LITCHFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road
Bantam, CT 06750
Thursday, December 9, 2021~7:30 PM

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

ROLL CALL
Present: Members present were David R. Wilson, William Buckley, Sky Post, Christian Bratina, and Christine Harding. Also present were Ted Donoghue, Plant Superintendent, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary
Absent: David Geiger, James Koser, and Raz Alexe, Public Works Director

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

MINUTES
a) 11/18/21 Regular: Motion: C. Bratina moved to approve the meeting minutes of 11/18/21 with a missing “t” added to Mattabassett on Item No. 8. W. Buckley seconded, all voted aye and the motion passed.

BUSINESS

1) Public Request and or Comment: Don Lafayette, Beach St., said he understood from the last discussion that Woodard & Curran could sign a contract with Litchfield and a month later sign a contract with Woodridge Lake. D. Wilson thanked him for his comment.

2) Update on Torrington Inter-Municipal Agreement: D. Wilson said he will sit down with Ray Drew next week. The sticky point remains the method of billing. The way it reads is they want us to calculate the EDU’s and they will bill us for the maintenance portion of their user fee (about 45%). W. Buckley questioned the legality and said if we pass a law to say we will only pay half of what they pay in Torrington, that won’t be fair either. C. Bratina said we are not using their full collection system and suggested talking to DEEP about the contract before talking to Ray and then negotiate. D. Wilson will call DEEP.

3) Scope of Work & Contract Negotiations with Woodard & Curran: D. Wilson said he reviewed the packets submitted for the interviews, and Woodard & Curran had indicated 3 projects they had with Woodridge Lake, so they were not sneaking anything by us. Answers to the chronology of work done and when they were last paid (9/2019) was presented in a memo from Mike Headl of Woodard & Curran dated 12/8/21 and relayed by D. Wilson. A letter dated 10/13/21 from M. Headl on the David Prickett response was also received. D. Wilson spent time going through the WLSD minutes and is confident there is no conflict of interest. They also did not try to run something by us, and he covered all the items Mr. Grimes alluded to. C. Bratina thought the firm’s rates are reasonable and would meet our needs, and he felt we should go ahead with them. D. Wilson added that he reached out to the Clean Water Fund, and they said they would just fill out the forms without charge. D. Wilson has them and noted it was just a placeholder that enables us to get funding if it comes available. He also noted he asked Woodard & Curran to accelerate the initial portion of the flood study so we will have an idea if something might have to be replaced. Motion: C. Bratina moved to
negotiate with Woodard & Curran to hire them to provide the engineering services that we outlined in our RFQ and per the revised scope. S. Post seconded. T. Donoghue said we should be sure they understand they should not discuss Woodridge Lake until they have finished our part of the facilities plan. C. Bratina also would like a monthly summary from them in order to give them direction and not waste money. W. Buckley felt uncomfortable that he just got the answers to his questions today. Upon voting, C. Bratina, S. Post, C. Harding and D. Wilson voted aye; W. Buckley voted nay, and the motion carried.

4) Sewer Rate Study: D. Wilson said Sandy will get the total water usage for the last 10 years and we can pick which years we want broken down individually, adding in Hunters Chase. W. Buckley asked if we could get water metered for Circle Drive.

5) American Rescue Plan Funds - Sewer infrastructure: D. Wilson reported that there was a meeting Tuesday, and the WPCA is still in position to receive money. The UV project was pushed out to the second tranche of money.

6) Bio-solids Disposal Changes and going out to Bid: There are proposals in two time periods: one in 24 months and one in 36 months. Ted said they shipped to Mattabassett this week, and he will follow up with them tomorrow on the trip. Synagro will bid for the larger contract and H. I. Stone will bid as well. The bids are published but not mailed out yet. They are saving about $75/load by going to Mattabassett, but if the sols are thicker, the loading time will be longer, and we will be penalized with the Synagro agreement’s flat rate.

7) Collection System Work (Jetting/Cleaning & CCTV Work): T. Donahuie said the sewer study files were put into the GIS as a manhole analysis. Today he began inputting later studies. C. Bratina will run modeling on replacement costs and depreciation on the collection system.

8) Plant Equipment Updates: This was tied into the ARPA plan.
   a) UV system
   b) Mechanical Bar Screen

9) Safety: T. Donoghue reported no issues with safety. They have done some required training and are studying for required classes to maintain their operator’s licenses.

10) Commissioner’s Requests: D. Wilson said the Litchfield Country Club wants to move one pickle ball court and install a second one. This one, however, is in line with our sewer easement. They now have 2 courts 16 ft. apart. They have agreed that the aluminum walkway portion will have to be removed for any sewer repairs. Mr. Wilson contacted Attorney Rybak about a three-party easement agreement between the Country Club, White Memorial and us. We will grant the right to encroach on the easement if they will remove the walkway at their expense. Or they could give us the initiative to take it apart if needed. They can use the standard easement.

Second, Clean Water Fund will not charge for the application. Total cost for the solids handling is $6.5 million, and $3.5 million for the other. We need to get this in to get in line for the money. Motion: C. Bratina moved to authorize D. Wilson to sign and submit two separate clean water fund applications. W. Buckley seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.
D. Wilson announced that today is Ted’s 8th anniversary with the Town. Under the supervisor’s union, a satisfactory performance review must take place in order to get a bonus. It is done once a year and is signed by the First Selectman. D. Wilson proposed forming a personnel subcommittee from the WPCA that works on Ted’s performance biannually or quarterly and sets objectives. He said Raz Alexe and Denise Raap have supported that kind of idea. Two of us could comprise the subcommittee. S. Post suggested Ted submit a quarterly report, and Ted said his monthly report is detailed and should suffice. He said further that his Town performance review is very specific about his goals, successes and challenges and would be happy to share it with the Commission. He was concerned that Mr. Wilson is proposing something outside the collective bargaining agreement. D. Wilson admonished him for using the term “facilities plan” instead of “engineering study.” Ted asked him to be professional and come to him first with his irritations for a sidebar discussion. He reports directly to Raz Alexe and ultimately to Denise and the Board of Selectmen. He said further that Liz Callahan has explained to them several times that the Commission is volunteers; they are not the employer. Mr. Wilson said he would put this off, as is not the direction he wanted to go.

C. Bratina said Ted has been helping him get nameplate data in order to value assets for the audit. There are errors and holes in the GIS data. We also need to validate the data in Hach Wims before it goes to Woodard & Curran. He would like to work on a more detailed maintenance program. They can set up data in a spreadsheet for all equipment and Preventive Maintenance data. Name plate data he has, but he needs PMs. He would like to hire a college student over the Christmas break to enter all the data. Ted said has the manpower to enter the data and does not need to hire someone. He has workbooks and spreadsheets that have been maintained on all the equipment, although the PMs are very generic. He also has preventive maintenance that they do on a digital database. He will send again to C. Bratina as requested. C. Batina said there is still more name plate data to be gathered, and there is some PM data but not detailed data. Ted said that out of the 7 items he requested, he only has yet to send him the Northfield data. They disagreed on PMs that were sent to Mr. Bratina, and Ted said he would send him everything he has tomorrow.

C. Bratina then said he finds it hard to believe that everything is in the GIS. There are a lot on inaccuracies and does not include everything. Ted said the layer map is the basis of the GIS layer. The manhole detail came from the ’94 sewer study. He offered to show it to everyone next week. C. Bratina said they need a college student to fill in the holes in the data. They talked about setting a date to meet at the plant on Monday or Tuesday. Ted said one of the issues with Hach Wims is that C. Bratina set it up where he can’t put in “non-detectable”. C. Bratina said it is against the law to put in ND and said he has been saying that for 5 years, and Ted is doing it wrong. He wants all these issues cleared up within a month. Ted said he is not sure if that information is correct and would like to confirm with Susan at the DEEP. C. Bratina strongly disagreed. S. Post said it would take a while to get a college student up to speed, and 2 weeks may not cut it. C. Bratina said it can be done with someone who knows spreadsheets and data bases. T. Donohue said it will be hard to find someone at this date, but if there are things Christian wants, we will provide it. Next they discussed the Arethusa surcharge data. Ted said getting data from Chris has been slow. He said any talk about change in surcharge should be put on the agenda. We need to give Chris the courtesy of coming to a meeting and hearing about it first. C. Bratina wants a year’s data on TSS and FOG and said Ted was not following the proper sampling protocol. Data on monthly comparison is all wrong. C. Bratina said the influent BOD and TSS is well over 200 again, and Ted explained that they are loading the septage mixed in with the raw influent again. C. Bratina said he should not do that, and Ted said the SVIs are the lowest they’ve been all year long and the plant is running very well now. C. Bratina said the influent data is wrong, and they cannot use it to evaluate what plant upgrades we need. He said
further that he will report this to the DEEP, saying Ted is not following the proper sampling protocol. Ted tried to explain, but they disagreed, and C. Bratina said this is why we need an evaluation committee.

11) Public Works / Treatment Plant Report
   a) Easements: None

   b) Operations: Permit compliance has been maintained since the last report. Routine operations and maintenance work continues. For the month of November the total flow was 20.485 MG and the daily average flow was 0.683 MGD. We removed 78,000 gallons of biosolids for final disposal during the month of November.

   • We processed a total of 117,500 gallons of septage during the month of November a 4% increase over last November. YTD we are up 24%.

   • For November effluent BOD removal percent was 99% and TSS removal percent was 99%. The minimal removal rates per our NPDES permit is 85%. C. Bratina said this is misleading because there are false influent numbers. He said Ted is falsifying data and needs to do his job. W. Buckley agreed and said he can't add the septage in and then get a better percentage. Ted said he made a decision to do it differently to help with the filaments, and he loaded septage differently. They saw an improvement in the settling in the sludge. The SVIs are under 150 right now. W Buckley said he should report the influent independently of dumping the septage in. C. Bratina said there is another sampler for the true influent. Then the other sampler can measure combined influent and septage. He and Ted then disagreed on the aeration effect. Ted said Christian is biding his time to try to find mistakes that he may make or question his professional judgment and try to continuously embarrass him in front of this group. With continued argument, C. Harding interjected at this point to point out that they need to work together as a team to focus on the common goal of having a well-functioning water treatment facility. All egos must be put aside and avoid pointing fingers and placing blame. If the Commission's goal is to get Ted out of that position, then they must tell him they don't think he is the right person for the job. However, it is not their decision to make; that is for his bosses to decide. W. Buckley said that they hired him, and Ted disagreed. Christine said she is from the outside, but implored them to work together. Ted said he is held to a standard and could lose his license and be arrested for falsifying records. C. Harding repeated the need to move forward and work together. Ted continued with his report.

   • The daily average of Total Nitrogen lbs. /day discharged into the Bantam River was 2.1 mg/ or 11 lbs. /day. Our daily limit is 24 lbs. /day.

   • The daily average for Total Phosphorous discharged in the Bantam River was 1.2 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 11/2/21 installed a new manhole frame at the upper parking lot at Center School.

   • On 11/4/21 Jim and Rob put in 38 manhole inserts.
• On 11/5/21 repair work performed at 48 Woodruff Lane.

• On 11/12/21 we put the diversion tank online for rain event-2.25". No issues with plant performance.

• On 11/15/21 we pumped out the wet wells at Well’s Run and Northfield. No issues.

• On 11/18/21 installed new level sensors in BST and FST.

12) Financial Report: T. Donoghue said we are where we should be at this time of year. Stacie did put in the plant upgrade debt and the $28,000 payment for Town services in this past month. Ted needs to talk to Amaechi about lump sum payments causing a seesaw effect. Perhaps they can be broken up over two or three payments.

13) Old Business – Second Vehicle: on back burner

14) Adjournment: Motion: W. Buckley moved to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. and S. Post seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

[Signature]

Ann D. Combs
Recording Secretary