

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
29 Stoddard Road, Bantam, CT  
January 9, 2020 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** David R. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and introduced the two new members, Sky Post (Alternate) and Thomas Waterhouse (BOS Liaison).

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Christian Bratina, James Koser, David R. Wilson, David Geiger, and new members Thomas Waterhouse as BOS Liaison and William “Sky” Post as alternate member. Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary, were also present, as well as First Selectman Denise Raap.

Absent: William Buckley

**SEATING ALTERNATES:** None needed as W. Buckley was expected.

**MINUTES**

a) **12/12/19 Regular Meeting:** deferred to next month to incorporate Ted’s edits

**BUSINESS**

**1. Public Requests:** John Post of the Green Team was present to explain that the Green Team looks for opportunities for renewables and to reduce energy in Town. They are on the verge of a solar project to put panels up at DPW. Virtual net metering allows for a solar farm to sell electricity to five distinct meters, of which WPCA could be one. There is property at Wamogo being considered by Region 6, and they would like to include WPCA, as it is one of the largest energy users in the town. Estimated cost would be 11-12 cents/KWH. The Green Team is also exploring opportunities to reopen the ZREC that was lost, as the cost for the ZREC could be less than 10 cents/KWH and more attractive than virtual net metering. The impact of the demand charge is actually going down. We are a rate 30 now per Ted, not locked in. Mr. Post will contact Ted for next steps.

Michael Banziruk asked about water turbine to generate electricity. D. Wilson replied that it had not been considered because the flows can be low at times.

**2. Discussion about Woodridge Lake Sewer District:** D. Wilson said WLSD has done some extensive flow studies by placing four meters in our system from the end of Constitution Way to just north of the plant, High Bridge Road and just before Route 209. They have some good data with rain events included and they are evaluating now. The answer to whether our collection system can handle proposed flows from WLSD is that there is not an awful lot that might have to be done with the system, but they will take a closer look. C. Bratina thinks portions of the upgrade design were not what they should have been. D. Wilson said DEEP does not have a problem with increasing our permit by the Woodridge Lake design flow. Nitrogen would increase from their flow, though. We may explore with USDA to see what funding is available and what percentage grant we could get. C. Bratina said the issue is peak flows. The plant was designed for peak flows at 2.13 MGD, but we’ve had flows of over 3 MGD which washes out part of the treatment process and triggers non-compliance issues. We need to increase the flow capacity of the plant just to handle our flow. We could make some modifications to the primary clarifiers, as we’ve always had trouble getting the sludge out of them. We may have to add an additional secondary clarifier. We have an aging UV system that is not designed for these peak flows and needs to be upgraded. Also, additional improvements can be made with denitrification. There are a number of problems and we want to improve the treatment process so the effluent quality is consistent. We are looking at the whole treatment process, and it will require capital

improvements. Tom Waterhouse asked what causes peak flows to triple the normal design flow. D. Wilson explained that it could be I&I from rainwater, high water table, roof leaders, sump pumps in basements, and some old, cracked pipes in the system. We are close to the point where we will take some action with WLSD, but we won't do it if it would be detrimental to us. C. Bratina said we wouldn't increase labor cost but we would be getting more flow, so there is a budget advantage.

**3. Update of Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement:** D. Wilson said the draft IMA was send to him and we are reviewing it and trying to decide how we want it to read. We have taken proposed flows to see if we can meet that. So far, our results are spotty. We want to reduce monitoring required (composite sampling once a month), and we would like to limit it to shared services and proportionate use.

**4. 216 Circle Drive Repair:** Ted said this job was completed Tuesday. The pipe was twice as deep as anticipated. There were no cracks in the pipe. The line was blocked due to roots but it backed up into the crawl space twice, which was very puzzling. So he asked the owner to have a plumber check all the fittings in the crawl space. D. Wilson asked Ted to send her a letter summarizing this.

**5. FY 2021 Budget Draft:** Ted said they budgeted for 94% collection rate. The budget provides for a potential retirement payout and new plant operator in the next year. Electricity has been lowered by 4%. Capital Nonrecurring was lowered by \$5,000. Data processing went up \$1,800 for the Munis cloud service. He also said they are beginning to budget for their share of the Torrington upgrade. D. Wilson told Ted that it's a good start.

**6. Collection System Work:** Nothing to report, but will do some investigative scouting tomorrow.

a) **Jetting/Cleaning:** see above

b) **CCTV Work:** see above

## **7. Plant Equipment Updates**

a) **UV System:** Ted said they will use same system for the next disinfection system to determine flows and other aspects of the plant. They will re-visit this later because it will be a sizeable purchase in the \$125,000 - \$175,000 range. They have over \$800,000 now in Capital-Nonrecurring.

b) **Sludge Mixers/Sludge Recirculation Pump:** No report

**8. Safety:** No issues to report.

**9. Commissioner's Requests:** D. Wilson reported there will be an FOI course in Warren on 1/27/20, and noted a memo from D. Raap that has asked the Commissions to monitor attendance. She said there is no attendance problem with the WPCA, but some Commissions are having trouble gaining quorums because of absences.

## **10. Public Works / Treatment Plant Report**

a) **Easements:** No report

b) **Operational:** Ted reported permit compliance has been maintained with the exception of exceeding monthly average for lbs./day for nitrogen. There were also two effluent non-compliance events reported on 12/16/19 and 12/30/19. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. The average daily flow for November was 0.668 MGD and the total flow was 20.708 MG. They removed 91,000 gallons of

sludge, twice as much due to the mixers. BOD removal was 98% and TSS was 98%. The daily average for total nitrogen lbs. /day discharged was 6.2 mg/L, or 29 lbs. /day, with limit of 24 lbs./day. The daily average for total phosphorous lbs. /day was 2.6 mg/L, which is good for winter.

Incidents acted on include:

- 12/5/19: Pumped out both Northfield and Wells Run pump stations and billed them accordingly
- 12/12/19: The #5 and #6 stand pipes on west settling tank became clogged. They jetted over the next two days to keep it flowing.
- On 12/14/19 reported an effluent non-compliance for TSS and BOD exceeding daily maximum due to both stand pipes becoming clogged overnight. Had to take the west tank off line as a result.
- 12/18/19: All attended mandatory sexual harassment training.
- 12/19/19: Jim and Joe retrofitted piping in order to use FST pump as a sludge re-circulation pump.
- 12/27/19: Replaced all LDO caps on the four DO meters in biological basins.
- 12/30/19: Reported an effluent non-compliance event for TSS exceeding daily maximum limit due to high flows – 50 mg/L.

c) **Septic:** They processed 74,000 gallons of septage in December, a 24% decrease over last December. Year to date they are at a 12% increase, and he is happy.

d) **Equipment:** See No. 7 above.

**11. Financial Report:** Ted reported one of the biggest line items is professional services, but they're in a good place. He spent a lot in supplies, so he will slow up now. He has spent 32% of the budget at this point and is in a strong position. C. Bratina's cash flow trend chart shows spending is at a slower rate and revenue is higher. They purchased an iPad and collector app that will help them email reports from inspections in the field.

## 12. Old Business

a) **Second Vehicle:** The man will not call Ted back regarding the Ford diesel F450 truck.

**13. Adjournment: Motion:** C. Bratina moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. and J. Koser seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary