East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Regular Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2026

1. Call to Order

   Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Attendance

   Members Present: Chairman Andrew Lord, Richard Fiala, Edward Blaschik, Bob Casner
   Members Absent: John Russell, Richard Pettinelli
   Others Present: Jim Ventres, Katherine Kneeland, Will Abramczyk

3. Minutes

   Motion by Mr. Lord to approve the May 18, 2026 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fiala and unanimously approved. Mr. Blaschik abstained.

4. Discussion

   a. Clean Water Ops Report –

      Mr. Abramczyk provided an update. Things are working very well but there are a few things that need to be discussed. The actuator valve for SBR1 still must be addressed. They received 2 quotes and hired the contractor who was $2000 less. Clean Water Ops had positive prior work experience with that contractor. Clean Water Ops ordered the part instead of the contractor doing that; it was the wrong part so the part had to be reordered by the contractor. Mr. Abramczyk noted the Town was not charged for the incorrect part. The contractor then ordered the part, which had a 14 week lead time. The first attempt to install did not work. After 3 times trying to install the part, Mr. Abramczyk called in Knapp Engineering. Knapp came out and conducted an assessment. Upon closer inspection, they discovered the part had wiring issues. The part was sent back to the manufacturer, who conducted an assessment and stated the part worked for them. They are now charging Clean Water Ops a $435 assessment fee and will not return the part until that is paid. Since that time, Mr. Abramczyk has lost faith in the installer due to a number of experiences and issues. Clean Water Ops had to get their attorney involved due to the multiple points of failure. The plan is to pay the assessment fee to get the part back, hire another contractor to install who will review the part and then decide if a new one needs to be ordered. While the fix has continued to be delayed, Mr. Abramczyk has a plan of action to get the value installed, and will charge the Town the same amount that was quoted to the Town 2 years ago (so the Town will not incur any additional charges from the mis-ordered part, the manufacturer assessment fee, the cost of the 2nd contractor, etc.). The goal is to get the value working so that the change over can be accomplished in the fall. He feels by the next meeting, he will have more information on the process to fix the issue.

The plant is running great but only one side is running per the above value issue. Permit compliance has remained constant. DEEP reached out with some questions, which Clean Water Ops answered.
The Eversource meter was also discussed. Eversource noted that they have been providing estimates, and it was caught when Mr. Ventres received a letter stating the meter was broken. That has been fixed and was a painless process.
The influent flow meter that had failed was replaced with a clamp on flow meter. A new mag flow meter is required and that requires significant plumbing. There is no advantage to get a like for like replacement when the clamp on meter works. A new one has been ordered and will be installed once received.
At the end of May, the plant saw some drywall materials in the screening, and so was on high alert to any potential contaminants coming through like had occurred prior. No other materials were seen thankfully.
Mr. Abramczyk provided an update on grinder pumps. The pump at 9 Norwich Road was running continuously and had run dry so burned itself out. It was pulled out and a loaner put in to fix the issue. The pump was installed in July 2015, and has had 5 service calls on it. The pump was assessed and can be rebuilt for $1371; a new one is $3800. Mr. Abramczyk is leaning towards purchasing a new one given the date of the pump and the number of repairs. Discussion ensued and the decision was for Clean Water Ops to purchase a new pump.
We are ½ through the year, and the 9 Norwich Road pump issue is the 3rd of the year (it is only the 2nd pump replacement this year). Mr. Abramczyk will send the updated document showing the issues this year.

b. Budget Discussion –

Mr. Ventres outlined that for the year, there is a $7325.78 surplus after paying for all the items that needed to be addressed – the new roof, the permit fee, etc. That $7325 included the $50K from the Town, and next year the WPCA will receive $75K from the Town.

c. Pump Station Repairs –

Mr. Abramczyk provided the Doc Road Pump Station update – there are carpenters working on several items. He has not received electrical contractors quotes back yet. Mr. Ventres noted that he received 3 bids for the fencing and the low bidder ($10,000) will be awarded. There is work that must be done to deal with the electrical situation, which requires electricity to be shut off. Work must be done to pull the electrical items off the pole, then a metal bracket must be attached so it's not attached to the pole itself and then the electrics must be reinstalled. There is a need to confirm the Goodspeed Opera House is closed, once that is determined, the pump house can be pumped down and then the electrical work can be done, once the power is shut off by Eversource. Once the electrical work is completed, then the fencing can be addressed. Total expenditure is about $20,000.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Casner at 7:38pm. Second by Mr. Blaschik and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary