

**LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, September 9, 2021 ~ 7:30 p.m.

**In Person at Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam, and
Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: William Buckley, Sky Post, David Geiger, Thomas Waterhouse (7:35 p.m. remote), Christian Bratina and David R. Wilson. Also present were Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director (remote), and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary.

Absent: James Koser

SEATING ALTERNATES: Both Sky Post and David Geiger were seated as regular members by the Chairman.

MINUTES

a) 7/8/21 Regular: Motion: D. Geiger moved and C. Bratina seconded a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/8/21. All voted aye except T. Waterhouse and S. Post, who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

b) 8/12/21 Regular: The approval of these minutes was postponed until next meeting.

BUSINESS

1. Public Request and or Comment: J. Zullo reported on the potential solar project at the WPCA. Noel Lafayette of SHR is preliminarily evaluating the site but will have no unfair advantage in the bidding process. WPCA controls the electric budget and the meter, but the site is controlled by the land owner, the Town. He suggested a dual power purchase agreement (PPA) signed both by the Town and the WPCA. The PPA is effectively a lease of the site to offer the owner a highly subsidized electric rate from solar generation. Noel Lafayette will need to come to this board with an outline design of the site. Wetlands approval would also be needed. We could see significant savings, maybe \$50,000 or \$100,000/year for the budget and ultimately for the rate payers. The zero renewable energy credit (ZREC) expires next April and will help subsidize the installation cost. D. Wilson said the wetlands have been flagged.

Attorney Perley Grimes of Litchfield spoke on behalf of the Concerned Litchfield Citizens on two important themes as far as the citizens of Litchfield are concerned: transparency and full disclosure. The following is his report.

“You all know that the notice was posted in the Waterbury Republican that we had 14 days within which to post any comments relative to a project USDA wanted to have Woodridge Lake sewer come to Litchfield. Since that time we have been opposed to that proposition and remain opposed to that proposition. The driving forces of Woodridge Lake Sewer District from at least 2016, in terms of engineering services, are two firms: Woodard & Curran and David Prickett Consulting (DPC Inc.). We did a little research and found that on August 14, 2012, a notice was put out by Julian Marx of Woodard & Curran that David Prickett was hired as a Senior Project Manager in Woodard & Curran’s Windsor Locks office. On March 24, 2014, a certificate of incorporation was filed for DPC Engineering LLC, and it reflected that the previous name was David Prickett Consulting. Directors and officers of the new LLC were David Prickett, Manager. On November 19, 2016, according to the local newspaper in Beacon Falls, it had an article in which the point was made regarding needed upgrades to the Beacon Falls wastewater treatment plant, and the article said,

'On Monday Dave Prickett, a consultant with Woodard & Curran, who had been working with the town to study its options, would be working with the town.' That was in 2016. As you know, from 2016 to 2019 reports were furnished, and in fact the reports that went to the USDA that recommended the joinder of Woodridge Lake sewage with Litchfield's WPCA plant were done by Woodard & Curran and David Prickett Consultants. So, we are concerned about that and also the minutes of the WLS D reflect that on March 18, 2019, there was an amendment to a contract to allow Woodard & Curran to do the work and a second amendment on the same night, March 18, 2019, to do a second contract with, you guessed it, David Prickett Consulting. Now, everything that was sent to Torrington, because remember, by 2019 the specifications were all done to go to Torrington, they were put out to bid. They came back, and the bid was higher than the \$15 million they expected by \$7 million. So our concern for you, the Board of Selectmen, and anyone who addresses this issue is that you be sure that there be transparency and full disclosure, and that you be sure that there is no conflict of interest. And indeed, as you go through this process, you should consider the appearance of impropriety in your selection of engineers. You know and we know that David Prickett has already worked for you and may still be working for you regarding certain measures that you're using in Bantam so see what's going on. So our concern is just that. We don't want you to lose sight of that. We think it is very important that as you pursue whatever you are going to pursue in terms of your standalone upgrades, which you are committed to, that you make sure there is full transparency and that you keep in mind the relationship of the people that you're dealing with. Thank you."

2. Remnants of Ida Weather Event on 9/1-9/2/21: T. Donoghue sent out an incident report, some flow analysis, and an hour-by-hour timeline of rainfall flows and conditions at the plant. He said this is the most significant rain event he has experienced since working at the plant. He said we received 6" of rain between storm Henri and Ida. They did not overflow any tanks and they bounced back very quickly by the next morning, but he did have to report an effluent non-compliance because of the surge of water that came in when he closed the gate. They hit peak flow and maintained it for about 16 hours. Upon question by C. Bratina there was much discussion about ground saturation and the incoming flow and rain-induced infiltration involving clay tile pipe. W. Buckley was concerned that some of the manhole covers might have blown off. Ted said they would walk the line on East Street to check.

3. Update on Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement: D. Wilson said Harwinton is still hung up on the shared facilities portion, as they have flow going through two pump stations in Torrington. They are in agreement with percentage of flow, but there is a portion of their code that says at a minimum we have to pay as much as a Torrington resident pays for a certain volume and flow, which makes ours about 25% larger.

4. Scope of Work & Contract Negotiations with Woodard & Curran: D. Wilson referred to the latest revision of the scope of work. He noted that the DEEP had indicated they would not pay for two separate facilities plans for Litchfield and WLS D if we did one. If we go that route, he would like to keep the accounting separate from WLS D. The rest of the scope is steering the engineering firm in the right direction. We are trying to get at our causes of non-compliance. W. Buckley asked for consideration of equalization of flow with a holding tank. D. Wilson said they would need to consider a location for a diversion area for holding. D. Geiger suggested putting language in No. 3 to be sure they study it to see if it could work. W. Buckley then questioned the possible conflict with Woodard & Curran presented by Mr. Grimes in public comment, saying he did not remember any such experience mentioned during the interview, and it bothers him. D. Wilson noted the backup is Kleinfelder if needed. They will set up a meeting with Woodard & Curran to go over the scope of work.

5. Sewer Rate Study: D. Wilson said he looked at what percentage of our users were classed as commercial. D. Wilson said we need to look at what percentage of our flow is needed, as usage charge is spread out, and where there are holes in the metering. What percent are not metered, and is it practical to

meter everyone. W. Buckley said the current method isn't fair to all the sewer users. We can ask for a way to attack this of the consultants.

6. American Rescue Plan Funds – Sewer Infrastructure: D. Wilson explained the \$911,000 available to the Town this year and the same amount for next year. Sewer and water are allowable infrastructure items; so included in the proposed list are the UV system, the automatic bar rack, a polymer mixing station, and a flood resiliency study. Total of these requests is \$453,000. The funds must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026. We have to spend up front and get reimbursed. D. Raap said we can take our time and listen to the people for other suggestions. The items would need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Meeting.

7. Fund 66 Expense for Five Cutters for DM1509; cost \$8,115: Ted said the grinder was installed in 2019, and it has performed well. They have rotated the cutters once, but performance is not the same. The existing cutters can be sharpened, but we need to remove them and find someone to sharpen them in a machine shop locally. **Motion:** C. Bratina move to approve the purchase of the five cutters for the grinder in the amount of \$8,115 plus shipping to come from Capital Non-Recurring. D. Geiger seconded the motion. C. Bratina suggested taking a new blade to the machine shop to have them sharpen the old blades similarly. All voted aye and the motion carried.

8. Collection System Work (Jetting/Cleaning & CCTV Work): T. Donoghue said Christian helped with a new tracking similar to the cash revenue report that shows three years of data. In year 2019 they hit 20%, in 2020 they came in under for jetting because of COVID and manholes was less than 15, and for 2021 they are doing well with manhole inspections, but they need to do some more jetting. They expect at least 20% for 2021. A lot of lines were scoured from Ida. CMOM goal is 26% of 26 miles each season and 20% CCTV. Even a manhole opened last year can change, and they had to do some re-grouting. A big tree's root ball in a manhole on East St. had to be treated with RootX before they could go back and jet the line. They are looking for problems that will occur in the future so they can treat them in advance.

9. Plant Equipment Updates: They discussed further the questions needed regarding the holding tank idea for equalization of flow.

a) UV System: No report

b) Mechanical Bar Screen: No report

10. Safety: T. Donoghue reported no issues and no training. They will be doing some wastewater training in person and some online. They are interested in learning more about the P-Fas that can't be removed biologically in the wastewater treatment system.

11. Commissioner's Requests: D. Wilson said Finance said they need a motion for a transfer of funds to Capital Non-Recurring. T. Donoghue said that we have expensed \$63,149 for FY 2022 that has already been moved. This transfer should be for FY 2021 per D. Wilson. **Motion:** C. Bratina moved to transfer not to exceed \$75,000 from the operating budget 55203 to Capital Non-Recurring for FY 2021. S. Post seconded. W. Buckley asked that we get the exact amount at the next meeting. C. Bratina said that any other items that come up on the operating fund that should have been charged to Capital Non-Recurring should also be resolved. Upon voting, all voted aye and the motion carried.

12. Public Works/Treatment Plant Report

a) Easements: No report

b) Operations: Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. For the month of August the total flow was 13.533 MG and the daily average flow was 0.437 MGD. We removed 65,000 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of August.

- We processed a total of 148,100 gallons of septage during the month of August a 68% increase over last July. YTD we are up 67%.
- For July effluent BOD removal percent was 99% 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 3.8 mg/ or 13 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day.
- The daily average for Total Phosphorous discharged in the Bantam River was 2.4 mg/l or 8.7 lbs. /day. The monthly seasonal average, between April and October, cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs. /day.
- On 8/2-3/21 we chlorinated the RAS to knock back the filaments, and we had minimum success. After Storm Ida, though, the SVIs were under 200.
- 8/23/21 in preparation for Tropical Storm Henri, we had drained the west aeration tank, to use as a diversion tank. It only lasted four hours but it was enough to take a big bite out of the bell curve and we had no non-compliance issues as a result. Flow went from 4.28 MG to 1.05 MG after 2" of rain.
- 8/26/21 jetted at 190 East Street due to a massive root ball. We had to do a RootX treatment and removed it on 8/30/21 with the jetter.
- 8/30-31/21 drained the west aeration tank to prepare for the remnants of Ida.
- Arethusa has removed the process water from their discharge. Even though we are taking in more septage, we have not seen an uptick in the summer. C. Bratina suggested looking at their BODs. Ted is waiting for their year-end data. C. Bratina noted we should be getting their data on a monthly basis.

13. Financial Report: T. Donoghue reported expenses slightly higher than the first couple months. The bill for Torrington usage came, and the capital payment was about \$3,000 higher than budgeted. Ted bought frames and covers for Sheldon Lane manholes. He also bought polymer which continues to rise in price.

14. Old Business – Second Vehicle: No report

15. Adjournment: Motion: W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.



Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary