

Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2022-- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Chairman Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Shawn Jinkerson, Town Councilor Andrew Mandler, Anthony Siragusa, and Chairman Chuck Longton. Absent was Commissioner Brian Quinn. A quorum was present.

d. Alterations to the Agenda -- None

e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2022

Chairman Longton noted for the record no meeting was held last month.

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2022. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission

Chairman Longton notified the Commission of an email from Superintendent Albertson stating he would be able to attend the meeting to the death of a friend's loved one.

g. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda with a three-minute limit

Chairman Longton asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. There were none.

h. Report from Operations/Administration Division

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations/Administrative Report for June 2022 as follows:

1.0 Compliance/Process

1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility

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The Montville Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) met required state and federal standards for effluent discharged to the Thames River. No complaints were received regarding the collection system or the WPCF.

Average daily influent flow to the WPCF was 2.2 mgd with a total treatment volume of 66 mg. Removal efficiencies for key contaminants (BOD₅ and TSS) were both over 95%, respectively. Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent 60% under the state permit limit (with removal efficiencies over 85%). Approximately 50% of the treated effluent was recycled/sold to Rand-Whitney's paperboard facility.

Waste activated sludge (WAS produced during secondary process) was improved to over 4% TS. For the fourth month in a row, a lower number of sludge hauls has been recorded (as compared to last year).

1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards. No complaints were received.

On June 15, the USEPA issued new health advisories for four types of PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, GenX and PFBS) in drinking water; the advisories are not enforceable but are expected to pave the way for new regulatory limits. Immediate concerns include the very low contaminant levels proposed in ppt (parts per trillion). An article explaining how to comprehend ppt is provided as an attachment. The WPCA has no immediate duties associated with this announcement--GU is currently monitoring for these chemicals of concern in the water supply and will respond appropriately, if required. Initial testing shows very low (if existing) concentrations. A proposal exists at the USEPA to designate certain PFAS as hazardous substances under the Superfund-governing Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

On June 2, 2022, the Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup issued a *Stage 1 Alert* under the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan for dry conditions in New London County. Stage 1 is a preliminary preparedness stage that serves to alert the parties who should be prepared to monitor and respond to potentially worsening drought conditions. There is no expectation for a broad public notice of a Stage 1 alert. As of June 14, New London and Windham counties have received between 50 and 75% percent of normal precipitation for 90 days (2 to 5 inches below normal).

2.0 Staff

2.1 Health and Safety

No injuries, grievances or concerns were reported for staff.

Levels of a (new) highly transmissible, immune-evading Omicron sub-variant are set to surpass those of "stealth Omicron" according to federal health data released June 14. The levels of coronavirus detected in Connecticut waste water resumed their decline mid-month after briefly edging upward. Wastewater virus data is an important early warning signal detecting COVID-19

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infections before official test reporting. As more people are using rapid at-home tests, whose results are usually not reported to state public health officials; wastewater testing has become a key indicator of the virus’s prevalence in a community.

The *Maintainer* and *Administrator* positions have not been filled. Bruce Kelly began work on June 6 as the *Collections Operator II* leaving an open position for a plant operator. The Clerk will retire in June and will be replaced with Tiffany Williams (formerly Planning & Zoning Department). Ms. Williams began training on June 13. Lower plant staff will lead to increased overtime demands. The Superintendent has met informally with several candidates for work positions which will hopefully lead to formal applications with the Town. Approximately one-third of the U.S. labor force is over 55 or older (an even higher portion in the water field); which means a significant amount of near-future retirements will occur in the coming years. Water sector leaders are challenged to retain and hire employees to keep full staff.

2.2 Training

Staff continued to receive training to meet CTDEEP and CTDPH requirements for (wastewater /water certification) training credits.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

A new (more efficient Quadient) mailing machine was installed in June as part of an existing lease agreement. Financial forms were reviewed and improved for the existing MUNIS software used to manage money at the WPCA. Workstations were inspected for potential viruses.

All pump stations were inspected and cleaned during the month as well as a large number of manhole inspections were made. CCTV sewer pipe/manhole inspections was conducted in prioritized areas (those areas identified in the 2010 and 2011 URS reporting/CIP Cross-Country Clearing areas). Approximately 2,000 feet of cleaning/CCTV inspection has occurred so far in 2022. Work within the collection system is recorded in the GIS system (inspection attributes) as record for potential regulatory review.

4.0 Projects

A summary of existing projects is provided in an attached project summary table. The table has been updated to reflect completed projects as well as new CIP ventures. The Superintendent has worked to develop a strategic plan for the WPCA infrastructure including formal (annual) CIP requests as well as a 5-year plan.

SCADA (CIP) improvements were made for the plant chlorination system/water recycling system as well as for the Hillcrest and Pequot PSs. Testing was made on June 28 to confirm alarming controls. Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) is a control system architecture comprising computers, networked data communications and graphical user interfaces (HMI) for high-level supervision of machines and processes. It also covers sensors and other devices, such as programmable logic controllers, which interface with process plant or machinery. In short, the system allows for better process control thus savings in labor and energy costs as well as creating improved safety and security.

Retrofit (quick) connects for water supply hydrants were given to the crew for installation.

Effective management/administration of the facilities includes the review routine performance metrics. Proactive metrics ensure widespread understanding of how well the team is doing. Key performance indicators (e.g., collection rates, lost water, SSOs, truck hauls, labor hours, nitrogen credits, energy efficiency) identify achievement and strongly contribute to a success culture. Measurements that focus on people and processes, especially those that can be directly influenced, are most beneficial to drive this culture forward. All said, the metrics point to a thriving WPCA; specifically, energy, labor and process have shown steady improvement in the last three years.

Important June 2022 outreach projects included recent articles in trade magazine, discussions with area high schools for classroom visits, filming for a trade conference video, and a formal presentation at a profession organization; the annual *Touch-A-Truck* was attended by the WPCF staff on June 26. It is imperative that the WPCA be viewed for its success and considered accessible to ratepayers.

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

Emergency power reviews were made at each pump station with routine battery replacements made. The CIP FY 2023 includes monies for a new pump station generator.

Supply issues have lengthened plant project timelines, including the grit chamber and the diffuser replacement projects. MCA, Wright-Pierce and Woodard & Curran personnel were met on June 10 and 16 to discuss the current construction schedules. The grit chamber completion date has been pushed into August.

While Griggs & Browne conducted annual pesticide application for clover mites within the building in May, a second application was made on June 13 to rid the facility of this persistent pest.

Rand-Whitney is attempting to modify their existing permit for discharge from the paperboard facility; draft *Amendment to CTDEEP Permit Application* (May 4 and updated May 27) for Permit No. SP0002032). The paperboard facility proposes to increase the strength of the effluent due to production projections as well as variability of their discharges. A larger concentration of BOD could be present in their wastewater discharged to the WPCF, if the new permit is approved by the CTDEEP. A significant data review as well as reviews of past facility plans was conducted--this is important to protect the infrastructure for the future and understand the effects of the additional loading on the Town ratepayers. The paperboard company is looking for approval from the WPCA prior to formal submittal to the CTDEEP. The WPCA Engineer was met on June 17 to review pros and cons of the new discharge proposed. A TM was held with the paperboard company on June 22.

The SBR-4 renovation (diffusers) was significantly delayed due to delivery issues (COVID related), but official scheduling now shows project completion for early July. The final delivery of key material was received on June 13 from the manufacturing facility in Mexico. A project

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meeting was held on June 14 and included an inventory of materials and a coordinated timeline for project completion. Unfortunately, sizing of materials was incorrect leading to field modifications which delayed the project until a July completion. The tank was emptied on June 20 and inspected for grit contact, diffuser/header conditions as well as inside concrete integrity.

A new timeline for the grit chamber project reflected the slow delivery of the key pump for completion. The project completion date now is in August.

Manholes and sewers were inspected along Manor Road on May 19. Additionally, sewers/manholes associated with the FY 2022 cross-country clearing project were inspected (mains east of Maryland Drive, South of Oakdale School, west of Hunters Run and south of California Drive). The sewer/manhole inspections allowed for less clearing with confirmed access (school yard and backyards along Hunters Run), thus saving money for the legal requirements of the job. The (sewer) easement recording for the portion near the school and south was not completed; it will be completed as part of the project. The sewer pipe is outside of the established easement (area west of Hunters Run- in residential backyards); it will be completed as part of this work. Attorney Cody was notified of the required work on June 14.

Due to the impending storm season, a review of each pump station was conducted to determine tree trimming needs. Overhanging limbs cause energy supply problems during high wind events.

P & H Construction conducted pit excavation on Depot Road on June 10. Rand-Whitney supply line draining was conducted on June 14 with pipe lining started. Lining procedures were completed on June 15 and 16. Additional lining occurred on June 21. Operational concerns included the rapid recycle water demand the day before and day after the work.

The June 6 and 7, 2022 hydrant flushing schedule was posted on the Town and WPCA websites as well as formally posted at the Clerk's Office. No significant sediment was observed during flushing operations.

The Golden Road PS improvements have begun with an inventory of equipment on June 17.

4.2 Regulatory Oversight

No regulatory oversight or action is ongoing for the WPCA. No existing *Consent Decrees* or *Consent Orders* currently exist.

The USEPA issued revisions to the federal Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) on January 15, 2021. The Revisions (LCRR) strengthen every aspect of the LCR to better protect communities in elementary schools and childcare facilities from the impacts of lead exposure. Over the next three years, the LCRR will require water systems to conduct an inventory of service lines and determine the material of those lines and fittings. The LCRR's inventory requires all water systems to develop an initial service line inventory by October 2024 or demonstrate the absence of Lead Service Lines. Lead Service Line Replacement Plans must then be created as a result of your inventory. As of June 15, the existing as-built drawings were inspected by the WPCA Engineer with no lead service

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lines identified. Many water utilities do not know the full extent of such lines in their systems and are forced to rely on incomplete data.

Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) for the Montville WS were created and placed on the Town/WPCA websites as well as the Clerk's Office as required by law. CCRs, also known as water quality reports or drinking water quality reports, provide the public with important information about the quality of drinking water. The USEPA requires every community water supplier to provide a CCR to its customers.

Congressional lawmakers have introduced the *Healthy H2O Act*, which would provide funding for testing and treatment technology to help eliminate PFAS and other contaminants in rural drinking water supplies.

June is the official beginning of the NOAA hurricane season. After two of the most active hurricane seasons on record in 2020 and 2021, top NOAA hurricane forecasters expect another above-normal season this year and suggested preparedness plans for utilities. Top forecasters predict 19 named tropical storms in 2022 of which 9 will become hurricanes. This forecast shows seven years in a row whereas the storm season was considered extreme. Water crisis will impact the most populated regions by 2040. Of note, approximately 75% of natural disasters from 2001 to 2021 were water-related (droughts and floods).

5.0 Development

The sewer and water connection plans have been proposed for residential and commercial development as discussed in the previous superintendent narrative. The Planner responded to a developer for a 29-unit cluster (R40, residential- Gay Hill Road Subdivision) development (with municipal sewer connection) proposed for Monahan Drive for the P & Z Meeting on June 28.

6.0 Finances

The WPCA operates with an *Enterprise Fund*. The FY 2022 WPCA Sewer and Water Budgets begin on July 1 of each year. The financial condition of both water and wastewater accounts are considered good. Late payments (over 120 days) for accounts receivable have been reduced by almost 25%. A complete review of the books will occur following the close of the FY.

6.1 Accounts Review

Current rates (and ancillary fees) appear to be adequate at this time to cover costs for water and wastewater activities. With the close of FY 2022, the WPCA finds itself in good financial condition; in the black and not in the red, overall. Depreciation is required to be posted, but it is not an "out of pocket expense." Affordability of service is vital to our community. Yet, with rapid increases in infrastructure costs and due to aging infrastructure; defining, developing, measuring, and informing the public of the utility's condition is more critical than ever.

6.2 Assets

The WPCA will join *HGACBuy*, a nationwide, government procurement service striving to make the governmental procurement process more efficient. The Town Council approved the application on June 16. Units of local government, including non-profits providing governmental

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services, are eligible to become participating members of the *HGACBuy* cooperative. All contracts available to participating members of *HGACBuy* have been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with state statutes. The recent purchasing policy reflects the use of these type of co-ops.

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6.3 Grants/Funding

On May 13, the USEPA announced \$1.9 billion in grant funding to the State Revolving Funds (SRF) to accelerate progress on water infrastructure projects. Combined with historic investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this funding will help states. Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the U.S. Department of Treasury is providing over \$350 billion in funding to state and local governments nationwide. The \$1 trillion jobs act will provide \$55 billion for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Some money will be invested in the state revolving funds. The *Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds* provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and provide the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. These funds provide substantial flexibility for each government to meet their local and regional needs--including response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and making necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Grants can be awarded through the *Community Investment Fund 2030* (CIF) to foster economic development in historically underserved communities across the state. CIF will provide a total of up to \$875 million to eligible municipalities as well as not-for-profit organizations and community development corporations that operate within them. Grants are available for CIPs for town infrastructure like sewers.

Some current wastewater projects are funded by State funds including two bonds and one grant (CTDEEP \$5 million *Grant-in-Aid for Sewage Treatment Facility Infrastructure Improvements and Upgrades at the Montville WPTF--State Grant Agreement 2017-170491*, approved via March 2014 Town of Montville Resolution No. 2014-25). The bonds were for infrastructure improvements within the plant including the new chlorine system, new recycling pumps, and grit removal system. Additionally, the aeration systems for SBR-1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 will be replaced. The Mayor requested an extension for the Grant. A review of \$4.5 million in grant monies (slated for the WPCA) indicated adequate funding for the proposed projects with an approximately \$200,000 margin.

Based on a review of the WPCA's *Eligibility Application* the CTDPH DWS had determined that the Cook Water Tower replacement project was ready to proceed and that DWSRF funding will be available. In a January 12 *Circular Letter*, the CTDPH DWS provided information about drinking water infrastructure funding directed through DWSRF programs over the next five years from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) aka the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA). The possibility of using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help offset the costs of this project is a possibility. The Finance Director was notified of the intent to pursue federal funding for the tower project. The CTDEEP held a hearing to collect comments on the draft fiscal year 2022 and 2023 Priority List (Priority List) for the Clean Water Fund program on May 16.

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On February 18, the USEPA announced \$20 million in available grant funding to assist communities and schools with removing sources of lead in drinking water. The grant funding, and additional funding through the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*, will help make rapid progress on the goal of addressing lead and removing lead pipes across the country. Money is available for remediating lead pipes in homes.

The CTDEEP announced on a “straw proposal” for the state’s new *Climate Resilience Grant Program*. The federal government is making a historic investment in climate resilience with the roll out of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, with approximately \$47 billion in funding available nationwide to help communities prepare for climate-related hazards. This grant program would make funding available for planning grants for Connecticut communities, to help them develop projects that can compete for federal resilience investments.

6.4 Energy

A continued decrease in plant energy demand has been observed associated with the lower DO settings in the process tanks and the new (more efficient) turbo blowers.

Electrical energy is supplied to the plant by the Doosan Fuel Cell America, Inc. fuel cell (onsite generation), Eversource (transmission) and *First Point Power* (generation). The power generation was formerly supplied by *Constellation Energy*. Approximately 75% of the energy came from the fuel cell in June. Our power plant had been folded back due to a clogged air filter. A technician conducted routine maintenance and corrected the problem on June 10. A routine capacity check was conducted on the 24th. Eversource has been directed by PURA to replace certain model of gas regulators at gas services throughout Connecticut. The WPCF was identified as one of those locations that need to have the current gas regulator exchanged for a newer model (replaced in June). The WPCA is using less public grid kWhs and KVARh this year.

The Doosan *PureCell Model 400* Fuel Cell unit began producing power in June 2020 resulting in a large drop in grid power demand (up to 75%). Of note, the Doosan Corporation formally changed its legal entity name to HyAxiom, Inc. (effective February 24). The HyAxiom 460 kW fuel cell has run close to perfection in 2022 and the WPCA account is considered to be their best account for performance. The onsite generation has led to significant savings by reducing the transmission costs because most of the power used is generated onsite. A cursory review of billing showed an approximate \$20,000 in savings. An evaluation is being made to determine if a suitable tank could be used onsite to guarantee fuel to the fuel cell in the event there is a supply interruption. SARRACCO Mechanical supplied a maintenance work contract in February. A schedule for maintenance of the unit was confirmed on May 23.

Each month a review of energy usage is conducted for each billing (i.e., plant, pump stations) to determine if there is a sudden rise in demand which often indicates mechanical problems (i.e., pump motor failure).

i. Report from Mayor.

Mayor McDaniel reported ongoing discussion with Rand-Whitney concerning an increase of loading and discussions with the Engineer continue regarding it. He also responded to

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Commissioner Siragusa that the design for the two (2) tanks will have no effect on the d-boxes. Commissioner Mandler asked if there was any chance of exceeding Town commitment with Rand-Whitney that is determined by DEEP and set in stone with the Mohegan tribe according to Mayor McDaniel. Commissioner Jinkerson if there would ever be a time when the plant could not support increased capacity by Rand-Whitney. Mayor McDaniel responded it cannot as a permit must be obtained from the DEEP and the Town Engineer and Town capacity must be maintained.

j. Report from Engineers -- *None*

k. Old Business -- *None*

l. New Business

1. To consider and approve a Bid for the replacement of two roofs at the Chesterfield and Holly Hill Pump Stations.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the advertisement of a competitive bid for the replacement of two roofs at the Chesterfield and Holly Hill Pump Stations. The new roofs will replace the existing (falling) roofs which may lead to water damage to sensitive/expensive equipment. Advertised costs should not exceed \$50,000.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

SAR-No. 2022-07 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the advertisement of a competitive bid for the replacement of two roofs at the Chesterfield and Holly Hill Pump Stations. The new roofs will replace the existing (falling) roofs which may lead to water damage to sensitive/expensive equipment. Advertised costs should not exceed \$50,000. Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson. Discussion: Commissioner Jinkerson asked if the vote was for the bid process only which it is. Commissioner Siragusa commented on the cost that he considered to be high. Commissioner Jinkerson commented the cost analysis for the bid is “not to exceed” that means someone will bid lower. Chairman Longton commented on the cost difference between a residential roof versus a commercial one. Mayor McDaniel added that we do not need to accept the bid. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioner Jinkerson, Longton, Mandler, and Siragusa. Opposed: none. 4-0 vote. Motion carried.

m. Reports/Referral from Planning & Zoning -- *None*

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Engineers -- *None*

b. Old Business -- *None*

c. New Business -- *None*

d. Remarks from the Public

Chairman Longton asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. There were none.

e. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Jinkerson remarked he was glad to be back.

f. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Mandler; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 4-0 , all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers

Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**