

Water Pollution Control Authority
January 23, 2013
Regular Meeting
Town Hall – Council Chambers

Members Present: Mr. Matt Bowman
Mr. Steve Carroll
Mr. Walter Gancarz
Mr. Mark Kasinskas
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. George Noewatne, Director of Public Works
Mr. David Schrumm (8:15 p.m.)

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 noted receipt of correspondence from Town Manager Michael Milone complimenting the treatment plant staff for designing and installing new level controls at the Cook Hill Pump Station. This was the result of two mercury spills which have occurred in the last year.

APPLICATIONS

There were no applications to come before the Authority.

PROJECTS

WPCD Plant Upgrade Design-Project Update

Mr. Chelton addressed the Authority and commented that at the last meeting the Authority requested additional information regarding the timeline and costs regarding the Treatment Plant Project. Mr. Chelton sent a letter to the Authority detailing every aspect of the project since its inception. He also presented a timeline of the project for Authority members to peruse.

Mr. Chelton stated that as early as 2008 his firm was asked to estimate costs of upgrading the plant. Several figures were presented for different scenarios, and all numbers were qualified as good faith estimated costs.

Mr. Chelton stated that several events have occurred since the original estimate was provided, including increased operating costs due to project delays, stop and restart costs for the upgrade design and the addition of design elements that were not in the original scope of the project. There were also additional costs due to project delays from the failed referendum in 2011.

The timeline and comments from Mr. Chelton and Authority members follow:

November 3, 2009	\$1.5M referendum approved for design. Mr. Chelton noted that 10% of that number was just a placeholder as exact costs were unknown.
January 22, 2010	AECOM submits Draft Plan for WPCP Upgrade. Estimated cost \$33.1M. This occurred three months after the referendum approval for design.
March 10, 2010	Initial workshop on plan. The WPCA and other parties worked for hours on the plan for the upgrade to the plant.
April 14, 2010	Second workshop on plan.
October 1, 2010	AECOM submits revised plan for WPCP Upgrade. Estimated cost drops to \$31.5M. Mr. Chelton stated that this was a concept plan at this point. There was a 30% allowance for unknowns which often result from the “devil of the details”.
January 26, 2011	Authority approves Design Agreement for \$1.425M with a \$25K allowance for AECOM Value Engineering services and \$75K reserve for Value Engineer subcontractor.
May 25, 2011	AECOM notifies Authority of need for disc filter pre-selection. Mr. Chelton noted that this was a bump in the road, but stated that phosphorous technology is relatively new and needed additional study.
June 15, 2011	AECOM submits Amendment No. 1 for VE subcontractor cost (\$55,916) and reduces design percent complete to 84% to cover estimated cost for pre-selection (\$91,000)
July 6 – July 8, 2011	Value engineering workshop to discuss the need for disc filters.

August 31, 2011	WPCA workshop on value engineering recommendations.
September 28, 2011	Authority partially approves Amendment No. 1 for \$55,916. At this time the disc filters are deleted from the project.
October 19, 2011	AECOM alerts Authority of the financial risk associated with deleting the disc filters. Mr. Chelton advised the Authority that adding the filters at a later date would add considerably to the cost of the project.
November 8, 2011	\$30M referendum failed.
February 8, 2012	DEEP publishes a draft priority list showing Cheshire is on the fundable list. Mr. Chelton noted that this was a surprise to the Authority and AECOM because previously Cheshire was close to the bottom of the list. Mr. Chelton commented that this came with the caveat that phosphorous removal via disc filters had to be part of the project, and it was understood that Cheshire would have to break from the coalition of towns who were opposing the State phosphorous limits.
March 19, 2012	AECOM submits Amendment No. 2 for AECOM value engineering services in the amount of \$19,084. Although this was less than the actual cost, it was accepted because that was all that was left in the budget at that time.
March 28, 2012	Disc filters are added back into the project. The Authority approves Amendment No. 2 as submitted. The existing facilities upgrade design suspended due to limited funding. Mr. Chelton noted that the driving force behind adding the filters back into the project was the funding from the DEEP.
September 26, 2012	WPCA secures additional funding in the amount of \$100,000. This was money that was leftover from a previous project. Mr. Bowman commented that he did not agree that this was the date that this occurred.
October 17, 2012	AECOM submits Amendment No. 3 in the amount of \$100,000 and revises design percent complete to 85%.
October 24, 2012	Authority partially approves Amendment No. 3 but deletes reference to percent complete. AECOM commits to submitting cost to complete the design before the

November meeting. The upgrade design is restarted. Mr. Chelton agreed that this amendment was rather confusing and perhaps could have been more explicit and better explained.

Mr. Chelton stated that the above four dates relate basically to the pre-selection process.

November 19, 2012 AECOM submits estimated cost to complete of \$555,000. This consists of disc filter pre-selection of \$98,000; disc filter deletion/re-addition of \$140,000 and design completion of \$217,000. Mr. Chelton noted the difficulty of going back to figure out costs because of the trouble identifying exact costs after the fact.

Mr. Gancarz informed the Authority that he and Mr. Perrotti met with Mr. Chelton and Mr. Jon Pearson of AECOM today to review all of the plans relating to the plant upgrade. After that review he feels that the costs are reasonable. He noted that this endeavor was necessary for the Authority to fully understand how this project and costs involved unfolded. This validated the work of AECOM, with the exception of a small disagreement of \$4,000. Mr. Chelton agreed to adjust the amendment in that amount.

November 28, 2012 Authority partially approves Amendment No. 4 in the amount of \$217,000 and requests additional information on disc filter deletion/re-addition and disc filter pre-selection.

December 12, 2012 Authority informally partially approves Amendment No. 5 in the amount of \$66,000. Requests additional information on design completion estimate and a revised Amendment No. 5.

December 21, 2012 AECOM submits revised Amendment No. 5 in the amount of \$66,000.

January 7, 2013 Authority takes no action on Amendment No. 5. Requests explanation on project history.

January 17, 2013 AECOM submits additional back up on design completion estimate and Amendment No. 6 in the amount of \$72,000.

Mr. Chelton agreed to reduce Amendment No. 6 to by \$4,000 as a result of the study of the plans by Mr. Gancarz and Mr. Perrotti.

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that because of time spent on the timeline he will

present the next design phase on February 8. The project is still on track to be bid in April. Mr. Pelton thanked Mr. Chelton for the timeline presentation and noted that the Authority now has a much better understanding of the events relating to the treatment plant upgrade. It was noted that some of the confusion has arisen because of the timeline of this project and the fact that there has been a turnover of Authority members. Mr. Bowman commented that he now understands the project from its inception, as he was not a member of the Authority when this project began.

Mr. Gancarz stated that he is satisfied with the presentation and his investigation of the design documents. He noted that some of the amendments were not as well defined as they should have been, both from the engineer and the WPCA. The benefit going forward is that when a contract is presented it will be more acutely scrutinized and examined.

Mr. Gancarz further commented that the Authority can now defend the additional costs relating to this project. For that reason he is recommending that Amendments No. 5 & 6 be approved. The Authority will now begin with a fresh start.

Mr. Gancarz moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Amendment No. 5 of AECOM for work relating to the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project in the amount of \$66,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perrotti and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gancarz moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Amendment No. 6 of AECOM for work relating to the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project in the amount of \$68,000 upon receipt of the revised paperwork. This reflects 100% completion of design. The motion was seconded by Mr. Perrotti and carried unanimously.

Mr. Pelton commented that Mr. Chelton has agreed to try to find ways to save money on this project as it moves forward. There also will be better communication as a result of the information presented by Mr. Chelton at this meeting.

Mr. Bowman commented that the whole project is so much clearer for members now. Mr. Pelton requested volunteers for a subcommittee to review the engineering agreement. Mr. Pelton and Mr. Perrotti will serve on the subcommittee. Mr. Gancarz offered that Mr. Noewatne and his staff should be part of that review also.

Mr. Chelton stated that he will mail all design documents to Authority members on February 8. Staff, the subcommittee and Mr. Chelton will meet at 3:00 on February 27, prior to the regular monthly meeting.

Mr. Scannell moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #37307703 of AECOM in the amount of \$79,669.89 for work relating to the WPCP Plant Upgrade Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kasinkas and carried unanimously.

West Johnson Pump Station Design Project

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that he submitted plans for the West Johnson Avenue Pump Station Project to Mr. Dievert for his review in December. Today Mr. Pearson met with Mr. Dievert and Mr. Scott Hallier to review the plans. Mr. Chelton stated that he will make any necessary changes to the plans. In response to a query from Mr. Gancarz, Mr. Dievert stated that there were only a few minor changes. Design is 90% complete.

Mr. Scannell moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #37307872 in the amount of \$8,966.89 of AECOM for design services relating to the West Johnson Pump Station Design Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kasinskas and carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

FOG Issues

Mr. Dievert stated that as a result of issues with some restaurants relating to grease issues, he will be issuing a letter to all Class 3 and 4 restaurants reminding them of the FOG regulations. There are approximately 72 restaurants in this category.

Level Controls Issue at Cook Hill Pump Station

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that there have been two issues with mercury controls at the plant. As a result, Mr. Hallier and two technicians designed a solution which has solved the problem. Mr. Dievert praised his staff for their efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

On behalf of the Authority, Mr. Pelton offered congratulations to Mr. Noewatne for being selected for the position of Director of Public Works & Engineering and to Mr. Gancarz for being selected for the position of Town Engineer. Both Mr. Gancarz and Mr. Noewatne addressed the Authority and spoke of their excitement and enthusiasm to work with and support the Authority. All parties offered to work together for the benefit of the Town.

Election of Officers

Mr. Carroll moved that Mr. Pelton be nominated to serve as Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scannell. There being no further nominations forthcoming, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bowman moved that Mr. Perrotti be nominated to serve as Vice Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carroll. There being no further nominations forthcoming, the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chesprocott Summary

Authority members received copies of the Chesprocott report regarding septic system failures and repairs for the month of December. Mr. Dievert reported that there was nothing of significance in the report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carroll moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of December 19, 2012, as published, subject to correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scannell and carried unanimously.

Mr. Carroll moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 7, 2013, as published, subject to correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scannell and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Schrumm addressed the Authority and inquired about newspaper reports stating that the Town of Southington has received a waiver for the removal of phosphorous. It was noted that their permit is not up for a significant amount of years, so this is just delaying what Cheshire is doing at the present time. It was also noted that Cheshire is receiving funding for the plant upgrade and it is prudent to complete this project now, rather than later at a much more significant cost.

Mr. Chelton informed the Board that the DEEP has backed off its previous demands regarding phosphorous. He noted that Southington does not have a permit with a phosphorous requirement at this time. They will not have to meet the limit for ten years, but will have to initiate the process much sooner. Southington will have to treat phosphorous chemically. In the intervening time if they can scientifically prove that the chemical limits are not harmful then perhaps the limits may change. Mr. Chelton likened this to a stay of execution, not relief from phosphorous reduction.

It was noted that Cheshire is receiving State funding for the plant upgrade and it is prudent to proceed with the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Scannell moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourn at 8:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kasinskas 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
Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer
George Noewatne, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Dennis Dievert, Superintendent [WPCD](#)
Susan Zwick, Recording Secretary

