural gas is available on Cook Hill Road, but will look into it.

Mr. Eberle moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #82839 of Wright-Pierce in the amount of \$7,243.92 for work related to the Cook Hill Road Pump Station Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scannell and carried unanimously.

APPLICATIONS

345 Highland Avenue

This property is located across from Highland School and although there are several small buildings on the property, there are no current businesses utilizing the property. The last usage was an aggregate and landscape supply business. The project involves the creation of two new professional office buildings located at 435 Highland Avenue.

There are five sanitary sewer laterals that go into the existing 8-inch sanitary sewer main in Highland Avenue. The proposed project will make use of two of the five existing laterals, one for each building and they will connect to the existing sewer laterals via a 6-inch private gravity sewer line.

The estimated total daily sewage generated by the proposed use is 5,200 gpd. Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that staff has no problems with the request for an Award of Capacity.

Mr. Pelton moved that The Cheshire WPCA has reviewed the application and submittals of JAD Partners LLC for an Award of Capacity. Based upon that review and based upon the recommendation of the Director of Public Works, the WPCA has determined that the application and submittals propose an award of capacity which meets the requirements of the Cheshire Sewer Regulations and other applicable specifications, codes, and laws; therefore, the application is APPROVED for 5,200 gallons per day.

This Approval is conditioned upon the following:

1. This Approval does not confer the right to connect to the sewer system. The right to connect to the sewer system can only be gained by applying for, and obtaining approval of, Feasibility Approval, Final Design Approval, and a Sanitary Sewer Connection Permit.
2. All costs connected with the proposed sewer system shall be borne by the developer.
3. The application and submittals are incorporated and made a part of this Approval.

4. The WPCA has approved, upon separate application, the phasing of the occupancy of this project. Building 2 will be constructed first, followed by Building 1.
5. The executed Developer's Agreement, required by Section 12.4 of the Cheshire Sewer Regulations, shall be on file with the Director of Public Works.
6. This Approval shall expire two (2) years from the date of approval by the WPCA, unless an application for renewal is applied for not less than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date, pursuant to Section 12.10.F of the Cheshire Sewer Regulations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Scannell and carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN/STAFF

WPCD Plant Upgrade Design-Project Update

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that AECOM has completed the plans and specs for the phosphorous removal project. Documents have been forwarded to the DEEP and Mr. Chelton received verbal approval of the plans. Mr. Divert has reviewed the plans and his suggestions have been incorporated into the design. The next step will be to place the RFP for Disc filters out to bid.

Mr. Chelton stated that he hopes to have the pre-selection bid for the phosphorous equipment out on the street within the next two weeks. In response to a query from Mr. Gancarz, Mr. Chelton stated that respondents have one month to submit their bid. Mr. Chelton noted that there are most likely two qualified firms who will respond, and one has already visited the plant to do research. He stated that the equipment from both firms is physically different.

Once bids are received, AECOM will do life cycle cost analysis and will then make a recommendation as to which equipment will best serve the town. Once the firm is selected, they will have to demonstrate through a pilot program that their equipment will perform properly.

Mr. Perrotti inquired of Mr. Dievert as to whether the pilot program work will interfere with the operation of the plant. Mr. Dievert responded that it should not cause a problem, because the vendor does most of the work. Mr. Chelton stated that the cost of the pilot program is born by the vendor.

Mr. Chelton stated that it will take four to six weeks to get through the analysis of the bids—most likely timeframe for this is the end of July.

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that he received comments last summer from the DEEP regarding the last phase of the treatment plant upgrade, which took almost four years for DEEP to respond. AECOM has now responded to the comments. One issue

which came up was whether the Authority conducted a public hearing on Phase II of the project. Mr. Chelton reminded the Authority that the first phase related to looking at the entire town to determine where sewers may be needed. The second phase relates to the upgrade of the treatment plant to meet what was determined to be needed in the first phase.

Mr. Chelton stated that he has researched the minutes and did not find mention of a public hearing for Phase II having been conducted. The reason DEEP is requiring the public hearing is because there was State funding involved. Mr. Chelton has informed the DEEP that there was a great deal of public input via many WPCA and Town Council meetings and two workshops—enough public exposure in the opinion of AECOM.

Mr. Chelton advised the Authority that AECOM's preparation for a formal public hearing would cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Pelton stated that he felt that the Authority could handle the public hearing without the proposed cost and Authority members concurred. Mr. Perrotti inquired as to whether there is a prescriptive format that must be followed for the public hearing. Mr. Chelton responded that there is no set format.

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that it does not appear that the Authority voted to approve Phase II of the upgrade to the treatment plant, which is a requirement of the DEEP.

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority move to accept the Phase II report of the WPCD Treatment Plant Upgrade Project as presented to the DEEP in September, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberle and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gancarz moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #37228162 of AECOM in the amount of \$62,526.62 for work related to the WPCD Plant Upgrade Design Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gancarz requested that Mr. Chelton draft a schedule of dates for project completion. Mr. Chelton agreed to have that for the next meeting.

West Johnson Avenue Pump Station Design Project

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that design for this project is in the contract signing process and is now in the hands of Attorney Lord for review.

WPCD Influent Pump Station

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that the one-year warranty period for this project has expired, and he is recommending the release of retainage to the contractor.

Mr. Eberle moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Estimate #14 of C. H. Nickerson in the amount of \$10,404.05. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowman and carried unanimously.

This project will be removed from the agenda.

RIVERSIDE/APPLEWOOD SEWER ASSESSMENT

Mr. Pelton informed the Authority that the benefit analysis for the above sewer project has been received and is in the packet. The report lists median prices for homes in Cheshire from 2002 to 2011. The report also gives specific details of each home in the assessment area. The result of the report reflects a recommended benefit assessment of \$5,000 to \$6,000.

The cost of the sewer was \$386,640, which included 27 homes. Using that cost figure, the cost per property would be \$14,300, which exceeds the benefit assessment. Mr. Pelton stated that it is not the intention to collect the exact cost for the project, but should be somewhere in the range of the determined benefit assessment.

Mr. Pelton stated that it will be necessary to call a public hearing to discuss the proposed assessment and to receive input from property owners. Mr. Gancarz suggested that the Authority set the assessment at \$5,720, which is 40% of the project cost.

Mr. Bowman stated that there is an additional benefit to the property owners because in some cases they can now expand their homes, whereas when they were on a septic system they could not. Mr. Pelton stated that this is implied with the sewer assessment. Mr. Chelton stated that this assessment is lower than those in the past, and Mr. Eberle responded that this is most likely reflecting the decrease in property values.

It was the consensus of the Authority members that the appraisal cannot be approved because it is presented as a draft document.

Mr. Carroll inquired about past assessments. Mr. Pelton explained that there is usually a predictable scenario where the homeowners come to the Authority pleading for relief from septic system failures and problems. They are told that there will be a cost to having sewers installed, but when the actual assessment comes due many seem shocked at the cost. Mr. Pelton further stated that each project is evaluated on its own merit—some projects have dealt with extreme rock and ledge and thus the cost has been greater.

Mr. Eberle inquired about the assessment for the Floral Drive sewers which would likely be a similar project. No one could remember that number. It was suggested that the appraiser who prepared the report be present at the public hearing. Mr. Bowman stated that the Authority has a fiduciary responsibility to have the appraiser present to address questions regarding the assessment. The Authority is not in a position to answer questions on behalf of the assessor.

Mr. Eberle offered that the assessor should present a final, signed copy of the report and should be present at the next regular meeting and the public hearing the following month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

FOG Regulation Update

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that in the last two weeks he has inspected three restaurants. He is working with representatives of Chesprocott because they have a list of all Class 3 & 4 restaurants. The DEEP is requiring a list of all of those restaurants and whether they are in compliance with the FOG Regulations. Mr. Dievert noted that Chesprocott has been very cooperative and helpful, because they are inspecting the restaurants.

Mr. Schrumm entered the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Plant Equipment Status

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that there was a scare at the treatment plant when one of the RAS drives went down. Those drives are not replaceable, but with the help of the electrician repairs were done and the drive is working.

Mr. Gancarz offered that once the equipment for the plant upgrade is speced out if there is a problem and something needs to be replaced Mr. Dievert will know what equipment to purchase.

CWF Status

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that he had a conversation with Stacy at the DEEP and was assured that Cheshire is on the list for funding for the plant upgrade. The list has been signed and approved. Mr. Pelton explained the State funding to the new members and noted that this will be a valuable financial benefit to the town.

NPDES Permit Update

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that the town is in receipt of a draft NPDES permit. A conference call with Mr. Chelton and Mr. Pearson of AECOM took place regarding some changes to the permit. AECOM will draft some questions to be posed to the DEEP regarding the permit.

Mr. Pelton stated that he is pleased that the town is in receipt of the permit. Mr. Chelton noted that this is a pre-draft permit, and the State is giving the town the opportunity to comment if there are any problems. Mr. Chelton commented that there is some confusion regarding the permit, but he is confident that the issues can be resolved. The major issue relates to whether the phosphorous issue must be addressed. If the Authority wants to fight that battle now is the time to do it. It was the consensus of the Authority that since

there is state funding coming to the town, it is wise to address the phosphorous issue at this time. It will have to be addressed sometime in the future nonetheless.

Mr. Chelton stated that the DEEP funding is based on the condition that the phosphorous issue is addressed. Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that although the Authority decided to drop out of the coalition of towns investigating the phosphorous removal issue, the town will still benefit from any changes that are made as a result of the work of the coalition. Mr. Dievert agreed that it is best to address the phosphorous issue now since there is funding in place.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pelton announced that Mr. Eberle will be resigning from the Authority and thanked him for his many years of service to the Authority and the town. Mr. Pelton welcomed Mr. Steve Carroll to the Authority.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorize AECOM to put phosphorous removal and disk filters back into the WPCD Plant Upgrade project, including all related issues necessary for phosphorous removal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz.

Discussion of Motion:

Mr. Gancarz inquired of Mr. Chelton as to whether the technology is available to get phosphorous down to the .1 level; perhaps with 5 microns vs. 10 microns. Mr. Chelton responded that it will be allotted for in the design so it can be incorporated at a later date. There will be the ability to retrofit to .1 in the design.

Vote on Motion: Carried unanimously.

Chesprocott Information

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that he is working with Lorraine DeNicola of Chesprocott on issues relating to septic system failures. He reminded the Authority that the Sewer Regulations state that property owners cannot make major repairs to a septic system if sewers are available to connect to.

WPCA Education Effort

Mr. Pelton requested that Mr. Gancarz and his subcommittee continue with their plan to educate property owners regarding the importance of the upgrade to the treatment plant and related issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of March 28, 2012, as published, subject to correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz.

Corrections:

Page 3, second to last paragraph should read, “.....New Haven increased its request from *4M to 40M and it could have affected Cheshire’s position for funding*”.

Page 4, paragraph 3 should read, “That figure was reduced from *31.3M* as a result of value engineering.”

Page 4, paragraph 5 should read, “.....to remove phosphorous to the .2 level.”

Page 4, paragraph 6, line 3, strike *extremely expensive and* not well tested.

Page 4, paragraph 8, last line should read, “...the phosphorous limit will be .2 mg/l.”

Page 7, paragraph 1, 2, 3, strike *Chelton* and insert *Pelton*.

Vote on Motion: Motion carried 4-0-2. Messrs. Bowman and Carroll abstained. Mr. Bowman commented that he feels that the meetings should be taped to insure that numbers are not changed without substantiation. Mr. Pelton stated that the Authority would take that under consideration.

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that issues related to the CCI have cleared committee. He further commented that for the month of March the CCI comprised 34% of the flow into the plant. Members concurred that this implies that there may be a broken pipe or related issue, and it does not appear that the increase is due to inflow.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourn at 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz 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

