

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam**  
**Thursday, August 12, 2021 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman David R. Wilson called the in-person meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: William Buckley, James Koser, Thomas Waterhouse, David R. Wilson. Also present were Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, and Raz Alexe, Public Works Director.

Absent: Sky Post, Christian Bratina and David Geiger. Also absent was Recording Secretary Ann Combs.

**SEATING ALTERNATE:** There were no alternate members present to be seated.

**MINUTES**

a) **7/8/21 Regular:** There were not enough members present to vote who also attended the July meeting, so approval was postponed until next month.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Public Request and or Comment:** Attorney Perley Grimes, representing the Concerned Litchfield Citizens, requested a copy of the report from the DEEP that Tom Waterhouse referred to in the 8/3/21 Selectmen's meeting. He then said he had a copy of it, but it deals with the infiltration of Bantam Lake. D. Wilson said the report is the TMDL report for Bantam Lake that is available online. Mr. Wilson said they would send him a link to the report tomorrow. Ted Donoghue added there was a public meeting last week regarding the study for Bantam Lake.

Kate Honan, Litchfield, asked about a March letter from Jennifer Perry and the Town's response letter that was sent to D. Wilson for review prior to sending. D. Wilson said they decided not to send the letter, as the questions were found to be inappropriate for that situation. She then referred to the 7/8/21 WPCA meeting, in which there was a disagreement between D. Wilson and T. Donoghue regarding a plant facility plan requested by the CT DEEP. At this point D. Raap then read the letter dated March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from Jennifer Perry at the CT DEEP, in which it was suggested that the Town perform a facility plan within a year, and that it should also include Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLS D). D. Wilson said they have not decided yet if they will do a facility plan evaluation, as they have not been ordered as of yet by the CT DEEP. The plant's NPDES permit are renewed every five years, and currently we are in the review process for our newest permit, and a full plant facility plan may be premature in his opinion. Dave said that he, Christian Bratina, and Bill Buckley are developing a scope of work to address non-compliance issues that have been on-going at the plant for years. This would then be presented to T. Donoghue and Raz Alexe for a final review and then brought before Woodard & Curran to begin the negotiations for on call engineering work.

John Kleeman, Beach Street, referred to the 2021 Annual Report and asked about residential EDUs. D. Wilson said they billed out 2,100 EDUs, of which about 80% were residential. He then asked for confirmation of figures Woodridge Lake would pay per year to Litchfield and the breakdown of what it would cover. D. Wilson replied that the numbers are estimates, and there are no valid answers right now. There must be an IMA in place with Woodridge Lake that determines the cost to another community. He told Mr. Kleeman that all discussions with WLS D have ceased when they decided to do the independent study, so this discussion is premature. Mr. Kleeman hoped that when available, his questions could be answered in order to determine if this potential merger is in the best interest of Litchfield customers. T. Donoghue and D. Wilson summarized the historical benefits of our IMAs with Thomaston, Torrington and Morris.

**2. Update on Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement:** D. Wilson said Harwinton had some concerns about a possible new pump station, but W. Buckley said we only want to pay for capital improvements associated with the conveyance of our sewage. D. Wilson added we all have not yet discussed volumes and how the charges are made. We are lowering our reserve from 150,000 gallons/day to 50,000 gallons/day because we only send on average 25,000 gallons/day to the Torrington Treatment Plant. They plan to meet sometime after Labor Day.

**3. Scope of Work & Contract Negotiations with Woodard & Curran:** D. Wilson reported he narrowed down the draft scope of work and will rewrite it and get it to Ted. W. Buckley and C. Bratina have reviewed it with him. The idea is that while we have not been ordered to do a facilities plan, we want to discover answers to operating issues and how to address non-compliance deficiencies. W. Buckley said the scope will include what improvements we need in order to satisfy Litchfield's needs. The scope of work has to be finalized before we can engage Woodard & Curran with a contract. R. Alexe said there is no scope of work on the table yet, and D. Wilson said he would have a draft of the scope back to the Board based on comments.

**4. Sewer Rate Study:** D. Wilson said they will seek data on meters near Hunter's Chase from Torrington Water Co. W. Buckley said he would like the sewer usage predicated on water usage.

**5. American Rescue Plan Funds – Sewer Infrastructure:** D. Wilson and T. Donoghue sat with the ARPA committee and advanced four items to quickly spend money on. R. Alexe highly supported the requests and noted that they are in line with the aims of the rescue fund, with direct impact to health. He saw no reason why they would not be highly considered. The four items were 1) flood study of the plant (\$35,000), 2) polymer mixing station \$18,000, 3) UV system replacement, \$250,000 and 4) the mechanical bar screen \$150,000.

**6. Collection System Work (Jetting/Cleaning & CCTV Work):** T. Donoghue said they have inspected 51 manholes and uncovered two manholes on Sheldon Lane that had been paved over more than ten years ago. They stopped because of the odd dimension of the manholes, and the fact that they were under 3-4" of asphalt. They will have to special order paving risers to ensure all manholes are even with the grade of the existing road. They have not done much CCTV work, but they helped Tractor Supply by finding a third stub so they did not have to cut the line to do their connection. They also helped Hunter's Chase by locating stubs for two more buildings.

## **7. Plant Equipment Updates**

a) **UV System:** see above

b) **Mechanical Bar Screen:** see above

**8. Safety:** T. Donoghue reported no issues, no training.

**9. Commissioner's Requests:** None

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

a) **Easements:** No report

b) **Operations:** Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report, with the exceptions of two effluent non-compliance events. The one on 7/6/21 was for the UV being off for 50 minutes due to a generator run failure, and on 7/9/21, for exceeding the daily maximum for BOD, TSS and E.coli. Routine

operations and maintenance work continues. For the month of July the total flow was 18.007 MG and the daily average flow was 0.581 MGD. We removed 91,000 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of July.

- We processed a total of 167,750 gallons of septage during the month of July, a 65% increase over last July.
- The July effluent BOD removal was 98% and TSS removal was 97%. The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%.
- The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs. /day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.2 mg/ or 8.4 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day.
- The daily average for Total Phosphorous discharged in the Bantam River was 1.8 mg/l or 6.7 lbs. /day. The monthly seasonal average, between April and October, cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs. /day.
- On 7/6/21 plant experienced a power outage due to severe storm When Jim arrived the generator was not running due to an “over crank” alarm as a result of a failing solenoid. Jim manually started it. UV system was down for 50 minutes and we had to report an effluent non-compliance.
- On 7/7/21 a massive tree dropped at the Northfield pump station, due to severe weather. The only damage was to a section of the perimeter fence.
- On 7/8/21 we had an 8 hour power outage at Northfield pump station.
- On 7/9/21 Tropical Storm Elsa dropped 1.9” of rain and the plant flow doubled in one hour from 600 GPM to 1490- GPM. Reported an Effluent 0-Nono-Complaincer in the afternoon due to exceeding the daily maximum for BOD, TSS and E.coli. The event only lasted 3 hours.
- On 7/12/21 H.O. Penn replaced the oil pressure gauge and solenoid on the plant generator.
- On 7/20/21 H.O. Penn performed a 4-hour load bank testing on the plant generator. The main issue is blow by, in which oil gets through the piston rings due to fact that they were never seated correctly.

**11. Financial Report:** T. Donoghue reported fiscal 2021 operation expenditures at a little over 98% against budget, and Sandy did very well with revenue collection. D. Wilson asked if the transfer to Fund 66 was in this report, and Ted said it would be in a different report that he could provide that shows the transfer. This is just an operating report against budget, not fund balance. The fund balance report would show what is totally in the account, including money in the account since the last transfer. D. Wilson said we effectively spent it in the last fiscal year. Ted agreed but said it was not part of the operation budget as it was spent from the fund balance. D. Wilson would like to see it all on one report. Under “Capital Replacement” there was money budgeted in operations to put to the side; it was not Fund 66. D. Wilson said the 10% they take out of operating to put into Capital Non-Recurring gets manipulated in trying to balance the budget moving forward. Ted said that any expenditures outside normal operating should be authorized by Mr. Wilson for transfer from Fund 66. He was authorized by D. Wilson to overspend the operating budget by \$94,000 for the flow monitoring and said Mr. Wilson never authorized him to take it out of Capital Non-Recurring. Ted said he would have needed a motion to authorize the transfer. D. Wilson said going forward they will authorize Finance to make the transfer based on the minutes. W. Buckley agreed. D. Wilson said we need

to work with Finance to make sure depreciation is calculated correctly. T. Donoghue noted that the flow chart shows that we spent slightly more than in FY 2020, but we are still under budget.

**12. Old Business – Second Vehicle:** T. Donoghue said that if the ARPA funds are used for some of our projects, we will have some money to spend elsewhere. Once the scope of work is done and we are in negotiations, we can address some of the concerns with the collection system and other identified uses.

**13. Adjournment: Motion:** W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. and J. Koser seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary