

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2010**

Members Present: John Konrad, Chair
Bruce Allen
Todd Rolland
Bob Maynard
Jim Williams
Michael Longenbarker, alternate

Others Present: Linda Farmer, Director of Planning & Community Development
Beverly Bellody, Director of Human Services
Jack Flynn, Town Council liaison
Jason Hofmann, Water Planet
Kurt Mailman, Fuss & O'Neill

1. **Call to Order.** John Konrad, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in Council Chambers.

2. **Update from Chair** – John Konrad said he received a complaint from a resident, Roger Lentocho who lives in a house at the top of Old Post Road. They recently tied into the sewer line and were outraged at the flat rate usage charge they received on their first sewer bill. John Konrad said they need to find out where the estimated number comes from for billing unmetered customers. He said he assumes it is the same number Vernon uses. He said an option would be for the resident to install a meter. He understands meters cost in the neighborhood of about \$125 plus about another \$400 to install them.

John Konrad also distributed a statement of cash flows from the town report for year ended June 30, 2009. He said they were in the red, until the town added their \$20,000 contribution last year, which then put them in the black with \$678 to start this year. This year, however, they will be only getting a \$15,000 contribution from the town.

John Konrad also distributed copies of the survey he filled out at the request of the Department of Environmental Protection.

John Konrad said he and Bob Maynard discussed the educational program to teach residents how to maintain their septic systems. Bob Maynard has agreed to shepherd the program and he will use some available documents from the EPA. Linda Farmer said the Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) also has some literature available and she suggested that he go online and visit the EHHD site, and contact Rob Miller, Director of Health.

3. **Public Comment** – None.

4. **Public Hearing** – None

5. Action Items

5.1 Discuss Public Meeting on Phase II Facilities Plan – proposed date May 18, 2010. The Board discussed who should be invited to this meeting. Linda Farmer suggested inviting the Town Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Health District. There was discussion if the residents who live in the areas where constructed solutions are being recommended should be sent notices. There was also discussion if an e-blast should be sent out or if a newspaper reporter might be contacted to put together an article. John Konrad said while the public is welcome, he saw this meeting more as a reaching out to other government boards to seek their guidance as to how they should address the Phase II plan as they go forward. Todd Rolland agreed saying he felt the workshop was intended to bring the other Boards and Commissions up to speed.

Kurt Mailman asked if the Board was interested in inviting the DEP to the workshop. He said some people from the DEP have been querying him and others in town about the status of the Facilities Plan. John Konrad said he had not expected Kurt Mailman to do a presentation at this workshop, but rather have it be done by himself and the Board. He would like Kurt Mailman to attend the meeting, however, as there would likely be questions. Jim Williams said he could put together a Powerpoint presentation.

John Konrad reviewed some of the points he would make in the presentation pointing out that Board members are all fairly new. He would provide a history of the consent order to address failing septic systems and the need to find alternate solutions. He would also note that three reports over the past 35 years were done in the past, but none got approved, and he would review the current plan which was split into two phases. Phase I was completed in 2004 and addressed the Middle School, the Gateway area, and the High School. John Konrad said he would review the components of the sewer system and the capacity limits with the Vernon treatment plant. He will also discuss the Phase I expansions to Route 195 and the elderly housing area.

John Konrad said he would review the planning work done on Phase II which was completed in the fall of 2008 and which identified five neighborhoods of concern. He would indicate that at the Public Hearing, the recommendation for constructed solutions in these five areas was not well received and the data was questioned and led to the eventual revision of the plan. Two of the five neighborhoods (Willie Circle area and Apple Road area) remained as being recommended for constructed solutions. He said all of the recommendations require resources that are presently unavailable. He also said that technology has improved since 1975 and town requirements for septic systems and zoning requirements have also changed. He said he would also point out that no hard evidence is available showing pollution of the Snip or any other water resources. Kurt Mailman said that no water quality sampling from sewage was done. Linda Farmer said that the Connecticut Water Company does annual walkovers of the watershed area and she will check into whether they have done any water testing.

John Konrad said the big question before them is whether or not they have satisfied the requirements of the consent order in their Facilities Plan. Todd Rolland asked if the consent order is a static document.

Kurt Mailman said if they satisfied the requirements of the consent order, they could petition to have it lifted. He also noted that you cannot do a sewer expansion without an approved Facilities Plan document on file. Bob Maynard asked if the Woodlake facility is the closest place for a Willie Circle tie in to the sewer system. Linda Farmer said that it is. Bruce Allen said that in their presentation, they should be presenting choices of A, B, C as to where they should go from here so that they could get some specific recommendations from other governing bodies. Linda Farmer said it would also be important to note that the recommended solution for the Apple Road area is a community septic rather than an extension of sewers. Bob Maynard asked Kurt Mailman if he could provide maps and pump station information to them for the presentation.

Bob Maynard asked if they could get a copy of the consent order. Mike Longenbarker said it would be good to detail out the requirements so they could show how they are addressing each issue. Kurt Mailman noted that the previous submission of the Facilities Plan in past years attempted to do the same and were rejected by the DEP. He said two were submitted to the DEP, but one fell short of being submitted and was stopped at the town level. Kurt Mailman said he had heard third party that the Plans were not approved because they did not provide enough of a solution to lift the consent order. Jim Williams asked if they want to shoot for a minimum target or do all they can to protect the waters for years going forward.

Kurt Mailman suggested they might want to use the eagerness of Ivonne Hall at the DEP to gather review comments on previous submissions. He said he believes there are two separate consent orders. The second one was ordered in exchange for making connections to Monet's Table and the veterinarian in that area. Beverly Bellody said she worked on the planning grant from the Clean Water Fund that enabled them to get funding to do the Facilities Plan. She said she expects the DEP is eager to close this out. Kurt Mailman said he thinks the DEP has an expectation of what the end product should be, and he does not expect it to be limited to education. He said the physical constraints in the areas identified in the earlier plans such as bedrock, lot sizes, and soil types do not change and so all of these previously identified neighborhoods will remain problem areas in the DEP's estimation. Linda Farmer said another important issue is that many of the repairs of septic systems have required variances to the public health code.

Bob Maynard said it is important to note that both their Board and the DEP contact are fairly new and that dialogue between them should be about what they have done right, what they have done wrong, and what they still need to do. Mike Longenbarker said this would help to set up a working relationship.

John Konrad said this Facilities Plan calls for the town to do quite a bit including extensive monitoring and walkovers to pinpoint the problems. Kurt Mailman said he didn't really hear that in the review of the presentation he gave, and it will be important to stress that vigilant monitoring. Jack Flynn said it might be helpful for the Town Council and other Boards if they have some paperwork on this in advance of the meeting so they will have time to think about things and formulate questions.

Bob Maynard suggested it might be better to hold off inviting the DEP until at least June after they have had a chance to talk to the Town Council, PZC, and others. Kurt Mailman said he knows how some from the DEP would weigh in but he is not familiar enough

with Ivonne to know what she might be looking for. Beverly Bellody said Ivonne was excited that the town was looking at doing a pump out ordinance. She said we might want to get our new town engineer on board and get familiar also with things before bringing in the DEP. Linda Farmer agreed that waiting until June for involving the DEP in discussions would be better. Jim Williams agreed saying that in this workshop, when it comes to discussions, the pendulum can swing both ways and they would not want anything that is said to create a negative impression with the DEP.

Beverly Bellody said there is a push at the DEP to close this out. She said they applied in 2003 or 2004 for a planning grant for the Facilities Plan and the town got reimbursed for the first portion. There is another \$60K to \$70K that is coming to them and this amount can be reimbursed once the plan is submitted to the DEP. This money has been on the books for some time. Kurt Mailman also explained some of the processes for obtaining grant monies for funding a list of project priorities across the state. He said down the road if they have a Facilities Plan on file with the DEP, they can then apply for grant money to help build these constructed solutions.

Jim Williams agreed with Bruce Allen in that they need to construct their presentation with choices. He said he feels a key point to the plan is pump out ordinance, and he feels the DEP is looking for that as a part of their plan. Kurt Mailman said a pump out ordinance is a great step toward improving the longevity of septic systems.

The Board reviewed their action items. At their next meeting on May 18, they will make a presentation to the Town Council, Boards and Commissions. Beverly Bellody will try to gather information on the three previous Facilities Plans submitted, as well as the consent orders. Kurt Mailman will provide Bob Maynard with his previous presentation including the latest information and the Draft plan. There was consensus that they would invite the DEP to a later meeting, possibly in June. Linda Farmer will get the invitations out. John Konrad will work on getting the information out to the Town Council in advance of the meeting so they can review it.

6. Activities and Updates

6.1 Monthly Report from Water Planet. Jason Hofmann did not have a printed report this month as he was attending to some emergencies at the Gateway and Post Road stations. He did distribute quotes for Tolland High School from Water and Waste Equipment and Blake Equipment. Water and Waste is quoting Tsurumi pumps which are the least expensive quote but he is unfamiliar with the pumps and has no experience with them. Blake Equipment quoted on both Vaughan and Homa pumps. He said the Homa pumps are what they have now and he doesn't recommend them because of their history of failure. The Vaughan pumps are the best bet, but they are much more expensive. He said basically that you get what you pay for. He also said Flygt pumps are the top of the line pumps, but he expects they would be even more expensive than the Vaughan.

He said the grinder at the high school is ready to explode and it is only a matter of time. It is making a lot of noise. He said the grinder has been rebuilt twice. If the pump is rebuilt, this would be the first time; however, the pump station is not very old for this to be happening.

Jim Williams asked Jason Hofmann what he felt would be the best option. Jason Hofmann said he believes they should put in chopper pumps. He said something has changed at the high school but without having a bathroom monitor there 24/7, they may never rectify the problem. He said he has never seen failure of pumps at this rate, and he provided examples of muffin monsters in other locations that have been working fine for years. A big problem is that they don't have enough flow at the high school especially at night. The paper in the traps turns into a pulp and in the morning gets backed up at the grinder.

John Konrad asked for a review of their options. Jason Hofmann said they can rebuild the muffin monster and second pump which would cost in the neighborhood of \$15K. Kurt Mailman said that both he and Jason Hofmann asked Water and Waste for a list of installs and contact information for places that have the Tsurumi pumps. They haven't gotten anything yet.

Jason Hofmann discussed problems at the Post Road and Gateway pump stations. He said he got a call early yesterday morning that wastewater was coming out of the manhole in front of the Middle School. He said the pump station runs off of a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) which has a transducer that senses flow. He said there is a backup float system. He said the PLC failed Sunday night and the pumps did not turn on and the alarm did not go off. The water rose and there was gravity flow out of the manhole cover when water started being used in the early morning.

Jason Hofmann said they made a list of all the problems in the programming. They called out Knapp Engineering and the person who came out said the programming was not done correctly. However, the Knapp representative did not say anything further when he learned it was Knapp Engineering that did the original work. For now, Jason Hofmann said they have implemented a few remedies. He said at the Post Road station, they set in relays to call the dialer on its own. A similar remedy was done at Gateway where they ran a float through a series of relays.

A second problem is that the sensaphone lights are giving a false reading. A third problem is that the resilient seat on the check valve is no good. A fourth problem, that Frank Giordano is looking into, is figuring out how to rewrite the program. Jason Hofmann said they need the stations to run independently of the transducer and PLC. Frank Giordano will get Jason Hofmann a price. Jason Hofmann said that they need to act on this soon because the Department of Public Health, the Fire Chief, the DEP and Clem Langlois with the town made it clear they don't want to see this happen again. He said they probably spilled about 1,000 gallons of wastewater.

Kurt Mailman said he does not understand why the alarm didn't go off when the PLC went down. Jason Hofmann explained that the PLC did not lose power, but that it went into default. He said nobody knows why it failed, but the programmer said it was not set up right. Jason Hofmann also said that today they tied the high float into the dialer as a remedy.

Jason Hofmann said that Clem Langlois has been in talks with United Concrete. The cover at the Gerber Road station needs to be replaced. It is an 8" cover, but the first 1-1/2" has deteriorated. Jason Hofmann said they provided a replacement quote a few

years ago, but nothing happened with it. He said he could get another price. Bruce Allen asked if they have a standard lock system on the gates at the stations and said they should have them, particularly at the schools.

John Konrad reviewed the various issues. Jason Hofmann will email quotes to John Konrad for distribution to the Board. The Board discussed making a motion to authorize the reprogramming work up to \$5,000. Jason Hofmann will also get a price to John Konrad on a cover at the Gerber station. The Board discussed the muffin monster at the high school. Jason Hofmann recommends keeping it running. Jim Williams asked who the engineer was for this project. Kurt Mailman said Fuss & O'Neill was the engineer. Jim Williams asked if it might be worthwhile to check into what might be done, explaining that there were defective problems from the beginning and that it wasn't repaired to the satisfaction of a new product. Kurt Mailman said his firm did not get involved directly with the manufacturer because the original failure happened under warranty with the contractor. He said entities were sending things down the sewer line such as rebar and construction debris that should not have gone down there. He said they could pursue that avenue, but under the circumstances he would not expect them to get anywhere. Bruce Maynard agreed that time wise they are probably not in good shape.

Kurt Mailman said the pumps at the high school were not the same manufacturer or quality as those at the Gateway or Post Road stations. However, he said he felt with a shredder up front, the system was fairly robust at the time of the install. Jason Hofmann agreed saying it was more than adequate. He recommends going with the better pumps. Kurt Mailman warned that if they pull the muffin monster, the chopper pumps had better do a good job.

After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that they should get Kurt Mailman's engineering input when it comes to making a recommendation on the pumps to go with. Kurt Mailman said he will make sure the specifications are right, look at the materials involved, and call people to get recommendations. Bruce Allen said he should consider if this fix will meet the previous intent of the original equipment. Jason Hofmann said he will ask Blake Equipment to also spec out a Flygt pump for comparison. He said the lead time might be four to six weeks to get pumps in, but would only take a day to install.

Jim Williams/Todd Rolland motion to approve a not-to-exceed price of \$5,000 and authorizing John Konrad to give the go-ahead for replacing the resilient seats in the check valves at the Old Post Road pump station, and for upgrades for the Post Road and Gateway pump stations. Motion was unanimously approved.

Jason Hofmann said he will take care of all the required DEP paperwork. John Konrad asked if they have incurred any costs so far for these problems. Jason Hofmann said his time which has been around 40 hours, two tankers from Skips Septic, two people from United Concrete, and Knapp Engineering's time. John Konrad said it is clear they are in trouble budget-wise, and asked if they have any money to cover these costs. Linda Farmer said this is not in the proposed capital budget.

6.2 Continue discussion of Pump Out Ordinance – This item was tabled.

6.3 Route 195 Sewer Project Update – Kurt Mailman provided a summary. He said the project is out to bid and the plan has been approved by the Department of Transportation. He said they eliminated most outlets and the under drain. He said Gardner and Peterson Company did a masterful job of getting DOT to hold to the original agreement. He said some trench dams are still in the plan, which will help to dissipate some of the water. Linda Farmer noted that Inland Wetlands approved the plan Thursday night. Kurt Mailman said the project went to bid last Wednesday and bids are due May 13, 2010. There will be a pre-bid meeting this Thursday to meet with contractors. He said he is not aware of any discernable uptick in bid prices so they will soon see if this project is viable with the STEAP grant and assessments to pay for it. He also said there is an August 17 construction deadline for the work to be substantially complete, with a \$1,000 a day fine as incentive to meet that deadline.

7. Other Agenda Items

7.1 Discuss review of sewer allocations and flow estimates – Linda Farmer said there is nothing new right now to report, only that it is a number one priority to get the new town engineer involved in this when she starts next month. She said Mike Taylor is looking to go forward with the residential component and there is agreement that this link is necessary and that they don't want to miss this window of time to get it started.

7.2 Discuss sewer extension to 15 & 19 Old Post Road (Tompkins property & Elderly Housing) and Developers Agreement. Linda Farmer said that she, Beverly Bellody, and the Town Manager met with their town attorney, Steve Tompkins and his attorney to work out the Developer's Agreement. She said it is the town's intent to bring utilities down Old Post Road and the first 400' of the new road. The HUD grant is due in August and the project is looking like it would happen about 1-1/2 to 2 years out. If they did not get the HUD grant, then they would look for some kind of public/private financing. Linda Farmer said that if Steve Tompkins had to run the sewer lines, then the costs he incurred would be deducted from his assessment. She said Steve Werbner would probably want to talk to the Board about how any assessments would be levied. Beverly Bellody said the town would be looking to put the pump station on the HUD site and the HUD grant would pay for the pump station. Linda Farmer said she should have the wording for the Developer's Agreement for them at the next meeting.

7.3 Discuss communication with school superintendent regarding high school grinder pump. The Board reviewed the letter to the Superintendent's Office at the Board of Education. Bob Maynard agreed to spruce up the letter, after which John Konrad will sign it and send it out. He asked who he should address it to. Linda Farmer said it should go to the Superintendent, William Guzman. She asked for a copy for her files and suggested he also carbon copy the Town Manager.

7.4 Review Facilities Plan latest submission – The Board reviewed the changes to the Draft Executive Summary. John Konrad said the descriptions for Tiers I, II, and III did not seem clear and Kurt Mailman said he could add information that references the matrix and other sources. There was also discussion that the third paragraph on ES-1 refers to 2008 instead of 2010 and that needs to be updated. The implementation schedule will also need to be updated to reference 20 years out from 2010, rather than 2008. John Konrad also asked that the information at the bottom of Page 1 that mandates what the

pump out ordinance will look like should be removed until they have an actual ordinance designed. Section C of ES-4 also required revisions, removing the sentence: *The plan recommends extending public sewers to the Willie Circle and Lakeview Heights neighborhoods from Route 74 and connecting the Anthony Road Neighborhood to public sewers on Route 195.* Under Item C-1 for the Willie Circle Neighborhood, the last sentence should be removed: *A public sewer would also provide sewer access to Lakeview Heights (another identified area for inclusion in the Sewer Service District.)* Linda Farmer said she would get the revised Executive Summary and presentation to the Town Council and PZC before the May 18 meeting.

John Konrad asked if they would need to hold a new Public Hearing once they go forward. Linda Farmer said they would as the changes have been significant. She suggested they would want to have a meeting with the DEP before the Public Hearing and there was consensus to do so.

8. **Approval of Minutes** – Approve minutes of March 16, 2010 Regular Meeting. The Board reviewed the minutes which had suggested amendments from Kurt Mailman. (A copy of the amended minutes he sent by email is attached to these minutes.) Todd Rolland/Bruce Allen motion to approve the minutes of the March 16,2010 meeting as amended. Motion was unanimously approved.
9. **Adjournment** – Todd Rolland/Bruce Allen motion to adjourn the meeting and pay the clerk at 9:40p.m. Motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Gentile
Clerk