

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and by Telephone
May 14, 2020 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman David R. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Christian Bratina, David Geiger William Buckley, James Koser, David R. Wilson, Thomas Waterhouse, and William “Sky” Post. Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary, were also present. First Selectman Denise Raap hosted the Zoom meeting and Selectmen Anne Dranginis was also present.

Absent: David Geiger

SEATING ALTERNATES: Sky Post was seated as a regular member.

MINUTES

a) 4/9/20 Regular Meeting: D. Wilson noted a change under 8b), which led to a discussion with D. Raap, who said since they all need to abide by the same plan, she would send him the 90-day deferment option that the Selectmen chose for the tax program. D. Wilson said it doesn’t mean much for sewer taxes in this time frame. He preferred to delay approval of the minutes, but Mr. Buckley said they should approve the minutes, as that are correct in the motion made. Then they should take up the topic again at the next meeting and make a correcting motion. **Motion:** W. Buckley moved to approve the minutes as presented with Christian’s edits. C. Bratina seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

BUSINESS

1. Discussion about Woodridge Lake Sewer District: D. Wilson updated the group that the First Selectman did not sign the support letter for the USDA funding, and he agreed, as the language indicated we had already done everything. In fact, we just wanted an idea of financial support available before moving ahead. The USDA will take all money off the table in August, and we can start the process again in the future. He noted a group of concerned citizens represented by Attorney Perley Grimes that feels we shouldn’t be considering work done by WLSD’s consultant. In the future we will do work on our own or approach in a different way. Woodridge Lake is now a non-issue.

2. Update of Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement: D. Wilson said Torrington’s provided information on its user fee (interest, debt service) is close to 50%. If that clause remains in the IMA, we would be paying the upgrade money twice: once through Torrington’s user charge and once through our portion of the plant upgrade. We are moving forward month by month now. They know we are going to reduce our buy-in, but gave us no other comments.

3. Hach WYMS, JobCal, and sc 200 purchases: D. Wilson said they sat through a demo about a month ago on this software, got a quote, approved the purchase, and now have to figure out the specifics. It doesn’t tie in with the SCADA system, but we should have it operational so internal data cannot be hacked. One copy of it can be installed on a PC or on a server, where everyone at the facility could access. They will contact the Town’s IT people to help. R. Alexe offered to help and said the problem is where the data is stored. It is expensive to store it on the icloud at about \$100/month storage fee. It could be stored on the Town’s server, but the maintenance fee would make it more expensive. D. Wilson said the other item is the sc 200, the level of control for the DO probes. The plexiglass guard on it cracked. It

is not working and needs to be replaced. Ted reported a new one with a sun UV shield is \$2,400. They are not sure if a repair would work and would cost \$1,200 before labor. D. Wilson asked Ted to look for a lower cost third-party supplier and also for the Hach items. They will need a fourth controller to put the third aeration tank online. He got quotes from NIC for the programming, and it's not inexpensive. Perhaps they could repair or replace the existing tank. C. Bratina asked him to look into cost on E-Bay. **Motion:** W. Buckley moved to authorize T. Donohue to start shopping and purchase a replacement for the sc 200 with the broken screen for not to exceed \$2,500. C. Bratina seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

4. Transfers of Impeller, Wear Rings to Fund 66 – Total \$1,965.00: D. Wilson explained they would like to transfer funds from the operating account into the Capital account for rebuilding portions of pumps that were supposed to last ten or more years. Ted added they need a new impeller for one of the RAS pumps and a set of wear rings for a total of \$1,965. **Motion:** C. Bratina moved to transfer the operating expenditure for the impeller wear rings to Fund 66 in the amount of \$1,965. W. Buckley seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

5. Septage Tipping Fee Rate Increase: T. Donoghue explained this is separate from the approved rate increase to take place July 1st. He is recommending, for the remainder of the current fiscal year, they go to a flat rate of 7 cents/gallon after the first 1,000 gallons that the truckers may have on their truck. That would require the haulers to pay more if they have less than 500 gallons. They would get a price break for the more they have on their truck. W. Buckley suggested they get a calibrated sight glass so there is no dispute. Raz said it is a fine line. If we want the septage, we need to negotiate. C. Bratina said if a truck has a calibrated gage, he has no problem charging 8 cents/gallon, but if there is not a gage, maybe we should charge for the full volume of the truck. W. Buckley agreed and said that if treated disrespectfully by a hauler, the WPCA could vote to suspend his rate and his privilege to dispose at their facility. Ted said he appreciated the support. After discussion there was a consensus to stay with the original motion adopted last month. T. Donohue will draft a letter for review addressed to the haulers with the new rate increase effective July 1 with new procedures and requirements. R. Alexe mentioned the matter of how much revenue is gained from the septage and the cost of treatment that must also be dealt with.

6. Collection System Work: Ted Donoghue said work has been put on hold in this area, but he is working with GIS data to be ready to go when they get back to work.

7. Plant Equipment Updates

a) UV System: Ted will be following up with C. Bratina to move forward.

b) Raw Influent Composite Sampler: Both new samplers have arrived. The new employee is a licensed electrician, so he will be able to install the new sampler.

c) Anoxic Mixer: The new one is on order.

d) Sludge Mixers/Sludge Recirculation Pump: They are using the sludge recirculation pump that they modified.

8. Safety: Ted said there were no accidents or issues to report.

9. Commissioner's Requests: D. Wilson spoke about the Green Bank and how liens through them take priority over the sewer liens. He was not in favor of this. D. Raap said she thought they have been in business for 7 years, and that of all the 130 towns that participate, none have ever had a default.

10. Public Works / Treatment Plant Report

a) Easements: No report

b) Operational: April was a very good month for the plant. Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report with one exception, an effluent non-compliance event for exceeding the daily maximum of 50 mg/l, for both TSS and BOD, on 4/13/20 due to a high flow event. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. The average daily flow for the month of April was 0.697 MGD and the total flow was 20.915MG. We removed 71,500 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of April.

- We processed a total of 113,750 gallons of septage during the month of April a 12% decrease over last April. Year to date we are at an 18% increase. He's already matched what they did in septage for the last fiscal years.
- For April effluent BOD removal percent was 98% and TSS removal percent was 98%. The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%.
- The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs. /day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.2mg/ or 13 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day. This is a direct result of the programming change made on the aeration. Since the program in Feb, the pounds have been dropping each month.
- The daily average for Total Phosphorous lbs. /day discharged in the Bantam River was 0.7 mg/l or 3.9 lbs. /day. The monthly average cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs. /day.
- For the entire month of April we ran with only two operators per day, per Public Work's Director Raz Alexe's Covid 19 response plan.
- On 4/13/20 reported an effluent non-compliance event for exceeding our daily maximum of 50 mg/l for both BOD and TSS due to a high flow events. Our flows tripled during the day, as we ended up doing 1.216 MGD.
- Ted showed a chart showing the plant loading, rates and how much the plant is processing. From all the composite samples they did, it showed there was much more loading coming into the plant than the 2003 upgrade planned for. D. Wilson said they are looking for more sampling.
- Old Business. 1) Second vehicle. 2) Easements. 3) Electrical Training. 4) Influent/Septage study. 5) UV System. 6) Anoxic Mixer. 7) Mechanical Bar Screen.

c) Septic: see report above

d) Equipment: No report

W. Buckley complimented Ted for all he is doing and said he is doing a great job running the plant.

11. Financial Report: T. Donoghue reported spending at 87% of the budget for this fiscal year. They may need to move labor money, but Stacey in Finance said to wait until June. Sandy has been doing exceptionally well with revenue. C. Bratina is still looking for an audit resolution. T. Donoghue said the auditor has not responded to him, but maybe they could hold a Zoom meeting. He will follow up. C. Bratina asked to discuss the COVID-19 operating plans for Ted for the rest of the year. All agreed, as it may stretch out into next year.

12. Old Business

a) **Second Vehicle:** No report

13. Adjournment: Motion: W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary