

**Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 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 Town Councilor Alfred Mandler, Brian Quinn, Anthony Siragusa, and Chairman Chuck Longton. Absent was Commissioner Shawn Jinkerson. A quorum was present.

Mayor Ronald McDaniel and Superintendent Derek Albertson were present for the meeting.

**d. Alterations to the Agenda**

**Motion** by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Quinn to add to Agenda Item 1.m, New Business 1) Internal Communications and 2) Pier at Dock Road approved by Town Council to seek additional funding. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Mandler to delete Agenda, Item 1.g, Executive Session, and Item 1.m.1 from New Business to approve MOU. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel explained neither of the Agenda items were ready to move forward at this time. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

**e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2022**

**Motion** by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Mandler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2022. Discussion: None. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

**f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission**

**1. Presentation from Titan Energy**

Superintendent Albertson introduced General Manager Adam Teff of Titan Energy who gave a presentation on solar energy and its potential usage at the WPCA Plant. A solar lease proposal, bill credit via purchase agreement as well as the environmental benefits through Verogy for the Town were defined. Titan Energy solar development services and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) a non-residential renewable energy solutions program were also explained. A Town lease proposal given its fuel cell through Eversource, driving additional revenue, and assigning credits per kilowatt hour were also mentioned. Questions from Commissioners concerning the assignment of credits, before or after the meter; maintenance and repair, costs to the Town (none); and the 20-year option commitment were answered. Other information conveyed included solar grid power without a battery that is not beneficial, the status of Montville as a distressed municipality, maximizing bill credits, and revenue sharing. Three (3) options proposed by A. Teff were the Town moving on to something else, extension of the agreement with mutual terms, or a fair market value buyout.

**g. Executive Session:**

To Consider and Act on a Motion to enter into Executive Session for the discussion of a personnel matter. Session to include Commission Members and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. This item was deleted from the Agenda.

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**h. 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.

**i. Report from Operations/Administration Division**

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

**1.0 Compliance/Process**

**1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility**

The Montville Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) met required state and federal standards for effluent discharged to the Thames River. The Enterrococcus count average for the month was just slightly above standard (soft exceedance). Chlorine disinfection concluded on October 31; due to good control- 10% less chlorine (15% sodium hypochlorite solution) volume was used this season. No local or formal complaints were received regarding the collection system or the WPCF.

Average daily influent (average) flow to the WPCF was 2 mgd with a total treatment volume of 62 mg for the month (note: average FY 2022 influent was 2.0 mgd which is well below the permitted limit of 4.5 mgd). Approximately 50% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold). On October 25, the RWCB paperboard facility discharged over 940,000 gallons (below their permit limit of 1.1 mg), a significant hydraulic load by one discharger. No operational upset was encountered.

Process control was very good with high removal efficiencies for key contaminants (BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS). Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent well below the permit (loading) level. Waste activated sludge (WAS produced during secondary process) was improved to over 5.5% TS with a 10% lower drop in sludge hauls when compared to last year.

**1.2 Water Supply**

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards. Routine flushing of supply lines was conducted during the month with complaints received.

Governor Ned Lamont on October 7 announced a reduction in the drought advisory declared in August (from a Stage 3 drought level to Stage 2) based on the recommendation of the *Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup* (several State agency representatives that assess drought conditions).

**2.0 Staff**

The newly hired Maintainer (Greg Bindloss) began work on October 3. His safety training was begun that day with “tailgate” style briefs for daily work followed by formal training on October 21. The lab director will retire in approximately 18 months; consideration should be given about an early hire. It is noted that 1/3 of all water professionals will retire in the next ten years. Numerous inquiries have been made about employment at the WPCF. The “3-point identification” (utility) system was reviewed with the staff- the ratepayers should be able to identify the staff with two of three identifiers (e.g., truck, clothing, identification badge). The CTDEEP began advertising for their 2023 wastewater operator exams on October 1. Overtime costs have dropped for the last three consecutive fiscal years.

**2.1 Health and Safety**

No injuries, grievances or concerns were reported for staff. OSHA recommends that employers of all kinds conduct regular safety audits to ensure safety and health in the workplace. And, while OSHA does not mandate them, the agency increasingly expects to see them; imposing hefty fines on companies that do not conduct them regularly. Routine safety inspections are made throughout the plant (e.g., "slip-trip" hazards), but a formal review was conducted in October. New staff members are trained appropriately for risks identified.

The positivity rate for COVID in Connecticut is now at 10%. A new COVID wave appears to be rising in the U.S. Americans have updated booster shots available now, targeting the circulating Omicron variants. During the expected rise in cases this fall/winter, the WPCF will again participate in influent monitoring.

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2.2 Training

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

The new Maintainer received orientation environmental health and safety training and forklift certification on October 14. Cyber security classes were reviewed by staff via virtual training. Blood Borne Pathogen staff training took place in October.

O & M work was completed on the plant phones and customer service procedures were reviewed during the month.

The Superintendent attended the October 24 and 25 *Connecticut Conference on Climate Change & Insurance*, a series of virtual presentations that highlight the latest climate science, private sector best practices, and regulatory environments related to climate change. Also, he continued the USDOE *Better Plants Program*; MEASUR (Manufacturing Energy Assessment Software for Utility Reduction) software training which is an energy management tool to improve efficiency of systems and equipment within a WPCF. Additionally, the training introduces ways for eventual compliance with the USDOE ISO 50001 through identification of SEU (Significant Energy Uses) with the appropriate EnPI (Energy Performance Indicators). The ISO encourages the development of an energy policy with performance objectives. The ISO stance is consistent with the Superintendent’s goal of identifying metrics (numbers) that identify success or failure in different aspects of the process system.

Training on industrial inspections was received by the Superintendent on November 1. The USEPA’s *National Pretreatment Program* is designed to protect infrastructure and to reduce conventional and toxic pollutant levels discharged by industries and other nondomestic wastewater sources into municipal sewer systems and into the environment. The Superintendent (on November 10) is attending a technical session and plant tour of The Mattabassett District. Leading energy experts (including Eversource and Enel X) will provide presentations about energy efficiency and operational improvements. Mattabassett and its consultants will talk about the many energy and operational efficiency improvements they have made over recent years. The Technical session will be held at Eversource in Berlin.

The *Uncas Health District Medical Reserve Corps* (Uncas MRC of which the Superintendent is a member) is part of a national network of community-based volunteers on standby to support public health infrastructure in times of emergency. Members receive free training (e.g., public health, vulnerability, disaster risk, resiliency, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities). The Superintendent submitted information to continue to serve this organization in the coming year.

**3.0 Equipment**

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

Routine maintenance was performed at WPCF. All pump stations were inspected and cleaned along with extensive fall cleanup. A large number of manhole inspections were made.

Adam Teff, TitanGen (solar power company) was met to discuss energy generation operations for the WPCF. Specifically, Mr. Teff reported that PURA just released their draft ruling for the year 2 NRES with favorable incentive values to construct solar panels. Jason Strano, Eversource Energy Consultant was met to discuss a potential \$16,000 rebate for the installation of VFDs within the recycle water system.

CCTV sewer pipe/manhole inspections was conducted in prioritized areas (those areas identified in the 2010/2011 URS reporting/CIP Cross-Country Clearing areas) as having a high R-value; that is, those sewer most likely to have increased flow due to strong rain events. Additional review of transition lines (force to gravity) will also be inspected. Of concern would be the pipe extending from the Chesterfield PS. Approximately one mile (5,280 feet) of cleaning/CCTV inspection has occurred so far in 2022.

GIS work includes converting hard copy maps (URS, 2010) to electronic representations that can be manipulated and more easily used. Asset descriptions (permanent attributes) are listed. Also, all related O & M work within the collection system is recorded in the GIS system (inspection attributes) as record for potential regulatory review. In the future, some additional MSI work

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(multi-sensory inspection) including radar and sonar may be used for the larger sewer mains if found to contain problems.

All fire extinguishers were inspected and tagged as part of the annual O & M program.

NOAA analysis of named storm activity and the conditions that shaped them, the researchers found that the rates at which hurricanes gathered speed near the Atlantic Coast increased significantly between 1979 and 2018. Appropriate action (i.e., emergency power, hardening) for the utility assets will continue to be made (through FY CIPs) to prevent the interruption of service.

#### **4.0 Projects**

A summary of existing projects is provided in an attached project summary table. Consideration is being made for FY 2024 CIP projects. Project construction at the WPCF is necessary for permit compliance, ensuring a state of good repair as well as to improve resilience and energy efficiency. Near constant attention is made to process control to all existing equipment to work at its best, annual CIP projects look to the future demands.

##### 4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

The financial software (MUNIS) update is coming with a new modem installed to enhance risk security from third-party intrusion.

Woodard & Curran personnel were met in October to complete SCADA (communication) designs for the proposed d-box (as part of the engineering study). Their draft report was received on November 1 and

As indicated, the CTDEEP is being solicited for approval of altering one SBR as an aerobic digester to reduce sludge volumes (thus costs). The new turbo blower unit (FY 2023 CIP) was received on October 29.

RWCB had a short shut-down on October 19 for approximately 17 hours. Their shut-down sequence presents a process challenge due to the sudden drop in influent/loading and then the sudden increase in (recycle) water demand. P & H Construction plans on finishing the lining of pipes from Depot road to the WPCF driveway beginning the week on November 1. Based on operations and diversion permit allowances, they plan to line one section per week until finished (six sections total to complete). There will be no lining scheduled the week of Thanksgiving.

Supply issues have lengthened plant project timelines, including the grit chamber (95% complete) and the diffuser replacement project (25% complete). The team is working diligently to ensure completion of these grant funded projects by the end of the calendar year. The grit chamber will allow for some reduction (in the headworks) of TSS and BOD (up to 10%). Grit that is not captured at the headworks (pretreatment) causes numerous problems that degrade performance throughout the entire treatment process. Grit induced abrasion shortens the life of virtually every piece of moving mechanical equipment in a plant. Over time this adds up to significantly increased equipment maintenance costs and unexpected downtime. The more insidious effect of grit is deposition which limits space within treatment tanks and can interfere with aeration. Newly installed diffusers will add air more easily to the treatment tanks (activated sludge) requiring less energy.

A targeted inspection/review of some of the 1,650 manholes in the collection system was made. Those found to be inaccessible were opened. Weakened manholes (i.e., lids, frames) can be a hazard during the winter (plowing) season.

Synagro representatives were met on October 17 to review cost-effective disposal options. Outside of electricity costs, this represents the largest out of pocket expense.

Science Department Heads for Montville High School and Saint Bernard School and The Williams School were contacted for plant tours and classroom support as part of the Superintendent's community outreach program. The Superintendent taught a wastewater class at The Williams School on October 6.

Veolia personnel (New London WPCF) visited the Montville WPCF to discuss solids handling.

#### 4.2 Regulatory Oversight

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

Currently, the Montville WPCF has an existing (plant waste thickened sludge) for state approved disposal agreement with the MDC Incinerator (240 Brainard Road, Hartford). The Superintendent sent an October 2022 letter formally requesting an extension (and larger receiving volume) prior to the expiration date of the existing agreement (December 31, 2022). On October 26, a MDC contract was received confirming disposal at the incinerator for another year. Costs for disposal rose 22% per dry ton.

In October, the Superintendent completed the annual *Nitrogen Operation and Maintenance Survey* in order to determine the cost of operation for nitrogen removal. Any municipal wastewater treatment facility that has completed a nitrogen removal project must complete the following survey of operation and maintenance costs. The information gathered from this survey will assist in establishing the cost of a nitrogen credit. The WPCF has had great success in removal of nitrogen (and total phosphorous) thus its continued sale of Nitrogen Credits under the *Long Island Sound Nutrient Reduction Program*. This self-sufficient program was approved under 2016 *Public Act 15-38* and consists of the buyers purchasing the credits required to meet General Permit loading limits with those payments being shared amongst the sellers.

The WPCA narrative for the Town's *Annual Report* was completed summarizing the utility's activities for the past fiscal year.

The Superintendent was asked to participate in the CTDEEP (Water Planning & Management Division, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse) *USGS Data Collection Workgroup* for groundwater and surface water quality. The group's mission is to help facilitate the recommendations of the *State Water Plan* (to "provide balanced water for all uses") by close data gaps by real-time/discrete monitoring, including stream gauging, water quality and groundwater levels.

According to September correspondence, the CTWEA (Legislative Committee) is scheduling WPCF tours for state legislators in the fall. As challenges in our industry continue to mount it is vital to demonstrate to those in these leadership positions the vital work completed. Montville was selected as a potential tour facility.

The CTDEEP is finalizing their reporting for PFAS analysis of the WPCF's influent and effluent. A group of scientists has developed a "presumptive contamination" model that found 57,412 sites across the U.S. are presumably contaminated with PFAS, including 4,255 wastewater treatment facilities. The model can help officials "identify and prioritize locations for monitoring, regulation and remediation," which is important since "PFAS testing is expensive and resource-intensive." In June, the USEPA announced new Health Advisories (HA) for four PFAS compounds, with the values for PFOA and PFOS nearly 10,000 times lower than the previous HAs.

The *Clean Water Act* became law 50 years ago today and has helped keep untreated wastewater and industrial pollution out of US waterways. Initial funding in the early 1970s paved the way for the progressive environmental movement of today. The various professional organizations have planned celebration events.

Drinking water health advisories are issued by the USEPA for contaminants not subject to a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). They are not legally enforceable federal standards but help determine whether local actions are needed.

### **5.0 Development**

Several development projects have been presented to the WPCA for review/comment including 125 Depot Road (shipping/receiving terminal), Old Colchester Road (residential subdivision), 220 Chesterfield Road (residential development), and Route 32 (commercial car wash).

### **6.0 Finances**

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The WPCA operates with an *Enterprise Fund* which is operated like a private sector business account except with zero-balance ending. The FY 2023 WPCA Sewer and Water Budgets began on July 1.

#### 6.1 Accounts Review

Current rates (and ancillary fees) appear to be adequate at this time to cover costs for water and wastewater activities. While the other communities will see rate hikes, the Montville WPCA does not require this to cover costs.

#### 6.2 Assets

The WPCA will enhance its understanding of the WPCF and Water Supply assets with the permanent/inspection attributes positioned on the water GIS platform. As part of year end activities for 2022, an asset listing was completed and reviewed by key staff members to determine depreciation.

#### 6.3 Grants/Funding

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 the approximately \$4.5 million in grant monies (slated for the WPCF) indicated adequate funding for the proposed projects with 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. Wright-Pierce will be at the September 8 WPCA to discuss the project. Filings have been in the P & Z department including the wetlands department. The September Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting will be attended by the WPCA Engineer and Superintendent for a placement variance (setback) for the proposed tank.

#### 6.4 Energy

Overall, there has been a continued decrease in plant energy demand observed associated with the lower (and more consistent) 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.

The Doosan *PureCell Model 400* Fuel Cell unit began producing power onsite 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 (96%) in 2022. The unit is the best performing in Connecticut. The onsite generation has led to significant savings by reducing the transmission costs because most of the power used is generated onsite.

Electricity costs have risen throughout the country due to several factors, including rising natural gas prices; however, New England is especially susceptible to natural gas pricing volatility due to inadequate infrastructure to supply natural gas to the region. Also, this region of the country relies

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heavily on natural gas to generate (> 50%) of its electric energy. Locally, our grid power supply costs increased over 25% in fiscal year 2022 and are projected to increase by another 25% in 2023.

A September 2022 Eversource letter announced their energy efficiency project for the WPCF specific to VFD application to the recently installed water recycle pumps (a \$16,128 valued grant).

Superintendent Albertson submitted his report to the Commission and noted the Plant is running well and projects are being completed before cold weather sets in. Summarizing his report, he touched on Rand-Whitney, the draft for the distribution boxes, an Eversource rebate, the audit (no concerns), completion of SBR #3 fusion today and moving on to SBR #2—a reduction in sludge was noted; continuous drop in energy demands with turbo blowers. The Superintendent addressed a question about the manhole repairs and commented on a testing that can go to labs for State certification. Also mentioned was a salt receiving and loading transfer area on Depot Road with no current demands for water or sewer.

**j. Report from Mayor.**

Mayor McDaniel reported there are three (3) different phases to the Depot Road, a plan for a mini New Haven/New London terminal. The \$5 million grant from the State is expiring on December 30 and a request was made for another year's extension. Funds for the grants were originally for the anerobic digester and specifically written for changes to the Plant.

**k. Report from Engineers**

Superintendent Albertson reported the distribution box project is not extravagant and the Commission will be kept posted although no problems are foreseen. Also noted, the Plant runs better with the five (5) SBRs.

**l. Old Business -- *None***

**m. New Business**

1. To Consider and Act on a Motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and recommend approval to the Town Council.

The item was removed from the Agenda.

2. Internal Communications.

Commissioner Mandler inquired why emails regarding the Commission are sent to only one person. Commissioner Longton explained when he became chair there was little communication and he began sending it as a courtesy, particularly during the pandemic. Although there is no specific policy regarding communication, transparency was the aim.

3. Pier at Dock Road approved by Town Council to seek additional funding

Commissioner Mandler explained communication from the Town Council Chair regarding security at this location. Discussion included a ramp requiring access, stages of security, and communication with Superintendent Albertson about guards and LED lighting. Mayor McDaniel relayed the location is a fishing pier with a segregated boat launch that would require a different funding source. Lights will also be needed. Commissioner Siragusa commented that a survey for use of the location as a boat launch was not done; eight (8) boat trailers was noticed there. The area is limited by its footprint and parking needs.

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

**II. Water Commission**

**a. Report from Engineers**

Superintendent Albertson reported on information from CLE this morning who received notification from the State concerning the Cook Water Tower project and possible receipt of 50% of the cost from ARPA funds. Reports on the project will be forwarded to DPH and to the Commission. The Cook project is on the Agenda for the next Planning & Zoning meeting.

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 -- *None*

f. Adjournment

Motion by Chairman Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 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.**