# TOWN OF VERNON
# WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

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Regular Meeting Minutes
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
July 28, 2016

Attendees: John Anderson, Elizabeth Landry, Ralph Zahner and Andrew Tedford. Also in attendance: Robert Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control and Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Darrell Lupacchino, Collection System Foreman; Matthew Daskal, Financial Analyst; Patrick O'Leary and Rod Szwelicki, VHB

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Grasis requested that two items be added to the agenda: discussion of sewer use charges for 31 Old Town Road (3a) and discussion of the sewer line repair for White Street (3b).

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mr. Grasis read a letter dated July 12, 2016 from Mr. Paul Gliha on behalf of Elizabeth M. Janoscak of 3 Leo J Lane relative to an adjustment of Sewer Use Account #5607 due to a water line break.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 26, 2016
Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the May 26, 2016 WPCA Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

3a: Mr. Grasis provided background information relative to charges that were not billed to property located at 31 Old Town Road for sewer use. Mr. Anderson asked if Mr. Grasis obtained an opinion from Vernon's Town Attorney that states the WPCA can bill for sewer use charges for the past three years and Mr. Grasis said that he did. All properties listed as not connected to the sanitary sewer system will be verified, Mr. Grasis said. Mr. Zahner, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion that the Town of Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority waives all past sewer use fees, penalties, interest and connection fees through June 30, 2013 for a property located at 31 Old Town Road, currently owned by Melissa and Douglas Pelletier, on the condition that payment in the amount of $1,488.44 representing charges for sewer usage from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 is received on or before August 10, 2016. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

3b: Mr. Lupacchino provided background information regarding a sewer line repair on White Street. Collection System personnel discovered that the top of the sewer pipe at the intersection was broken. A severe crack about 15 down was also discovered in the pipe. Mr. Lupacchino proposed that a manhole be installed when the repair is done, in order to better service that line in the future. Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Zahner, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves the sewer line replacement and manhole replacement on White Street from VMS Construction Company of Vernon, CT in accordance with their proposal dated July 22, 2016 in the amount of $9,700 and funds for said purpose will come from the sewer connection account. This is considered a bid waiver because it is an emergency repair. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

PRESENTATION OF PLANS FOR PROPOSED MIX USED DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT 243 AND 253 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD

Mr. Szwelicki presented two options regarding the connection of the sanitary sewer for the project. A discussion took place regarding easements relative to the sewer connections, the maintenance of the sewer line, and installation of a manhole. Mr. Grasis asked Mr. O'Leary to write a letter, to be reviewed by Vernon's Town Attorney, detailing what is needed regarding the sewer connection north of Naek Road, maintenance of the proposed manhole, and the assignment of easements for this project. It was the consensus of the Authority to move forward with the option of connecting the sewer north of Naek Road and to have a final decision for VHB at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Mr. Grasis reported that the facilities plan is being reviewed by the DEEP. The DEEP has asked Tighe & Bond to present the I/I study as a separate addendum, and provide more information about the subcontractors. Once the DEEP approves the facilities plan, it will be eligible for Clean Water Funding. Mr. Grasis reported that he and Mr. Boske met with a DEEP official this week who is actively working on the proposal.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske reported that the plant is running well and the effluent water quality is superb; chlorine use is higher this month due to the hot weather. The phosphorus discharge is high and the source is unknown. Mr. Boske said that he has observed the higher level of phosphorus for the last two years and he will further investigate to locate the source of the discharge. Regarding current activities, Mr. Grasis said that a new billing system is actively being pursued; two plant operators passed the Class III test; Mr. Lupacchino has achieved 6 consecutive years of perfect attendance; Steve Dombek and Lisa Yost have achieved one year of perfect attendance. Also, approximately 21 manhole covers need to be cut out on Route 83 and the work will be done sometime this summer; the new Lab Analyst has started and is working out well; a Smart Cover system has been installed at the Eckert's Pond easement and the system is working well to measure flow levels in that line which has been problematic. Bids for Sewer Line Cleaning Services and Transportation and Disposal of Material from the cleaning, have been advertised. Mr. Anderson asked if the work will be done within the six month deadline as outlined in the agreement with the Town of Tolland. Mr. Grasis said that the work will be done and Administration is aware of the deadline as well. Mr. Anderson said that he would like clarification at the next meeting as to what work has been done and how soon the work will be finished.

REQUEST FOR BID WAIVER FOR THE PURCHASE OF IMPELLER AND PARTS FOR PUMP #2 AT THE PHOENIX STREET PUMP STATION

Mr. Grasis explained that the upgrade to Pump #1 is working well and he is asking the Authority to upgrade Pump #2 which will cost the same. Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Zahner, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority waives the bid for the purchase of the pump impeller and parts from Blake Equipment for the Phoenix Street Pump Station in the amount of $8,735.00 and funds for said purchase will come from the Sewer Connection Account. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

REVIEW OF SEWER USER ACCOUNT #2773

Mr. Grasis explained that the house located at 95 High Street is considered a total loss due to a fire on November 12, 2015, and has been demolished. Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Zahner, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority authorizes the WPCA Director to place Sewer User Account #2773 into a suspense account. Mr. Anderson commented that unless the account is suspended, a minimum usage fee would still be charged. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED SEWER USER CHARGES FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016 AND THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

Mr. Daskal presented information that included revenue, well rates, budget history, liens, the sewer user fund, the sewer assessment fund, as well as estimations and recommendations for FY 2016 – 2017 Sewer Use Rates. He reported that there was a loss of approximately $340,000 in septage revenue for FY 2015-2016. Mr. Daskal recommended raising the minimum usage rate to $27.61, the sewer user rate from $5.86/1000 gallons to $5.99/1000 gallons, and increasing the well rate from $76.00 to $77.71 which is an overall increase of 2.25%.

Mr. Anderson asked if a cost analysis for reducing the septage rate has ever been done; there is a finite amount of septage and he would like to discuss the septage rate with the haulers. Mr. Anderson expressed concern about being in the same financial position next fiscal year; he would like to find other ways to increase revenue, such as taking in more septage instead of raising user rates. A discussion took place regarding reducing the septage rate to make the rate more competitive. Mrs. Landry said she would not be in favor of a rate increase Mr. Zahner, seconded by Mr. Tedford, made a motion to hold a public hearing on August 25, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. for the proposed sewer user rates to be $77.71 for the well rate, $27.61 for the minimum usage charge, $5.99/1000 gallons and $75/1000 gallons for septage. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

REVIEW OF GROVE STREET SEWER LINE SUPPORT BID

Mr. Grasis and Mr. Lupacchino provided information to the Authority regarding this project which involves the demolition of the former Amerbelle Factory, now owned by the Town of Vernon. A bidder has not yet been selected, Mr. Grasis said, however, Stamford Wrecking Company is the lowest apparent bidder. Mr. Grasis said that in his opinion, the WPCA should not have to pay for this. Mr. Anderson agreed and said that if it was a private developer, the developer would have to pay for it not the Town. Mr. Zahner said that the WPCA will eventually be responsible for the maintenance of both the support structure and the sewer line. He expressed concern that if in 20 years, something breaks and flows into the river, the WPCA will have to pay for it; the design needs to be looked at now. Mrs. Landry agreed. It was the consensus of the Authority to have Mr. Grasis pursue which entity is financially responsible for this project.

REVIEW OF INTERTOWN MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR SEWER CAMERA TRUCK

Mr. Grasis presented the intertown agreement between the towns of Stafford, Ellington and Vernon regarding the purchase of a camera truck. The Town Attorneys representing the towns named in the agreement have approved the document, Mr. Grasis said.

ADJOURN

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Zahner made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Yost

Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control