

**MINUTES**  
**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**29 Stoddard Road, Bantam, CT 06750**  
**March 9, 2017 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** In the absence of Chairman David Wilson, David Geiger called the regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: William Buckley, David Geiger, James Koser, Christian Bratina, Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary

Absent: David R. Wilson, Robert D'Andrea,

**SEATING ALTERNATES:** None available

**MINUTES**

**1) Regular January 12, 2017** (postponed from 2/16/17): **Motion:** W. Buckley moved to approve the regular minutes of January 12, 2017, and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**2) Special February 16, 2017: Motion:** Postponed until next meeting.

**BUSINESS**

**1) Public Requests:** None

**2) Stop & Shop – Pustola & Associates Presentation:** This presentation was canceled, as Pustola was not prepared.

**3) Torrington WPCA Plant Upgrade Costs and the Necessity for Future Rate Increases:** T. Donohue said they had a meeting with Ray Drew and said they are about 50% complete on the value engineering review and estimated total cost is now over \$70 million. They estimate design completion in fall, with bid in early winter and construction in the spring. It will take 2-1/2 years of construction with three separate bond issues, 2% for 20 years, each at about \$20 million. With us keeping 150,000 gal/day reserve, we are looking at about \$72,000 in debt obligations. This would equal just over \$32/EDU based on 2,200 EDU's. D. Wilson said in an email that it would be advantageous to propose a rate increase now to start to cover the debt service and then another in 2020. He suggested a 3% rate increase. Ted referred to a budget proposal for 2017-18 showing a \$3.00/year rate increase (3%) and a \$19.00/year increase of 4.8%, which would make the budget work. They then discussed the gallon/day reserve and thought the 150,000 might be high. C. Bratina asked why they should bond for something they won't use. W. Buckley thought they should use 2,000 gal/acre/day to plan, saturating certain zones. They will revisit this and speak to Torrington. They will run the numbers for 75,000 gal/day or 90,000 gal/day and consider the calculations. The board felt that 5% increase is too much, and they should target a number they all agree on.

**4) Fuss & O'Neil Flow Dilution Proposal:** Ted presented a map where Fuss & O'Neil showed the recommended areas in green as well as areas of concern in pink and orange. The estimate of doing the green area is \$17,000. Ted feels confident with this proposal. All agreed to go ahead with it. They will do the pink and orange areas if they can get to it.

**5) 2017-18 Budgets – Operating and Capital:** Ted reviewed the budget. It was agreed that a separate audit is needed, as the Town audit doesn't show much. They can ask the First Selectman if the Board of Finance could ask the auditors to do additional work in the WPCA area. Ted will have D. Wilson talk to Leo about this. Ted said he can apply for a grant for I&I reimbursement. He will clarify and resend the general

obligation sewer bonds sheet in order to understand the debt service on the plant. D. Geiger said he is doing a good job on the budget and getting more accurate, but it can be sharpened up.

**6) Greenskies Update:** Greenskies wants to sign a contract before they do any due diligence. Attorney Rybak said it would be a long term lease requiring a town meeting. He is working on a clause that makes the contract null and void if they do not pass all the permitting. Raz Alexe said the question is if the contract is legal, will they will pursue. The urgency is ZREC. There is no pressure. D. Geiger saw no reason to push forward on the contract.

**7) Safety:** Flagging training was held at Public Works yesterday to be able to eliminate police cost. Raz has been setting up trainings online as well. No accidents occurred. C. Bratina suggested lab refreshers.

**8) Commissioners' Requests:** None

**9) Public Works/Treatment Plant Report:** February was similar to last month for flow. They removed 32,000 gallons of sludge. The plant performed very well. They had trouble with the ink roll on the Morris meter and ended up replacing it and on the other two meters. On 2/9/17 they replaced the last rubber hose on the Bredel finished sludge pump. C. Bratina said he should look at the cost of replacing the pump. They installed three new LCD screens on the Hach sc200 controllers for instrumentation in the two biological treatment tanks. On 2/27/17 they worked with Fuss & O'Neil surveying the system and popping manholes and discovered a major blockage between Forman School and Tallmadge Lane. They were able to clear it without incident. They pinpointed the trouble being at Forman but could not determine the cause. He did, however, find a lot of FOG and debris at their pump station. They will update it in the spring and send the plan to Ted. Ted also suggested they install lightning protection.

There has been no formal meeting yet with Arethusa. SVI's are in the low 220's, 230's - nothing like the last three winters - no problems at all. Ted will ask for data on BOD's. At the Distillery the TSS has come down since they put the filter on the separator. Ted confirmed we will be billing for that. C. Bratina asked for a data report for the Board's information only on Arethusa.

**a) Easements:** None

**b) Operational:** Nitrogen was slightly higher than last year but has been good. Morris has been fine with their flows but does have an I&I problem.

**c) Septic:** They processed a total of 24,000 gallons during February, a 63% increase over last February. Year to date is at an 11% decrease over last year.

**d) Equipment:** They rotated the tires on the F250 pickup truck.

**e) Energy:** No report

**10) Financial Report:** See No. 5 above.

**11) Adjournment: Motion:** W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Combs, Recording Secretary