

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and by Telephone
September 10, 2020 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: William Buckley called the remote meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: William Buckley, James Koser, David Geiger, Thomas Waterhouse and William "Sky" Post. Also present were Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Ann Combs, Recording Secretary, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director and First Selectman Denise Raap hosting the Zoom meeting. Members of the public were also present. David R. Wilson arrived at 8:05 p.m., but was not included as a voting member.

Absent: Christian Bratina, James Koser (listened in from 7:45 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.)

SEATING ALTERNATES: D. Geiger and Sky Post were seated as regular members for Christian Bratina and David R. Wilson.

MINUTES

a) 8/13/20 Regular Meeting: Motion: D. Geiger moved to approve the minutes of 8/13/20 as filed. T. Waterhouse seconded, all voted aye except T. Waterhouse, who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

BUSINESS

1. Thomaston WPCA Phosphorus Upgrade Costs: Ted Donoghue said that Thomaston has completed its phosphorus upgrade and has offered us a deal that Christian Bratina agrees with. Based on the Intermunicipal Agreement with Thomaston, they have offered that we pay \$20,209.40 in two annual payments over the next two fiscal years with no interest. This way we would not have to participate in the 20-year Clean Water Fund loan. The interest would be 2%, or an additional \$9,000 in interest if we paid over 20 years. Raz noted that it would also be compounded interest, making the final cost more. These two non-interest payments can be made either from the operating budget or from Fund 66 and will not have to go to Town Meeting.

Motion: S. Post moved to accept the proposal for the upgrade cost to Thomaston WPCA as outlined by Ted Donoghue. D. Geiger seconded.

Discussion: D. Geiger asked from where the funds should come. T. Donoghue felt the funds should come from Fund 66, Capital Non-Recurring.

Amended Motion: S. Post moved that the funds come from Fund 66. D. Geiger seconded the motion.

Vote: Voting on the amendment, all voted aye and the motion carried. Voting on the original motion as amended, all voted aye and the motion carried.

2. Discussion about Woodridge Lake Sewer District: T. Donoghue said they are working hard on the additional sampling and loading coming into the plant. S. Post asked if a Woodridge Lake decision was at least nine months off. Mr. Buckley said it was, but there is work to do in the interim to hire our own consultant to do an independent study of our own stand-alone plant needs. Once that is done we can go back and consider both options.

3. Update of Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement: T. Donoghue said Ray Drew and Dave Wilson need to discuss more details, so we should have a report at the next meeting. W. Buckley said Torrington is trying to use our flow to recoup an expense that has nothing to do with conveying our sewage at the point it enters their collection system to their treatment plant. That does not seem fair.

4. COD Testing Equipment: T. Donoghue said he is doing a 5-day BOD test once or twice a week. The COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand) test is a three-hour test, so we could get results more quickly on the loading from the previous day. They can also use it for septage, and to evaluate data from commercial customers. With the colorimetric meter we can analyze for other nutrients, such as nitrate or phosphorus. Two of the three colorimeter meters use testing vials that do not contain mercury, but the Lamont does. The cost is under the \$3,000 approval threshold, so it will come out of the supply line item, probably \$1,230 for the meter. He wanted to explain the process as a new ongoing procedure for process control that shows results in three hours so they can understand the loading better. D. Geiger thought it was money well spent.

5. Commercial Industry Discharge to WWCF: T. Donoghue said he has been starting a spreadsheet for Arethusa and is recording flows going through their process treatment system. The new sampler is running to analyze the samples for BOD, TSS and FOG. Their average 7-day rolling flow is 4,473 gal/day; BOD 4700 MG; TSS 3,321 MG; FOG sample 424 MG. Since July BOD averages 37 lbs./day but ranges from 72 to 300 lbs./day of loading. The flows have doubled some days which can produce much more loading into the plant. Knowing the true loading is key to the facility plan we will conduct in the future.

6. Collection System Work: Ted Donoghue said he finally got the N95 masks, so he will be taking out the trailer jetter to train the new employee. He will be using the new tablet and apps so they will be able to generate a report from data inputted to the apps for the CMOM. *[David Wilson arrived here at 8:05 p.m.]* Indian Knolls is completed and they want to be released from the bond they were required to purchase. They will sign the collection system over to us and give us an easement. The treatment plant crew cameraed the line and found they need to do a little jetting. They have been using the HOBO probes in Bantam and have not found problems, but will move them around.

- a) **Jetting/Cleaning:** see above
- b) **CCTV Work:** see above

7. Plant Equipment Updates

a) **UV System:** Ted said in sizing a new UV system they have to agree on a peak potential flow for the plant. They will get together with Christian to discuss this.

b) **Mechanical Bar Screen:** Christian will do an update for the Commission at the next meeting.

c) **Sludge Mixers/Sludge Recirculation Pumps:** The sludge mixer is in the U.S. and should be delivered sometime next week. Ted will hire a company who have a crane boom to remove the old equipment and lift up the new mixer to the top of the tank. While they are there, they will also install the retrofitted nitro return pump to be used as a sludge recirculation pump in the BST tank.

8. Safety: Ted said that on 8/27/20 a lightning strike tripped out the transfer switch and activated the generator to protect the system. There have been no accidents.

9. Commissioner's Requests: Regarding the request for qualification statements, D. Wilson said the method the State has adopted is to first find qualified contractors and then solicit bids afterwards. So the scope of work is done after a team of consultants is chosen for which we want a quote. He noted that Raz said there is a lot of record keeping to do that, but if we want the potential 55% State grant for a facility plan, we need to follow the Quality Based Selection(QBS) process to meet or exceed any and all the requirements the CT DEEP insist on to utilize any Clean Water funding. Raz Alexe agreed. D. Wilson said there is a detailed process to follow. Ted said Roland Denny shared his instructions for doing the RFQ and selection process in a guide to providing professional services. He will send it out to the Commissioners. He added that if they meet the threshold for the Quality Based Selection (QBS) process,

we could potentially get a lucrative grant for the facility plan. Doing this first step we would be meeting the threshold for any future Clean Water Funding by already doing this one for the facilities plan. W. Buckley suggested the members look over the current facilities plan to see what it provides. C. Bratina has completed a draft of the RFQ. Mr. Geiger said he should review it with D. Wilson and Ted, make any adjustments and present it at the next meeting.

10. Public Works / Treatment Plant Report: Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. Ted said he has been seeing some great low flows. The average daily flow for the month of August was 0.248 MGD and the total flow was 7.674 MG. We removed 52,000 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of August.

- We processed a total of 82,500 gallons of septage during the month of August, a substantial 58% decrease over last August. YTD we are down 43%. Mr. Morosky will be back at the plant with a calibrated site glass on his truck.
- For August effluent BOD removal percent was 99% and TSS removal percent was 99%. The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%.
- The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs. /day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.8 mg/ or 6 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day. They are doing extremely well, averaging 14 lbs. /day.
- The daily average for Total Phosphorous lbs. /day discharged in the Bantam River was 3.7 mg/l. or 7.5 lbs. /day. The monthly average cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs. /day.
- On 8/6/20 continued post storm clean up. The plant ran on generator for 5 days and was restored on 8/9/20. Northfield station ran for 3 days on generator power.
- On 8/11/20 Northfield went back on generator for no apparent reason, as power was not disrupted. It turned off on 8/14/20. Ted called a service tech for diagnosis, as it may be a possible issue with a transfer switch.
- On 8/24/20 the very large FOIA request for Cramer & Anderson was completed.
- On 8/27/20 another severe storm at 3:15 PM. A very close lightning strike tripped out the main breaker on the transfer switch, which forced the plant to go on generator power, although power was not lost.
- Old Business. 1) Second vehicle. 2) Easements. 3) Influent/Septage study. 4) UV System. 5) Anoxic Mixer. 6) Mechanical Bar Screen.

a) **Easements:** No report

b) **Operations:** No report

c) **Septic Flow Meter:** No report

11. Financial Report: T. Donoghue did not have Sandy's revenue report yet, but he said he should have hard numbers next month. They've used 12.3% of expense and are in about the same place as last year.

12. Old Business

a) **Second Vehicle:** No report

b) **FY 2019 Audit:** No report

13. Adjournment: Motion: D. Wilson moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. and S. Post seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary