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# TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

8 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3699

Fax: (860) 870-3584

OFFICE OF THE  
WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AUTHORITY

## MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING January 26, 2012

Attendees: Vice-Chairman E. Ray Weaver, Gary Leavitt, John Anderson and Elizabeth Yang. Also present: David R. Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control; Arnie Bevins, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Peter Dureiko, Collection System Foreman; George Rostkowski, Business Manager and Peter Williams, Ellington WPCA Administrator

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
12 FEB -2 PM 3:20

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Weaver.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

E. Ray Weaver was elected Chairman by a vote of 3-0-0 and Gary Leavitt was elected Vice-Chairman by a vote of 3-0-0.

### ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Weaver moved to accept the minutes of the WPCA Special Meeting held on October 20, 2011 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1 with Mr. Anderson abstaining.

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, moved to accept the minutes of the WPCA Regular Meeting held on October 27, 2011 as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1 with Mr. Anderson abstaining.

### REVIEW OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY BUDGET #101161576 AND HOUSING AUTHORITY SEWER SUBSIDY BUDGET #10673282 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013

Mr. Ignatowicz presented the Water Pollution Control Authority budget. The budget reflects a decrease from last year's budget due in part due to a reduction in the number of active assessments that need to be processed at the Business Office. Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Anderson, moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority recommend to the Mayor and the Vernon Town Council, Water Pollution Control Authority Budget #101161576 for fiscal year 2012/2013 in the amount of \$11,429. Mr. Anderson made a friendly amendment that the motion read Budget #10116157, not #101161576. The motion, with the correction passed unanimously (4-0-0).

Mr. Ignatowicz presented the Housing Authority Sewer Subsidy Budget and explained how he estimates the proposed budget based on historical sewer use records. He also explained that leftover monies can be encumbered for the following year's budget and because the Authority only administers the account, the Town may use the encumbered funds. Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority recommend to the Mayor and the Vernon Town Council, Housing Authority Sewer Subsidy Budget #10673282 for fiscal year 2012/2013 in the amount of \$50,500. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

### PROPOSAL FOR SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATION TO BENEFIT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Ignatowicz referenced a letter from Economic Development Coordinator Shaun Gately outlining a proposal for the installation of a 3600 solar panel array at 713 Talcottville Road. Greenskies

Renewable Energy (Greenskies) will be leasing that property and will install and maintain the solar array. Mr. Ignatowicz said that the Town would be able to purchase the power for .06¢/kwh compared to the current rate of .15¢/kwh and Mr. Gately's preliminary estimate shows an annual cost savings of \$130,000. The installation by Greenskies would allow the power to be tied directly to the treatment plant's electrical panel thereby eliminating transmission and distribution charges from electricity providers. Mr. Weaver expressed concern regarding the transition of power sources during the day as well as the quality of the power and asked how the power was going to be transferred. Mr. Bevins and Mr. Ignatowicz said that they did not have that information and still need to meet with Greenskies' engineers; the engineers have to make it compatible for usage. Mr. Leavitt also expressed concern about the quality of power and asked if the plant needs to go on generator power, is that a contract violation? Mr. Ignatowicz said that the proposal has to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

#### TALCOTTVILLE PUMP STATION EMERGENCY REPAIR AND INSTALLATION OF BY-PASS

Mr. Ignatowicz referenced a memo to the Authority regarding the emergency repair of the Talcottville Pump Station Force Main specifically noting that the repair was scheduled and subsequently canceled three times due to exceedingly high flow rates to the station. Flow rates have not come back down at all and are not expected to recede, he said. Instead of an emergency/temporary fix, a permanent by-pass would make more sense, he said, and would last for many years. The total cost for the repair and permanent by-pass would be about \$63,902, and if approved by the Authority, Mr. Ignatowicz would then request to have this matter placed on the Town Council Agenda for a bid waiver and authorization of funding as recommended. Mr. Dureiko outlined the details of the project noting where the flows would go during the time necessary to complete the repair and construction of the permanent by-pass. Currently, the pump station can not be taken off line but once the by-pass is installed, the station can be by-passed indefinitely if necessary he said. Miss Yang asked about the competitiveness of the price and Mr. Dureiko said that he went to various vendors for price comparisons.

Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Anderson moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority recommends to the Town Council that it is in the best interest of the Town to waive the bid procedure for the emergency repair of the Talcottville Sewage Pumping Station force main and to construct a permanent by-pass to facilitate this repair, and any future repairs, by adding a permanent by-pass on the existing force main. Further, it is the recommendation of the Water Pollution Control Authority that the amount of \$64,000 be appropriated from the Sewer Connection Account to complete this work and that Kovacs Construction Corporation, 297 White Street, Danbury, CT will make the pipe repairs inside the station and that VMS Construction Company, 162 Lake Street, Vernon, CT will excavate and construct outside pipe modifications. Mr. Anderson asked if Kovacs Construction is in the motion, then shouldn't there be two separate dollar figures; is Kovacs a subcontractor for the Authority? Mr. Anderson amended the motion to read that the Town appropriate \$53,500 for VMS Construction and \$10,500 for Kovacs Construction. Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, made a motion to amend the original motion. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously (4-0-0) as did the amended motion (4-0-0).

#### ACTIVITY REPORT ON SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Mr. Dureiko explained that this report is a summary of routine duties performed on a daily basis. He noted that Call Before You Dig mark out requests takes up the majority of time, especially during the spring and summer months. He also addressed the issue of pumps at all pumping station getting plugged with rags, the modification of impellers and the use of automatic screening as a possible solution to alleviate this problem. Mr. Leavitt inquired about educating the users regarding this issue and asked if the ordinance addresses the discharge of rags into the sewer. Mr. Dureiko provided an update regarding the Rail to Trail odor issue. He said that the odor is being controlled much better than before by using a stronger bioxide which is dispensed at the Talcottville Pump Station. Mr. Ignatowicz noted that additional rainfall helped to alleviate the odor as well. A discussion took place regarding Collection System staffing, Collection System equipment needs and Call Before You Dig procedures.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT

Mr. Bevins reported that the treatment plant is running fine. During Storm Alfred, although the plant was without power for 14 hours, no raw sewage left the plant or any of the pump stations he said. During the storm, the muffler on the plant's generator caught fire he said. Mr. Bevins reported that about \$100,000 will be spent for nitrogen credits due in part to low flows last year. A cost savings of \$220,000 was realized for electricity due to the diffuser upgrade. At the request of Mr. Weaver, Mr. Bevins explained the NEWEA Award for Mr. Anderson and Miss Yang. Mr. Ignatowicz presented a list of items that were damaged at the treatment plant during Storm Alfred. He reported that all but \$885 of the \$56,575.27 submitted to the insurance company has been paid. The \$885 was submitted for damage to a chain link fence. Mr. Ignatowicz outlined the details of the rental contract for the stand-by generator and updated the Authority regarding the repair of the damaged generator. The monthly rental for the stand-by generator is about \$16,000 he said. Mr. Ignatowicz said that Town Administrator John D. Ward, has signed a service quotation from Kraft Generator to repair the damaged generator at a cost of \$111,135. Mr. Bevins said that the damaged generator may be repaired by late February or early March and that the engine appears to be ok. Miss Yang, seconded by Mr. Anderson, moved that the Water Pollution acknowledges and approves the waiving of all bids and authorizes the execution of a rental agreement from Kraft Power Corporation dated November 4, 2011 by WPC Director David Ignatowicz to insure that the required back-up emergency power for the wastewater treatment plant could be made available as soon as possible. A friendly amendment that the motion read Water Pollution Control Authority, instead of Water Pollution, was made. The motion, with the correction passed unanimously (4-0-0). Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Anderson, moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority acknowledges and approves the waiving of all bids and authorizes the execution of a service agreement from Kraft Power Corporation dated November 4, 2011 by Town Administrator John Ward to insure timely repair of the wastewater treatment plant emergency power generator. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

### REPORT OF WATER LINE BREAK/REPAIR AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Ignatowicz reported that a sixth water leak at the treatment plant had to be repaired in the amount of \$17,217.81. He said that in November, VMS Construction replaced approximately 130 feet of 1" copper water line with about 80 feet of that being pulled through existing, damaged 2" plastic pipe. This type of repair limited the need to further excavate he said. Mr. Ignatowicz said that VMS Construction has since been paid and the Finance Department has requested that the WPCA authorize the expenditure from the treatment plant operation budget. Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, moved that the Water Pollution Control Authority acknowledges and approves the waiving of the bid procedure and the hiring of VMS Construction Company, 162 Lake Street, Vernon, CT to repair a broken water line at the wastewater treatment plant and further, authorizes the amount of \$17,217.81 to be expended from Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Budget 41345700 for work completed. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).

### WPCA ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Rostkowski presented an unaudited Sewer User Fund Income statement for Year Ended June 30, 2011. He reported Operating Income of approximately \$1,240,010 reflecting a 137.57% increase over last fiscal year due in part to a dry summer and \$365,000 in reimbursements from CL&P as a result of the diffuser upgrade. Regarding the Sewer User Fund, Mr. Rostkowski said Accounts Receivables were approximately \$1,135,364 reflecting a 27.47% increase and the Collection Rate was 94.79% reflecting a 1.26% drop. Investment income dropped to about \$4,329 reflecting a 37.74% decrease from last fiscal year. Mr. Rostkowski compared Sewer User Revenue from last year to the current year and reported that total revenue decline is \$143,154. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Rostkowski to provide thoughts and ideas about what can be done regarding Authority investments and he would like to hear some proposals at the next meeting. Mr. Leavitt asked if the Authority can authorize investments, than it should be done and suggested getting a legal opinion. Mr. Anderson expressed concern about possibly needing a new generator for an upgraded treatment facility. A discussion took place regarding the upgrade of the treatment facility, phosphorus removal and nitrogen credits.

**REVIEW OF TWO YEAR PLAN FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT**

*Mr. Ignatowicz presented the Authority with a memorandum to Mayor Apel outlining the Water Pollution Control Department's assessment and future needs.*

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS**

*The Authority discussed having a Special Meeting on either February 9th or February 16th to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget for FY 2012-13. It was the consensus of the Authority to hold a special meeting on February 9th.*

**ADJOURN**

*Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Leavitt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (4-0-0).*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lisa B. Yost, Secretary, WPCD*