CALL TO ORDER: Chairman David R. Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Present: WPCA members David R. Wilson, William Buckley, Sky Post, Christian Bratina, and Christine Harding, the new Selectmen's Liaison. Ms Harding will not participate in this meeting, as she has not yet been formally appointed by the Selectmen. Also present were Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, Raz Alexe, Public Works Director, Ann Combs, Recording Secretary, and First Selectman Denise Raap.
Absent: David Geiger, James Koser

SEATING ALTERNATES: Chairman Wilson seated Sky Post as a regular voting member.

MINUTES
a) 10/14/21 Regular: Motion: C. Bratina moved and S. Post seconded a motion to adopt the regular meeting minutes of 10/14/21. All voted aye except W. Buckley, who abstained because of absence, and the motion carried.

b) 10/26/21 Special: Motion: W. Buckley moved and C. Bratina seconded a motion to adopt the special meeting minutes of 10/26/21 with one typo correction. All voted aye and the motion carried.

BUSINESS

1) Public Request and or Comment: Don Lafayette, Beach Street, questioned the method of posting the agenda. He noted there was no meeting on 11/11/21 as posted on the website. The agenda does not mention that the meeting was held in Bantam, and there is no street number 80 posted on Doyle Road.

2) Cate Honan, Beach Street, spoke regarding the 9/7/21 Selectmen's meeting, quoting the minutes where D. Wilson said the nine questions that were to be sent to DEEP were inappropriate because they would antagonize the DEEP. Mr. Wilson explained that D. Raap could have sent out the letter, but not under his signature. W. Buckley further explained that answers to some of the questions were already known by our WPCA and should not be asked.
W. Buckley and C. Bratina concurred. Second, Ms Honan referred to the WPCA minutes of 9/9/21 where Attorney Perley Grimes spoke of a conflict of interest with Woodard & Curran. She asked if the WPCA discussed this matter, and D. Wilson said they spoke to Woodard & Curran before reviewing the scope of work and were satisfied there was no conflict.

3) Update on Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement: D. Wilson talked with Ray Drew and found that the elections did not change members we were concerned with on the Town Council. They will pick up discussions after Thanksgiving. Their upgrade should be completed by the end of April, 2022. He said the method of charging is going to be the hard sell issue. Any discrepancies in the contract would go to mediation.
4) **Scope of Work & Contract Negotiations with Woodard & Curran:** D. Wilson noted the special meeting where they went back and forth with Woodard & Curran on items in its proposal dated 10/11/21, and some requests were removed. The price came down by 10%, or just over $40,000. W. Buckley referred to Woodard & Curran's response to the Concerned Citizens’ (Perley Grimes) regarding the potential conflict of interest. W. Buckley would have liked to hear from them directly about the possible conflict, as it bothered him and he is still not clear on everything. He would like to see a chronological timeline and when they were last paid by WLSD. He felt we need to tell them one member is disappointed that we did not learn this information directly from them. D. Wilson said that the engineers typically bounce around between different employers in their field. C. Bratina added that we don’t want a current conflict. D. Wilson said he will go to them with specific questions from Mr. Buckley.

5) **2022 WPCA Regular Scheduled Meetings:** **Motion:** W. Buckley moved to adopt the 2022 meeting schedule and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

6) **Sewer Rate Study:** C. Bratina wanted to see 5 years of data to see the variations. D. Wilson will check to see if there are a couple years of spreadsheets. C. Bratina said that if we don’t have a big variation in flow, we could do meters. W. Buckley asked if there could be money for meters from infrastructure money. Our rate structure is not equitable. He’s a single person paying the same as a family. Water billing should be based on usage.

7) **American Rescue Plan Funds- Sewer infrastructure:** D. Wilson said nothing has changed since last month. D. Raap said since we will have a 6% revenue gap, we can use that gap of money for anything. The Board of Selectmen will meet 12/7/21 to discuss further.

8) **Bio-solids Disposal Changes and going out to Bid:** T. Donoghue said a tentative agreement from Synagro has been sent to Attorney Rybak. ($360/ dry ton short term) to M Rybak. Ted did hear from Mattabassett that they will guarantee $280/dry ton but would have to find a separate hauler for transport. They preferred not to separate transport. Mattabassett is cheaper for short term but does not include transportation. Prices are going up. Ted said they need to decide, as there is a 12/1 deadline. We would need an agreement and have it reviewed by our lawyer. **Motion:** W. Buckley moved to go out to bid for the long term up to 2 years and three years. C. Bratina seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. They will go with the cheapest option.

9) **Collection System Work (Jetting/Cleaning & CCTV Work):** T. Donoghue pointed out the bar graph that shows jetting, CCTV work, manhole inspections and manhole inserts. They need to do more jetting. He then showed the camera they use in the lines and footage of an inspection.

10) **Plant Equipment Updates**
   a) **UV system:** No report
   b) **Mechanical Bar Screen:** No report

11) **Safety:** T. Donoghue reported no incidents.

12) **Commissioner’s Requests:** D. Wilson asked to add under Clean Water Fund that the call for projects are due in December. Woodard & Curran has offered to work on the paperwork for us if there are things we want to put in. Return sludge is one project, and we can assign other
projects as we go along. He would like to have them complete the clean water paperwork for us. W. Buckley had a problem with hiring them to do something when we’re not yet through the hiring process with them. C. Bratina said this is just a small fixed purchase order item. We have reviewed the scope of their proposal, and they are cheaper than anyone else. **Motion:** C. Bratina moved to issue a purchase order to Woodard & Curran to come up with a Clean Water funding list. D. Wilson seconded. **Discussion:** W. Buckley said we are still hiring them, even though this is a small part, and he’s still not convinced there’s not a conflict as well. They should get a proposal for the work, but this has to be in by 12/10/21. C. Bratina said Mike Headd’s email (Woodard & Curran) gave us hourly rates for individual projects. They can run the forms by us before they are submitted. W. Buckley repeated his hesitation and also with the possible conflict of interest. **Vote:** Upon voting all voted aye except W. Buckley, who voted nay, and the motion passed.

13) Public Works / Treatment Plant Report

a) Easements: None

b) Operations[1][2]: Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. For the month of October the total flow was 20,460 MG and the daily average flow was 0.660 MGD. We removed 65,000 gallons of sludge for final disposal during the month of October.

- We processed a total of 109,000 gallons of septage during the month of October a 23% decrease over last October. YTD we are up 29%.

- For October effluent BOD removal percent was 99% and TSS removal percent was 99%. The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%.

- The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs./day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.1 mg/ or 12 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 9.3 lbs./day. The monthly seasonal average, between April and October, cannot exceed 3.7 mg/l or 9.97 lbs./day.


- On 10/13/21 installed the new cutters on comminutor. We could not reuse the old ones due to be worn down too much.

- On 10/21/21 figured out his issue at 48 Woodruff Lane, as their building connector was completely blocked. The line was repaired on 11/5/21.

- On 10/26/21 we had a Nor’ Easter with 1.9” of rain. We utilized the diversion tank until 6:30 PM. No operational issues. Plant flow was 1.18 MG.

- On 10/28/21 installed new BST rubber hose. This hose was from the plant upgrade in 2003.

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14) **Financial Report:** T. Donohue explained the operating budget and the big ticket items he purchased. D. Wilson said he spoke to Amacchi Obi about putting money into CDs, and now he’ll go back to the Selectmen. D. Raap said we can’t do better than .15% on the CD for 9 months that we’re getting. D. Wilson was not so trusting but agreed.

15) **Old Business – Second Vehicle:** None

16) **Adjournment: Motion:** W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m and C. Bratina seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs
Recording Secretary