



TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

APPROVED

MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

June 25, 2020

7:30 p.m.

Attendees: Ken Boynton, Gordon Gibson, Kevin Kearney and Andrew Tedford. Also present: Robert Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Matthew Baskal, Financial Analyst; Lori Carriero, Tighe & Bond; and Evan Harbinson, Skip's/Wastewater Services.

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VERNON TOWN CLERK
JUN 27 AM 8:29

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mr. Grasis asked to add an agenda item to discuss Account #8975.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON MAY 28, 2020

Mr. Gibson asked to change Exit 66 to Exit 67 under Agenda Item "Update and Discussion of the Sewer System Evaluation Survey". Action on this item was deferred until the next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF SEWER CONNECTION WAIVER REQUEST FOR 29 CHAMBERLAIN STREET

Mr. Grasis provided background on this item and answered questions from the Authority. He explained that the street is a critical flushing area because the line is flat. The line does not run in front of the house and the house is located both in Ellington and Vernon. After soil testing was conducted by North Central Health District, it was concluded that the soil is suitable for a septic system. Mr. Grasis said that he recommends waiving the connection to the sewer and to allow the septic system to be repaired. Mr. Harbinson said that the septic is failing. Discussion took place. Mr. Boynton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gibson, to grant the waiver based on Mr. Grasis' recommendation. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

DISCUSSION REGARDING SEWER USER ACCOUNT #8975

Mr. Grasis provided information regarding elevated water usage at the property due to an extenuating circumstance. Mr. Grasis recommended that the sewer use fee be reduced by 50%. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Kearney, made a motion to reduce the bill by fifty percent. Discussion took place. Mr. Boynton, seconded by Mr. Kearney amended the motion to include "for this one instance." There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Grasis provided an update and answered questions from the Authority. He reported that: there are no new delays due to COVID-19; work is progressing and town staff is getting more involved with the upgrade; in the pretreatment building the emergency bypass channel #1 was isolated; and a new fine screen is slated to be installed within the next week or two. Also, work continues on the regen building, aeration tanks #1 & #2, and

final clarifiers #4 and #5. The equipment that was delayed for the #5 clarifier due to COVID-19 is scheduled to arrive in July; the solids handling building is completely gutted; new conduits are being installed for temporary power in the abandoned thickener building; work on the filter building is commencing; and the Building Advisory Committee approved two change orders. He explained that the chemical and filter buildings are required to have sprinklers and there is a meeting next week with Town officials to discuss alternatives to connecting the water supply from the existing on-site supply instead of from the street. Mr. Grasis said that he would like the Authority to tour the plant in the near future.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION SURVEY

Ms. Carriero reported that field work was done over six nights and referenced six maps that showed some of the preliminary findings. Approximately 40,000 feet out 110,000 feet of the sanitary sewer were marked to have infiltration and she is waiting for input from Vernon's Collection Foreman Dj Lupacchino. A kick off meeting for smoke testing is scheduled for July 15th and TV inspection will follow. She met with Economic Development Coordinator Shaun Gately regarding I-84 Exit 66/67 and is awaiting his feedback after he returns from vacation. Mr. Grasis said that he gave the Tolland WPCA the draft Tolland Sewer Service area map that now was presented at the Vernon WPCA meeting on May 28th. Mr. Grasis said that the Tolland WPCA will let him if they are interested in the Exit 66/67 development.

PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske said that the plant is running well and without any issues despite the construction during the upgrade. He said that flows were down compared to last year at this time and the effluent water quality is good. Mr. Grasis reported that: the electrical equipment at the Tankerhoosen and Campbell Avenue stations is being installed; the Plant Foreman position is still open; an employee from Public Works will be starting as Collection Technician next week; the HVAC maintenance contract was awarded to the current contractor for the same amount as the existing contract; and the Security contract was awarded to the present company for less than the existing contract; CBYD tickets have increased; and manholes will have to be cut out and replaced on Lake Street. Mr. Grasis congratulated Collection Foreman Dj Luppachino on achieving 10 years of perfect attendance. Mr. Grasis informed the Authority that this is Matthew Daskal's last meeting.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Daskal reported that the April billing is complete. Approximately 1500 delinquent notices were mailed which included COVID-19 tax deferral information and about \$80,000 will be collected as a result of the notices. He reported that the collection rate for April was 90.45% and the annual collection rate is 90.62%. Regarding the fiscal year, Mr. Daskal said that 95% of the budget has been expended. Mr. Grasis added that an assessment from 1998 of about \$13,000 was collected this month.

DISCUSSION OF SEWER USER RATES AND FEES

Mr. Daskal proposed that the sewer user rates remain the same for the coming year. Revenues and expenditures from the current fiscal year are matching up fairly closely he said. The five year average shows a decrease in rates of about one third of a percent he said, and it is another positive year coming off of last year's rate decrease. Mr. Kearney agreed.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

The Authority thanked Mr. Daskal for his time and service.

ADJOURN

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Boynton, made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Yost, Secretary, Vernon Water Pollution Control

