Water Pollution Control Authority  
February 24, 2010  
Regular Meeting  
Town Hall – Council Chambers

Members Present:  
Mr. John Attwood (Chairman)  
Mr. Steve Eberle  
Mrs. Katherine Fabiani  
Mr. Walter Gancarz  
Mr. Mark Korman  
Mr. Tim Pelton (Vice Chairman)

Members Absent:  
Mr. Mark Witek

Others Present:  
Mr. Dennis Dievert, Director, Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Mr. Donald Chelton, AECOM  
Mr. David Schrumm, Town Council Liaison  
Town Attorney Andrew Lord

Chairman Attwood 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. Attwood explained to the audience how to exit the chamber in the event of an emergency, in compliance with the Fire Marshal’s order.

The Chair welcomed two new members to the Authority, Mr. Walter Gancarz and Mr. Tim Pelton.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Eberle moved to nominate Mr. Attwood to serve as Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the year 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pelton. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fabiani moved to nominate Mr. Pelton to serve as Vice Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the year 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberle. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to come before the Authority.
APPLICATIONS

405 Maple Avenue

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that he tried to reach the applicant today but was unable to do so. The applicant is revising the site plan as a result of questions regarding fill over the lines and a question from the Fire Department. It was the consensus of the Authority that the application be tabled until the applicant submits the necessary additional information.

RIZ Realty

Mr. Anthony Fazzone, of Fazzone & Ryan, LLC, addressed the Authority on behalf of the applicant, RIZ Realty. He reminded members that this application came before the Authority on March 26, 2008, and received Feasibility, Final Design and Award of Capacity approvals for the property at 869 West Main Street.

Attorney Fazzone informed the Authority that because economic conditions have not been favorable for commercial development, the property owner has not been able to proceed with this project. The applicant is requesting a two-year extension of the approvals.

This application relates to a 14,000 s.f. mixed use development. The current building has been demolished. The area is in the Conservation Area of the State OPM map. Mr. Fazzone commented that approval of the sewer was based upon the fact that the sewer is an extension of the sewer line, not a connection.

In response to a query from Mr. Eberle, Mr. Fazzone stated that the lots further down Mountain Road were not approved for development and are not part of this project. Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that he has no problem with granting the extension. There has been no change to the design documents that were previously approved.

In response to a query from the Authority, Attorney Lord stated that the Regulations are silent in relation to the length of time that permits can be extended, although it would be unusual to grant an extension beyond two years.

Mr. Eberle commented that the yearly sewer capacity has not been exceeded, so granting this extension would not impact plant capacity. Mr. Attwood stated that he is comfortable granting the extension since there have been no changes in the plans. In response to a query from Mrs. Fabiani, it was stated that the g.p.d. for this project will be 1,400. Mr. Chelton noted that the allowable plant flow has been increased to 4 m.p.d. so there will be less impact than at the original time of approval.
Mr. Chelton stated that phosphorus levels are not going to be met at any plant limits. The Town is currently out of compliance, but has notified the DEP of this situation and an extension has been requested. He noted that if the flow into the plant increases then the allowable phosphorous increases also.

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority grant a two-year extension of the Award of Capacity and Final Design approval of RIZ Realty. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberle.

Discussion of Motion:

In response to a query from Mr. Korman regarding the location of this property in a Conservation Area, Mr. Dievert stated that there have been no changes made by the DEP relating to the map. However, this approval is considered an extension of the sewers rather than a connection, so that is not an issue. Mr. Korman commented that he originally voted in opposition to this application because of the issue of the property being in the Conservation Area.

Vote on Motion: Carried 6-1. Mr. Korman voted in opposition.

REPORTS FROM CHAIRMAN/STAFF

Mixville Pump Station

Mr. Mariusz Jedrychowski, project manager for Wright-Pierce, addressed the Authority and stated that the contract with Zenelis Construction has met all approvals and has been signed. There will be a kick-off meeting tomorrow and at that time a schedule for the project will be developed. Mr. Jedrychowski will present the schedule at the next meeting. It is anticipated that construction will begin on March 10, and there is a 270 day construction schedule. Hopefully, the project will be complete by the middle of December if all goes as planned.

Mr. Dievert reiterated his declaration that he has a conflict of interest relating to this project, and will not be part of discussion and/or action relating to the project. His assistant, Scott Hallier, will handle the necessary work.

A discussion ensued regarding printing costs on the Wright-Pierce invoice. It appears that there is a duplicate charge, but it may have been subsequently removed. Since there is a question relating to the invoice, it was the consensus of the Authority to approve the invoice at the lower cost and deal with any subsequent charges at a later date.

Mr. Korman moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Invoice #68312 of Wright-Pierce in the amount of $12,531.76, for work relating to the Mixville Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Project. This approval is subject to the possibility of an additional invoice being presented for printing costs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz and carried unanimously.
Facilities Plan Update

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that there has been no change since last month when Phase 2 of the Facilities Plan was presented to the Authority. The plan is to conduct a workshop on March 10 relating to the plan. Mr. Chelton’s presentation will be approximately ½ to one hour, and the rest of the meeting will be devoted to questions from the Authority and other attendees. He would anticipate that the dialogue will last approximately two to four hours or more. The workshop will begin at 6:00.

Mr. Attwood requested that Mr. Dievert invite all other Boards and Commissions, as well as the Town Council, Town Manager, the Economic Development Coordinator, Planning & Zoning and the Finance Director. Mr. Chelton noted that this project is just an upgrade of the plant facility to accommodate current needs, and it may not be necessary to invite all of the above mentioned parties. Mr. Attwood responded that he wants everyone who could possibly be involved to be invited and to have the opportunity to have input relating to these important issues. It is important to get the message out about the plant and upcoming needs and related expenses.

Mr. Dievert will take care of the meeting notice and the invitations. It was the consensus of the Authority that everyone be invited, and those wishing to attend and learn more about the project and future financial obligations are welcome to attend.

Mr. Chelton will draft a letter detailing the finances of the project and related information.

Mr. Chelton referred to a letter that he sent to the Authority which was delivered to each member’s home. He stated that Phase 2 of the Facilities Plan for the upgrade and improvements to the plant has been completed and delivered to the Authority. He stated that the anticipated cost of the project is $33.6 million dollars, which is more than was anticipated. Mr. Chelton reiterated the importance of the upcoming workshop on March 15, which will give everyone the opportunity to understand the project and ask questions.

Mr. Chelton noted that the original fee for the Facilities Plan did not include preparation for the workshop, or the presentation. The estimated cost for that work is $7,900. Mr. Chelton also reviewed the financial status of the existing agreement for services for the Facilities Plan. Services are being performed on a cost plus fixed fee basis, and can only be changed if the scope of services changes.

Mr. Chelton detailed services that still remain to be completed for this project, which shows the difference between the cost to complete and the remaining balance in the current cost budget is a deficit of $11,900. Mr. Chelton stated that no fixed fee is being requested. Mr. Chelton also included an updated schedule for ongoing projects to the Authority.
Therefore, he is requesting that the AECOM agreement be increased by that amount to cover the remaining services. Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that the proposed amendment includes costs related to the upcoming workshop, which results in an additional Amendment of $19,800.

Mr. Chelton stated that it is very difficult to predict the cost of a study, since there are so many variables. One item which took more time was the phosphorus issue, because at this time last year no one knew what the limits were going to be. This is a difficult type of analysis to perform.

Mr. Gancarz stated that when he read the Agreement he felt that the scope of services for Phase 2 of the Facilities Plan was well defined. Upon reflection of Mr. Chelton’s detailed description of additional services, Mr. Gancarz understands the request to amend the Agreement.

Mr. Chelton advised the Authority that the Implementation Plan will not be developed until after the workshop and all information has been reviewed and analyzed. Mr. Attwood commented that AECOM has come in under budget on many projects, and the current request is very reasonable for the additional work performed.

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement between the Town of Cheshire, CT and AECOM USA, Inc. in the amount of an increase from $162,200 to $182,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gancarz and carried unanimously.

It was noted that Attorney Lord has reviewed and approved the Agreement, and Mr. Attwood will sign it at the end of the meeting.

WPCD Influent Pump Station

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that the Influent Pump Station Project has been advertised for bid. There has been a modest amount of interest, and some general contractors have taken out plans. Bid opening date is March 4, and Mr. Chelton is requesting that review and award of bid take place at the special meeting workshop on March 10. This timeline will keep the project moving in a timely fashion. Mr. Attwood informed those present the copies of Phase 2 of the Facilities Plan are available to those who do not have a copy.

I & I Program – Interceptor Manhole Rehabilitation

Mr. Pelton inquired about the affect of the rains during the month of January. Mr. Dievert responded that he will develop more specific numbers, but it was evident that there was improvement. He noted that the issue is not total flows into the plant, but the reduction in the amount of peak flows, which cause the most serious problems. Those peak flows have definitely decreased.
Mr. Attwood noted the importance of advertising the fact that there has been a reduction in peak flows as a result of the Interceptor Manhole Rehabilitation Project. It is important for property owners to be aware that funds expended serve to reduce flow into the plant, and thus preserve the life of the plant.

Mr. Chelton stated that every storm is different, but overall results show that the amount of flow into the plant is less than before. He further expressed concern that the issues of sump pumps are still a major concern. There is still approximately $500,000 remaining in the budget to examine inflow and infiltration issues. He suggested that he work with Mr. Dievert to come up with some suggestions and recommendations for the Authority to consider.

Mr. Attwood noted that there is much to look at in terms of sump pumps. This issue has been before the Authority for a long time. Mr. Chelton suggested that the issue be looked at holistically, and not piece by piece as has been done in the past. He definitely feels that this situation must be part of the plant investigation. Mr. Chelton stated that results will not necessarily be seen in average numbers, but in the reduction of peak flows, where the impact is seen.

**Lilac Drive Pump Station**

This project is in the guarantee period.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that as a result of the Town’s foresight in constructing the Denitrification Facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Town is now in the position of obtaining funds from the State. These funds are in the form of credits which are paid to the Town because of the removal of nitrogen from the sewer system. Other towns who are not removing nitrogen have to pay credits to the State.

Mr. Dievert stated that the Town will be getting back $47,095 in nitrogen credits this year. The Town is basically set for life in terms of removing nitrogen from the sewer system. There are some Towns which are paying over $400,000 because they are not removing nitrogen and have not built a nitrogen removal facility. Mr. Dievert opined that the Town made the right decision to build the Denitrification Facility.

In response to a query from Mr. Pelton, Mr. Dievert stated that the cost to operate the facility is approximately $200,000 per year.

Mr. Dievert informed the Authority that he and several Town officials attended a meeting with seven other towns regarding the issue of phosphorous removal. There is a difference in opinion between the DEP and the EPA regarding the limits of phosphorous that must be removed from sewer systems. It is a cognitive argument, and levels will be different from town to town, according to their location in relation to Long Island Sound.
Mr. Pelton offered that the Town must do its homework regarding phosphorous removal. The current grant funding for nitrogen removal is 30%. It remains to be seen what the grant funding will be for phosphorous removal. Mr. Chelton added that there are still many questions regarding funding, and hopefully, the Town may be eligible for a grant or a loan. The DEP is hoping to have more information available in March.

Mr. Chelton informed the Authority that the bill he spoke about last month, “Jobs for Main Street”, has passed the Senate and the House. Specifics of the bill will now be worked out and he will pass along information to the Authority as it becomes available. It may be a source of funding for the Town.

Chesprocott Information

Authority members received a copy of the monthly letter from Chesprocott, detailing failing septic system failures and repairs for the month of January. Mr. Dievert reported that there is nothing remarkable in the Chesprocott report this month.

Sump Pump Information

Mr. Attwood informed the Authority that he sent an e-mail to Town Manager Milone regarding sump pump inspections. Mr. Milone responded to the e-mail via a memo to Mr. Attwood and Authority members.

Mr. Milone reminded members that in 2007-08 inspections of approximately 500 homes were conducted, which revealed a total of 12 illegal sump pump connections. He noted the Authority discussed several approaches to addressing I & I issues at that time. Staff recommended addressing inflow from manholes along interceptors, because that revealed measurable benefits to the sewer system. At that time there was no formal sump pump program, as the previous inspection program revealed limited results.

Mr. Milone agreed that it is still important to look for illegal sump pump connections whenever possible, as requested by the WPCA. The Building Inspection Department has reported that they do look for sump pumps when doing inspections, but have only discovered a handful of illegal sump pumps. When discovered, they notify the property owner that the connection of a sump pump to the sewer system is not allowed.

Mr. Milone informed the Authority that an inspection of each property will be conducted during the fall of 2011 property appraisal. Hopefully, a sump pump inspection will take place at that time.

Mr. Schrumm recommended that the remaining I & I funds may be used to TV some of the sewer lines. Mr. Chelton commented that cameras were used to view lines a few years ago and some repairs were made. Mr. Schrumm further commented that connecting sump pumps into the Town sewer system is a serious violation. Mr. Attwood responded that this is an issue that needs to be addressed in the future, as current fines are not enough of a deterrent for sump pump violators.
Mr. Chelton advised that the Town should develop a program regarding the issue of sump pumps. It is not enough just to tell property owners to disconnect from the system, but a plan has to be in place regarding what to do with the water that is flooding basements. He opined that the most successful programs have been those that begin with an amnesty program, where the Town agrees to withhold fines and work with property owners on solutions to the problems. Mr. Attwood stated that this needs to be a topic for discussion in the future.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

Mr. Attwood moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve invoice #7072596 from AECOM in the amount of $6,201.45, for services relating to Phase 2 of the Facilities Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Korman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Attwood moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve invoice #7072601 from AECOM in the amount of $4,050.00, for services relating to the WPCP Influent Pump Station Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Korman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Attwood moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve invoice #7072598 from AECOM in the amount of $3,559.18, for services relating to the Manhole Rehabilitation Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Korman and carried unanimously.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Authority members received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Regulations in their packets. Attorney Lord explained that any Authority member who has or thinks they may have a conflict of interest regarding any project or issue must disclose the conflict and recuse themselves from discussion and/or action regarding that issue.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the Authority.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Attwood inquired of Attorney Lord regarding the issue of changing the order of the agenda to accommodate audience members who may be making presentations to the Authority. Attorney Lord stated that the order of the agenda may be altered by a vote of the Authority, but he would check to see if there are any other requirements relating to altering the agenda.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Attwood moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve the minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2010, as presented, subject to correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pelton.

Corrections:

Page 6, paragraph 6, should read, “……limit is 2mg/l.”
Page 6, paragraph 7, should read, “…… MPDES permit…”

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pelton moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourn at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eberle and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Attwood, 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