



# TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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OFFICE OF THE  
WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AUTHORITY

APPROVED

## MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING

May 23, 2019

Wastewater Treatment Plant

7:30 p.m.

### Attendees:

John Anderson, Ken Boynton, Carina Hart, and Andrew Tedford. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Matthew Daskal, Financial Analyst; Todd and Heather Marshall, 14 Welles Road

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Cline, President, Weathervane Condominium Association – 201 Regan Road: Mr. Cline said that wording of the August 6, 2018 legal notice published in the Journal Inquirer is confusing and he wants an explanation. He has spoken with several town staff members and is not satisfied with the explanations he has received for the increase charge in sewer bills; every sewer bill is \$30.50 higher and he feels that he is being overcharged; the credit should be increased from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons for six months. He represents over 100 people in his condo complex and feels responsible to give them an explanation; people should take a close look at their sewer bills.

Wayne Cefaratti, Treasurer Loveland Hill Condominium Association – 2/4 Loveland Hill Road: He feels that the additional \$30.50 charge is a rate increase and asked why water consumption is rounded up. He wants his bill changed to reflect a 5,000 gallon credit; sewer usage is definitely costing more money.

Larry Dower, President Loveland Hill Condominium Association – 2/4 Loveland Hill Road: Mr. Dower said that he also considers the additional \$30.50 a rate increase. He asked the Authority to have someone review this charge.

Chairman Anderson told Mr. Cline, Mr. Cefaratti and Mr. Dower that people from the Finance Department will contact them and that he understands and appreciates their comments. The Authority thanked them for coming.

### MINUTES OF THE WPCA REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 25, 2019

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Ms. Hart made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the April 25, 2019 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

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#### DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #5215

Mr. Marshall said he is looking for assistance in paying his outstanding sewer bill. He said he purchased the home from his parents in 1997 and did receive sewer use bills up until 10 years ago. Mr. Marshall said that he thought there was a conversion and the Connecticut Water Company was generating the sewer bills. Mr. Marshall answered questions from the Authority. It was the consensus of the Authority that a precedent would be set if fees/interest are waived. Mr. Marshall asked if he could have 90 days to pay the remaining balance. Chairman Anderson said that the Authority would take the request under advisement. The Authority thanked Mr. and Mrs. Marshall for attending.

#### UPDATE ON TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Mr. Grasis provided a summary of bids that were received and reported that Methuen Construction was the lowest bidder. A letter was received last week from DEEP in response to the Town's request for authorization to award the upgrade project. The letter from DEEP authorizes the Town to enter into a contract with Methuen Construction, Mr. Grasis said. Mr. Grasis explained that because the Town submitted its Clean Water Fund (CWF) application quickly and in its entirety, the Vernon project used all of the remaining available CWF money. He said that staff has participated in Hazardous Materials Awareness and Construction Safety Training in anticipation of the upgrade. Mr. Grasis said that approximately 100 construction workers could be on-site each day.

#### DISCUSSION OF ACCOUNT #3115 AND #9856

Mr. Daskal provided background information on this item. A discussion took place relative to the issuance of a sewer permit, billing, and the date of connection. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Hart, made a motion that, provided there are no structures on the properties, a refund from the date of connection for Account #3115 and Account #9856, be issued for sewer use fees, not connection fees. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

#### PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske said plant operations are running excellent and electricity usage is about the same as it was last year at this time. Mr. Boske answered questions from the Authority. Regarding current activities, Mr. Grasis reported that fire extinguishers and fire hydrants were tested and inspected – all passed; one operator is taking a Class III operator exam and two operators are taking a Class I exam; Bob Arthur received his Class II Collections certification and Jeff Carlson received his Lab Tech I certification. Also, FOG Coordinator Gary Leavitt is working with MDC and it's attorneys regarding the Miscellaneous General Permit; a FOG update will be provided at next month's meeting; the positions of Plant Foreman and Assistant Collector of Revenue remain open; a meeting is scheduled with the Town Administrator, Mr. Grasis and the current security contractor relative to the minimum wage increase; disinfection season began May 1<sup>st</sup>; Hartford Truck is still working on the crane truck; and VMS Construction re-set two sewer manholes.

#### BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Daskal said that collection efforts are continuing. Lien notices and releases, assessment properties, and billing of multi-unit properties are being updated in the new system.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING PURCHASE OF COMBINATION FLUSHER/VACUUM TRUCK

Mr. Daskal provided background information on this item as well as a memo and literature outlining the details and specifications of the truck. Mr. Daskal answered questions from the Authority. He said that he compared chassis from four manufacturers, and pricing and specifications sets from three vendors. Mr. Grasis said that all specifications are part of the package and the approximate time for delivery is 60 days. Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr.

Boynton, moved that the Town of Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority authorizes the Director of Water Pollution Control to proceed with the acquisition of a combination sewer vacuum flusher truck as provided under Sourcewell Contract: 122017—AMI, as further defined in Sanitary Equipment Company of West Haven, CT May 23, 2019 quote, in an amount not to exceed \$364,000 and amends the FY2019-2020 Capital Improvement Plan accordingly. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

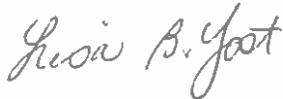
ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

None.

ADJOURN

Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Tedford made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost, Secretary  
Water Pollution Control