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TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

APPROVED

Regular Meeting Minutes
Water Pollution Control Authority
January 28, 2016

Attendees:

Chairman E. Ray Weaver, John Anderson, Elizabeth Landry and Ralph Zahner. Also present Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director; John Ward, Town Administrator and Timothy Webb, Town of Ellington WPCA

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2015; AND MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. Zahner, seconded by Mrs. Landry, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the October 22, 2015 WPCA Public Hearing as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Mr. Zahner, seconded by Mrs. Landry, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the October 22, 2015 WPCA Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Anderson abstaining.

Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Anderson, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the December 10, 2015 WPCA Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0-1 with Mr. Zahner abstaining.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TOLLAND AND SKIP'S/WASTEWATER SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Zahner, made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of discussing Tolland and Skip's/Wastewater Services and to invite WPC Director Robert Grasis, Assistant Director Steve Boske, Town Administrator John Ward and any other persons the Water Pollution Control Authority deems appropriate, to attend the Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0) and the Authority entered into Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Zahner, seconded by Mrs. Landry, made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and the motion passed unanimously (4-0-0). No action was taken in Executive Session.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING

Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Zahner made a motion to postpone the Show Cause Hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Water Pollution Control Authority. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT

Mr. Boske said that the plant is running well this winter and septage has increased, most likely due to the warmer weather. Regarding the facilities plan upgrade, Mr. Grasis reported that three engineering firms, AECOMM, Arcadis and Tighe & Bond, were interviewed by a panel comprised of himself, Town Engineer Dave Smith, Chairman Weaver, Town Administrator John Ward, and Mr. Boske. Tighe & Bond received the highest score from the panel and the scope of work and cost will have to be discussed, Mr. Grasis said. Steve Segal from Tighe and Bond, will attend the next regularly scheduled WPCA meeting. Chairman Weaver said that he spoke with Mr. Seigal at the recent annual NEWEA Conference relative to documenting delays to the Town of Vernon's schedule as a result of delays by the state. Chairman Weaver also spoke to Mr. Segal about educating the public as well as the town council. Chairman Weaver said that Mr. Segal said those concerns are normally addressed as part of the facilities plan. Mr. Zahner suggested making an informational video regarding the current operations and the upgrade for the treatment facility. Mr. Boske suggested putting information on the town's website as well. Chairman Weaver explained the grant and loan process relative to the treatment plant upgrade. A discussion took place as to whether or not the treatment plant upgrade would have to go to a referendum.

Mr. Grasis updated the Authority on activities that included: the purchase of a camera truck with the towns of Ellington and Stafford; the deadline for applications for the Financial Analyst position is February 6th; the Assistant Tax Collector should be starting within the next couple of weeks; a demonstration took place last week for a new billing system and its cost; the WPC Supervisors Contract is still in negotiations; Eversource scheduled a power interruption on January 19th and it was used as a training tool for the new operators; four plant operators took the class II certification exam and all four passed. Also, Mr. Grasis said that FOG Coordinator Gary Leavitt did a good job in helping to develop the WPC department's webpage on the Town's website. As of January, the plant is submitting electronic DMR's to the EPA website and Mr. Boske was very instrumental in this process and in doing so, a representative from the DEEP said that the Vernon treatment facility was the fastest to complete this process. The Collection System staff has been performing maintenance flushing as well as easement inspections, Mr. Grasis reported. The Collection System staff is also working on a document that will require a WPC employee to inspect and sign off on any manhole frame and cover that has been reset by a contractor. Problems have occurred within the last two years because contractors have left debris in manholes, Mr. Grasis said, and payment will not be made unless the covers have been properly reset.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO REPAIR BOILER IN CARBON REGEN BUILDING

Mr. Grasis provided background on this item regarding the carbon regen operation at the treatment plant. He reported that the coils inside both boilers located in the carbon regen building need to be repaired and were last repaired in 1997. Mr. Grasis referenced a quote from Vapor Power International and said the cost for the parts for both boilers is \$24,386, and the labor for both will be an additional \$10,000. It will take four weeks to get the parts Mr. Grasis said, and asked the Authority for a bid waiver. Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Zahner, made a motion to request approval for the repair of boilers in the carbon regen building; parts to include a coil kit #4617-900, 2 each, unit price of \$12,193 a piece, total of \$24,386 and to approve a bid waiver for such purchase. Mrs. Landry said that the prices look reasonable and new ones cannot be purchased for that amount. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

DART HILL GENERATOR REPAIR

Mr. Grasis provided the Authority with a revised and more detailed quote from Tower Generator relative to a two week rental for the Dart Hill Pump Station. He explained that the revised quote is \$809 less and the funds to cover the cost will come from the sewer connection account. Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Landry, made a motion to approve the revised Tower Generator invoice for the amount of \$10,756.38 for the rental of the temporary Dart Hill generator and said funds to come from the Sewer Connection Account. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

REQUEST TO WAIVE DELINQUENT INTEREST FOR ACCOUNT #1888

Mr. Grasis referenced correspondence dated January 12, 2016 from Gould & Company Assistant Account Manager Chelsea Seener. Chairman Weaver said he would be in favor of waiving the interest, it is not precedent setting; Mrs. Landry and Mr. Zahner agreed. Mr. Zahner said the properties are well cared for in town. Mr. Anderson disagreed and said that he thinks it is setting a precedent and is against it. Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Zahner made a motion to waive the delinquent interest in the amount of \$88.29 for Account #1888. The motion passed 3-1-0 with Mr. Anderson opposed.

ESTABLISH A DATE FOR A SPECIAL WPCA MEETING TO REVIEW PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 – 2017 FOR THE SEWER AUTHORITY, HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE WASTE TREATMENT PLANT

It was the consensus of the Authority to schedule a special meeting on February 11, 2016.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

None.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Landry, seconded by Mr. Zahner, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control