

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM**

**Regular Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2007**

(Not yet approved by the Authority)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Lord at 7:06 p.m. in the Town Annex.

2. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Andrew Lord - Chairman, Arthur Merrow, Richard Fiala

ABSENT: Richard Hoffman, Fred Myers, John Russell

OTHERS PRESENT: James Ventres, Grant Weaver, Randolph Dill

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

4. FACILITIES OPERATION REPORT – Water Planet Company

Mr. Weaver distributed the Water Planet Company's Report # 82 dated January 2, 2007. He recapped the information in the report. He informed the WPCA that he had been called out to Bishopsgate Inn for the grinder pump. He mistakenly replaced the wrong grinder pump, and Bishopsgate Inn subsequently had a backup in their basement. He replaced the other pump and cleaned most of the basement. Mr. Ventres explained that there was some residual debris in the basement, and the owner asked him to have a company come in to clean the basement and sanitize it. Mr. Ventres and Mr. Weaver authorized the property owner to contact companies and obtain pricing for the cleanup.

Mr. Weaver stated there had been three other grinder pump replacements in the past few months. Mr. Lord inquired about the October 30, 2006 installation of a grinder pump for a new customer at 49 Main Street. Mr. Ventres stated this was an existing location.

Mr. Weaver stated that most of the other information in Report #82 was a financial overview of the budget lines. Mr. Lord asked about the UV bulbs. Mr. Weaver stated these bulbs typically have a relatively short life span of approximately one year; however, we typically get nearly three years from them. Mr. Lord asked if this item was only

covered in the maintenance line. Mr. Weaver responded that it was, but that it might be a good item to separate into another line.

Mr. Lord inquired about the 4,500 gallons of sludge removed, as discussed under the Operations and Maintenance section of Mr. Weaver's report. Mr. Weaver explained that this was taken free of cost, and the Yale Office also paid for the trucking.

Mr. Fiala noted that electric rates have been increasing, but the plant's costs are decreasing. Mr. Weaver explained that in the summer months, they run a 5hp odor control fan continuously, which uses a lot of electricity. He stated that December's rates would increase as they use a space heater in the pump station.

5. DISCUSSION

A) The separation distance of well and septic

Mr. Ventres informed the WPCA that Mr. Puska was almost done with his review of properties. He explained that the State DEP determined that a 25-foot distance between well and septic was acceptable. However, the Chatham Health District disagreed. Mr. Ventres noted that Chatham has no control over the grinder pumps in East Hampton or Colchester, as they are owned by the homeowners. Chatham was pleased that the WPCA controls East Haddam's grinder pumps.

Mr. Ventres stated that Mr. Puska would have a chart of properties with less than 75-feet of separation for the next meeting. He explained that if a new application were submitted, Chatham would now determine that the application was not in compliance if the distance was less than 75-feet. The applicant would then have to apply for a waiver. Mr. Ventres stated he would like to physically visit sites that are at 25-feet or less to ensure this is the actual distance. Once the site visit has occurred, they can make a determination for remedy. He suggested if the distance was 25-feet or less and it was near a shallow well, they might need to look at further options. However, he suggested if the distance was 25-feet and it was next to a drilled well, it may be acceptable.

Mr. Fiala asked who would make the determination for the waivers. Mr. Ventres stated this would be done by Mr. Bob Scully at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Responsive to inquiry by Mr. Fiala, Mr. Ventres stated this would be for new applications. Mr. Fiala believed this would be difficult on Main Street, but Mr. Ventres stated that everyone on Main Street was already hooked into the system.

Mr. Ventres believed East Haddam was in good shape on this issue. He stated we would have a response to the DPH within three months, ahead of the six-month deadline.

B) Wildwood Association

Mr. Ventres stated that Wildwood requested that he look into funding for new systems. Mr. Ventres contacted the State, and he received an email response from Ms. Jennifer

Pachaug, who indicated that all of the funding available was being allocated to existing systems. Mr. Ventres stated he would now report back to Wildwood this information.

C) Computer Control and Instrumentation Project

Mr. Ventres stated that he had incorporated Attorney John Bennet's comments into the bid documents, and he had given a copy to Mr. Weaver. He stated if there were no comments from the WPCA, he would send the RFP out in January, with a four-week response time. Mr. Weaver believed the bid document looked good, and he was amenable to Attorney Bennet's comments.

Mr. Lord asked if the WPCA would be bound if it sent out this RFP. Mr. Ventres stated they would not be bound to anything by sending out this bid request, as there was language in the bid document that the Town could refuse any and all bids. Mr. Lord believed the WPCA should have a motion for this.

Motion by Mr. Fiala to go out to bid for the computer control and instrumentation project, reserving the right to reject any and all offers made. Seconded by Mr. Merrow, and carried by unanimous vote.

D) Sewer Treatment Plant Biofilter

Mr. Ventres informed the WPCA that he and Mr. Weaver agreed to call contractors to get pricing. They planned to meet next week to discuss the project. Mr. Lord asked if the job was too complicated for the Town crew. Mr. Ventres explained that the Town does not own an excavator, so it made more sense to contract the job than to rent an excavator.

E) Lake Hayward Pilot Plan

Mr. Ventres stated he had sent emails and information to Mr. Thad King at Chatham Health District, but had received no response. He stated that Mr. Bob Scully had been in recently and had a copy of Mr. Ventres' notes.

Mr. Lord recalled that Mr. King had spelled out an entire scenario on E-Coli based on documents that the WPCA had not seen. He stated that the WPCA has asked Mr. King at least three times for these documents for over a year, but Mr. King still has not provided them. Mr. Merrow suggested the WPCA should send the request with a Freedom of Information Act (FOI) request.

Mr. Lord asked if the scope of the problem had been narrowed. Mr. Ventres believed the issue stemmed from one or two houses. He stated he would try to get a copy of Mr. Scully's notes. Mr. Lord suggested sending it back to Mr. King with a narrowed focus and have him inspect them. Mr. Ventres stated because Mr. King has sat on this issue for so long, this might be the way to proceed.

F) Other Discussion

Mr. Ventres stated that the Goodspeed Opera House possibly has a new tenant for the Gelston House Restaurant. He stated that NL Jacobson & Associates had looked at the system, and Mr. Blaschik talked to Mr. Weaver regarding the fats/oils/greases requirements. Grease traps have to be designed to take 50% of the total daily flow. He stated that NL Jacobson would provide the information. Mr. Weaver stated that Mr. Blaschik asked him to send something in writing that he could then incorporate into the tenant's lease. Mr. Ventres stated he would review this information and send it to Mr. Weaver.

Mr. Ventres discussed Landing Hill Road. He stated that when the original sewer system went in, they had a stem running up Landing Hill Road, past Porges Road. He stated there were two houses on the left that responded, and they had reasonable septic systems. One property owner on the right never responded. The decision was made at the time not to run the sewer up Landing Hill Road. However, 6 Landing Hill Road was sold, and it was discovered that the septic system was only a cedar box in the front yard. Mr. Ventres read into the record a letter from Ms. Liz Davidson, Registered Sanitarian for the Chatham Health District, that the property owner requested approval to hook into the sewer system.

Mr. Fiala stated if the WPCA approved this, who would have to pay for the initial installation. It was noted that the property owner would have to pay to connect to the sewer system, including running the lines down the street, connecting, and for the grinder pump. Mr. Ventres stated the property owner would have to install a grinder pump to meet the 75-foot separation requirement, which would mean they would have to install the pump at the corner of the property, and then run the line down the street.

Mr. Lord asked if this property was part of the sewer district, to which Mr. Ventres responded affirmatively. Mr. Lord indicated that they would need to file an application with the WPCA. Mr. Ventres stated the property owner did file an application, and they went to Chatham Health as well. He stated if the WPCA granted approval, they could connect.

Mr. Weaver asked if there was a valve on Landing Hill Road. Mr. Ventres stated that the as-built indicated there was a valve. Mr. Lord inquired about the drawings, and Mr. Ventres responded that he and Mr. Weaver were going through the drawings.

Motion made by Mr. Fiala to approve the request for 6 Landing Hill Road to hook into the existing East Haddam sewer system. Motion seconded by Mr. Merrow.

Discussion: Mr. Lord was uncomfortable approving this without knowing exactly what the plan was. He stated that other property owners would have to submit a plan of what they wanted to do. Mr. Ventres stated that the WPCA would be telling the applicant what they had to do.

Mr. Lord stated the WPCA would need an easement to go onto the property for inspections. Mr. Ventres agreed that they would need an easement, but he stated that was not an overwhelming issue. Mr. Ventres stated the septic was failing now, and that the contractors working there had found a cedar box used as a septic tank.

Mr. Merrow stated this type of issue was why the sewer system was originally installed. He understood that there might be some hoops the WPCA might need to go through, but he believed the WPCA needed to allow this property owner to connect to the system.

Mr. Lord stated they would need Board of Selectmen approval because there would be work in the Town's right-of-way. Mr. Lord believed it would be beneficial to amend the motion to reflect certain conditions.

Mr. Fiala amended his original motion to approve the request for 6 Landing Hill Road to hook into the existing East Haddam sewer system with the following conditions:

- **The full cost of the installation and connection to the existing sewer system, as well as for operation and maintenance shall be borne by the property owner.**
- **No equipment shall be ordered by the WPCA until the property owner has paid in full.**
- **The applicant and/or contractor shall be responsible for any damages incurred during installation/connection to the sewer system.**
- **The applicant/contractor shall work with Mr. Ventres and Mr. Weaver during the process, and inspections shall be made by Mr. Ventres and Mr. Weaver.**
- **An easement acceptable to this Authority shall be prepared and filed with the Town.**
- **All work shall be in accordance with the technical specifications and sewer regulations of the Town of East Haddam.**
- **The property owner shall pay the sewer assessment for the property, equal to one EDU.**

Amended motion seconded by Mr. Merrow, and carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Ventres informed the WPCA that Banner Lodge had been approved for Phase II of their project. They now have 86 units. Mr. Merrow asked if they added more units, at what number they would have to come back to the WPCA. Mr. Ventres stated Banner was at its maximum now, at 86 units. He stated if additional units were proposed, Banner would have to come back to this Authority, as well as to the Connecticut DEP.

Mr. Ventres informed the Authority that he and Mr. Lord were asked to attend a Board of Selectmen meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday regarding Johnsonville.

Mr. Lord recalled that a few months ago, the WPCA had a lengthy discussion about Johnsonville. He stated that Johnsonville representatives reviewed the minutes of that meeting and decided not to pursue the sewer system. Now, the Economic Development Commission has gone to the Board of Selectmen, and the BOS has asked the WPCA to attend a meeting to answer questions regarding the project, and tying the sewage into the plant.

Mr. Lord asked Mr. Dill for further input. Mr. Dill stated he was not at the meeting, but the EDC voted to approach the BOS about the project. He believed Mr. Jabarra was looking into alternatives.

Mr. Ventres stated at the meeting, the WPCA asked about alternatives. Mr. Ventres stated he talked with Attorney Branse and Attorney Bennet about Mr. Bill Sweeney's questions. Mr. Ventres stated he did not get a response from Mr. Sweeney. Mr. Ventres distributed copies of opinions from Attorneys Branse and Bennet.

Mr. Lord stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission would have to approve the extension of the facilities; it was not just the WPCA's decision. He noted that this would not be an issue of responding to the DEP's order, as the original sewer system would be, but rather for a developer what wants to put in more units than they have the capacity to handle.

Mr. Ventres stated he was waiting for additional information from Attorney Branse and Attorney Oschner. Mr. Lord stated if the Town decided to allow this project to connect to the Town's sewer system, the WPCA would need a new DEP permit, the NPDES permit would have to be revised, they would need a new DEP facility design, etc. In addition, he believed if they allowed Johnsonville to tie into the system, the WPCA might not be eligible for future funding. Mr. Ventres agreed, and noted that the latest State Plan of Conservation and Development was drastically different than the previous plan. He stated that all of the growth management practices said not to do this, unless they have an identified problem. He added that there was strong language in the document regarding rural water.

Mr. Dill believed the EDC was just doing its job by asking for this meeting. The EDC believed this project would encourage economic development, and have a potential for a large tax base for the Town. He believed the EDC saw this meeting as a method to get everyone together to discuss the project. Mr. Lord agreed that everyone should discuss the project. He stated if all of the other Town agencies wanted this project, the WPCA could do it, but they would have to make some changes.

Mr. Merrow asked about the re-use of the Town Office complex, and if they needed to reserve any sewer capacity for this site. Mr. Ventres indicated that Johnsonville had originally said they would build capacity at our plant. He noted that Mr. Denis Grecie at

the DEP said they would have to build the facility first, so it did not have an effect on the village. Mr. Weaver believed they could do this, but they would have to get new permits, plans, etc. He stated it would simply be a cost issue. Mr. Ventres believed it would come down to a question of cost for the applicant. Mr. Dill stated he had heard the applicant had no plans to expand beyond their original proposal. Mr. Ventres noted that the original plan for Johnsonville had the system mostly under the roads.

Mr. Ventres stated he had one bill for the WPCA to approve. It was for Attorney John Bennet to review the bid documents, at a cost of \$87.50.

Motion by Mr. Merrow to pay the \$87.50 bill for Attorney John Bennet, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fiala, and carried by unanimous vote.

The WPCA discussed the application of Mr. John Koskovich, who had applied to be on the Authority.

Motion by Mr. Fiala to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending the appointment of Mr. John Koskovich to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Seconded by Mr. Merrow, and carried by unanimous vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Merrow to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fiala, and carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Pattavina