

Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 6, 2023-- 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 6:02 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

c. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Kevin Lathrop (6:03 p.m.), Chuck Longton, Town Councilor Alfred Mandler, and Brian Quinn. A quorum was present.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Derek Albertson, Wright-Pierce Professional Engineer Therlin Montgomery and Mayor Ronald McDaniel.

d. Alterations to the Agenda -- None

e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Mandler; seconded by Commissioner Quinn to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2023. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0-0; all in favor. **Motion carried.**

f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission

Superintendent Albertson reported an unannounced inspection by the CT DEEP on June 29. The formal report sent concerning the visit will be reviewed and submitted to the Commission once reviewed. There were no violations reported; merely paperwork based errors and lab labeling issues that will be addressed. Overall, the CT DEEP were impressed with the \$4 million worth of capital improvements made at the facility.

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 2023, 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. No complaints were received regarding the collection system or the WPCF.

Average daily influent flow to the WPCF was 2.0 mgd with a total treatment volume of 60 mg of wastewater. Removal efficiencies for key contaminants (BOD₅ and TSS) were both over 95%, respectively. Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent 50% under the state permit limit (with removal efficiencies over 85%).

Approximately 45% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board's paperboard facility. RWCB's annual outage occurred from June 5 to June 15 (next scheduled shutdown is August 9) which the plant's influent as well as recycle volumes. Process challenges can exist related to the sudden decrease (then increase) in their effluent received at the

plant. In August 2022, RWCB submitted to the CTDEEP an Addendum to a previously submitted *Effluent Permit Renewal Application* requesting an increase in loading to the WPCF. According to a June 2023 CTDEEP meeting, the application (with addendum will be approved in July 2023). The Superintendent met with the CTDEEP, RWCB and their wastewater consultant in June for an update.

In addition to the influent from RWCB, MTUA and the Town, approximately 0.5 mg of septage was received during the month (approximately 5% increase in volume as compared to last year).

Waste activated sludge (WAS produced during secondary process) was dewatered effectively with the GBT (improved to over 4.5% TS) resulting on a lower number of sludge hauls. Additionally, no sludge hauls occurred for six days due to the RWCB shutdown.

1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards. No complaints were received. Routine (annual) flushing will not occur this year unless absolutely necessary due to the unaccounted-for-water issue.

As previously reported, an increase in non-revenue water (NRW) was observed after January 11. Several acoustic tests (day/night) did not identify uncontrolled releases. Approximately 24% non-revenue water (NRW) was calculated (much higher than the typical 5 to 8% loss) with a financial shortfall of 10%. The national average for unaccounted water is 16%.

The USEPA issued new health advisories for four types of PFAS 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). On May 31, the CTDPH issued drinking water Action Levels for six Per- and PFAS contaminants.

The *Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup* listed the majority of New London County as Abnormally Dry under the *Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan* for dry conditions. The Interagency Drought Workgroup (IDW) is the entity responsible for actively monitoring water conditions and recommending drought declarations and mitigation actions to the Office of the Governor and state agency commissioners, under the authority of the WPC in accordance with the *Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan*.

2.0 Staff

2.1 Health and Safety

June is National Safety Month. No injuries, grievances or concerns were reported for WPCA staff. June is the official beginning of the NOAA hurricane season. Forecasters are reporting expectations of a typical storm season.

In early May, WHO reported that COVID no longer qualifies as a global emergency. Now COVID testing (i.e., facilities, kits) will transition over to traditional health care and not be supported formally by state or federal programs. This fall's COVID-19 vaccine should target the XBB.1.5 variant not take aim at the original virus, a federal advisory committee recommended on June 15. Of note, a database of COVID samples in Ohio indicated a brand-new version, or "lineage," of the virus. There were massive amounts of this unique strain, all coming from one mystery person. The levels of coronavirus detected in New London County waste water showed a slight uptick. Specifically, a higher average (approximately viral copies per ml) was detected as compared to the nationwide average of SARS-CoV-2 Virus concentration of (approximately 200 copies per ml). On June 14, the Superintendent met with Nick Durham of Biobot Analytical (testing facility) to confirm the results as reported. The findings were shared with the Director of Health (Uncas Health District). Wastewater virus data is an important early warning signal- detecting COVID-19 infections (approximately 7 days prior to outbreak) and 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 part time (summer) maintainer began work in June. The new hire cleans and paints primarily. One staff member is out on compensation due to an injury; expected to return to light duty in early July. The lower plant staff led to increased overtime demands.

Three senior level workers will retire in less than 18 months. Water sector leaders are challenged to retain and hire employees to keep full staff; in technical fields the number of employees leaving the workforce is higher than those entering. In response, the Superintendent has conducted outreach with the technical schools for the last four years to foster a program that allows students to tour the plant and potentially sit for the initial operator exam. The Superintendent has met formally with operator candidates from Grasso Tech, Montville High School and St. Bernard's School for work positions which will hopefully lead to formal applications with the Town to fill vacant positions. Work-Based Learning (WBL) is a part of the *Connecticut Technical Education and Career System* (CTECS) Student Workforce that allows students to work for an employer during their trade instructional time. The goal would be to encourage young people to explore a career in the water industry while working toward their CTDEEP certification(s). Several Grasso Tech students have toured the facility in June. The CTDOL, tech students 16 years and older are permitted to work in all trades (including those with some hazards). Jon Grossman, Grasso Tech Dean of Students was met (again) on June 15 to discuss the CTECS Student Workforce Program (internships). Additionally, older employees are encouraged to be part of a "returnship" to integrate professionals back into employment. The COVID pandemic exacerbated the workforce gap. A former operator has been in contact with the Superintendent to consider re-employment.

In January 2022, the Workforce Committees of New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) gathered to discuss establishing a regional water workforce planning structure. Because of multiple stakeholder interests in establishing a workforce development effort, two of the largest professional organizations in New England (NEWWA and NEWEA) contacted the six New England states' professional drinking water and clean water associations to form collaborative partnerships.

2.2 Training

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

The CTDEEP QA/QC workgroup has completed revising the existing *Reasonable Confidence Protocols* to better reflect updates to applicable EPA SW-846 methods, to improve the consistency of expected QA/QC requirements for wastewater laboratories. QA/QC evaluations by the USEPA/CTDEEP (ERA, contracted laboratory proofing samples) of the WPCF laboratory were satisfactory- compliance analysis by the Lab Director met agreement with spiked samples supplied for pH, SS, TSS, TS, BOD5 and residual chlorine. This annual test is conducted to confirm prescribed methods used within the facility to support permit compliance monitoring. The laboratory QA/QC plan was completely overhauled when the Superintendent began work in October 2018, and consists of strict adherence to the (1) Quality Assurance and Quality Control manual and (2) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual as per SM; training manuals; maintenance of QC records; ongoing review of QC procedures; and implementation of QA/QC improvements to provide quality results.

June 8 was *World Ocean Day*; the WPCF contributes directly to the health of the Thames River (which is contiguous with Long Island Sound).

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

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). All manholes along the Route 163 paving area were directly inspected. Approximately 2,000 feet of cleaning/CCTV inspection has occurred so far in 2023. 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 the FY 2023/2024 CIP projects. The

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Superintendent has worked to develop a strategic plan for the WPCA infrastructure including formal (annual) CIP requests as well as a 5-year plan. Most of the FY 2023 CIP projects have been completed.

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

Operation Clean Safety began on June 1st and included a thorough cleaning of all interior spaces at the plant and pump stations with hi-vis paint application to limit slip/trip accidents.

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

4.2 Regulatory Oversight

No regulatory oversight or action is ongoing for the WPCA. The plant is a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit holder. Additionally, two state permits (for nutrient removal and stormwater) exist for the plant. No existing state or federal *Consent Decrees* or *Consent Orders* currently exist. The CTDEEP (Susan Unger, Environmental Analyst) made an inspection of the WPCF on June 29. The *Draft 2024-2028 Nitrogen General Permit* is going to Public Notice. Before making a final decision on this proposed general permit, the CTDEEP Commissioner will consider written comments from interested persons that are received within thirty (30) days of the date of the public notice posting.

The Montville facility has been identified to participate in the *2023 Discharge Monitoring Report – Quality Assurance Study 43* (DMR-QA Study 43), which covers all major and selected minor NPDES permit holders. This is a confirmation testing procedure for onsite laboratories at wastewater treatment plants. Previously (during the last four years), this QA/QC testing has gone well.

In accordance with Title 40 of the CFR, §403.8(f)(2)(viii), the CTDEEP provided notice of Significant Industrial Users (“SIUs”) that were in Significant Non-Compliance (“SNC”) with pretreatment standards and other pretreatment requirements during the preceding federal fiscal year. No contributors to the Montville collection system were cited.

The USEPA and US Army Corps of Engineers plan to update their Waters of the U.S. Rule under the Clean Water Act by September 1 to align with the Supreme Court's recent ruling.

The Superintendent completed an online CTDPH survey for the upcoming 2023 Sanitary Survey. The last survey of the Montville Water Supply was completed remotely (November 2020) due to the COVID pandemic. The sanitary survey is completed pursuant to RCSA Section 1913-B102 and will be completed prior to the end of the year. The significant amount of work conducted within the distribution system (e.g., acoustic studies, flow studies, meter calibrations, physical inspections, GIS mapping, billing software/hardware) will support a positive outcome to the CTDPH investigation.

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. Adequate funding is present to cover the expected costs of compliance. The distribution system is compliant with the LCRR. A June 27 meeting help plot a course forward to continue to work toward future compliance.

The USEPA is initiating a program designed to support public drinking water systems as they select and implement technologies to remove PFAS from drinking water and from drinking water treatment residuals. A major portion of this effort involves partnering with water systems to provide piloting, sampling, analytical, and optimization support.

5.0 Development

The sewer and water connection plans have been proposed for residential and commercial development. A gasoline filling station is proposed for 2040 Route 32. A solar array is proposed for the landfill property. Residential development is proposed for 69 Fitch Hill Road and 26 Platoz Drive. Some commercial development has been discussed along Route 32 near Fort Shantock Road. Oxoboxo Lofts development is continuing with construction meetings pending.

6.0 Finances

The WPCA operates within an *Enterprise Fund* (a business-like account with net-zero goal, that is AR should equal to AP, according to GAAP). The FY 2023 WPCA Sewer and Water Budgets began on July 1, 2022. The financial condition of both water and wastewater accounts are considered good. Even with the unaccounted-for-water condition, the fund balance line in the revenue should cover unexpected costs. A complete review of accounts will occur following the close of the FY.

Governments continue to provide drinking water supply/sewer services in most of the U.S. Eighty-four percent of drinking water systems are government-owned, as are 98 percent of wastewater systems (AWWC, 2020). However, heightened cost awareness (due to recent inflation flares) affecting the water sector is a significant factor driving potential privatization. Researchers noted that regulations favorable to privatization correlate with higher prices.

6.1 Accounts Review

Current rates (and ancillary fees) appear to be adequate at this time to cover costs for water and wastewater activities. For the last four years (on average) the revenues for the sewer account has risen almost 7% annually (above the national average) with a strong showing during the pandemic. It should be noted that the Town has a high collection rate (over 90%) which allows for a dependable revenue stream.

With the close of FY 2023 the WPCA finds itself in good financial condition. Depreciation is required to be posted, but it is not an "out of pocket expense" and as such is not considered a direct cost. 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. No rate increase is required for sewer for the coming year. A rate study will be conducted for the water account and applied, as required.

Septage receiving continues to be a significant source of revenue with approximately \$40,000 received during the month (about a 5% increase compared to last year). The receiving volume actually helps process.

A cursory review of the sewer books (FY ending June 30) indicates positives- ledger accounts for energy, sludge removal/disposal and labor costs will be under the approved FY Budget. This represents another good (financial) year in the black- the AR exceeding AP. Significant upticks in revenue include the septic receiving, MTUA billing and the RWCB billing. As indicated, the RWCB facility will likely increase its loading to the WPCF (following their approval of a permit alteration) resulting in a subsequent rise in sewer fees collected as revenue.

6.2 Assets

A formal review of the Construction-in-Progress occurred in June to determine which completed and can be considered fixed assets. Over the last five years, approximately \$5 million in infrastructure investment has occurred.

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

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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.

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. It is hopeful that this money will be used to remedy the concrete failing in SBR-4.

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. The Finance Director was notified of the intent to pursue federal funding for the tower project. The potential exists for additional monies (\$500,000 more than the \$1 million allocated) for the project.

The State DECD still recognizes the Town as a Distressed Municipality. The citation often allows for certain funding and/or grants to enhance the community

6.4 Energy

A continued decrease in plant energy demand has been observed associated with the (more controlled) lower DO settings in the process tanks due to the new fine-bubble diffusers as well as the new (more efficient) turbo blowers. Please note that (electrical) energy is the single largest monthly expenditure.

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 90% of the electrical energy came from the fuel cell in June. The WPCA is using less public grid kWhs and KVARh this year.

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 failures). According to Dan Joyce (Balance Rock Energy) there is an expectation of energy costs in the future.

Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) announced in February 2021 that it had established a successor residential renewable energy program that will change how solar owners are compensated for the power their systems produce and provide to the local electric grid. The *Non-Residential Solar Renewable Energy Solutions* (NRES) Program is a successor program to the *Low Emission Renewable Energy Credit and Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit* (LREC/ZREC) and *Virtual Net Metering* (VNM) programs with the objectives to foster the sustained, orderly development of the state's Class I renewable energy industry and to encourage the participation by customers in underserved and environmental justice communities, among others. The program is statutorily authorized to run for six (6) years and to select up to sixty (60) MW of clean energy annually.

In March 2023, the Montville WPCA and Town signed a 20-year solar service agreement with N. Silver Brook, LLC- a Montville based renewable energy company. The agreement will save the Town of Montville more than \$850,000 and is structured for the Town to receive the full savings amount within one year of the solar facility's completion. N. Silver Brook and its partners allocated solar energy from a Connecticut solar project in Naugatuck to the WPCA's electrical accounts. On June 9th, that project was selected as a winning bid in Connecticut's Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES) program. All of the WPCA's electrical usage was assigned to the winning bid and will result in lower energy costs.

Through the inaugural round of the CTDEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF), the CTDEEP is providing critical planning support to local governments seeking to advance climate resilience projects, with the goal of enabling the recipients to in turn seek federal funding for construction and implementation phases. The CTDEEP is utilizing DCRF funds to catalyze Connecticut's resilience project pipeline and ensure our communities are competitive for federal resources, which are at historic levels as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Superintendent Albertson remarked his monthly report should be self-explanatory but noted June and May were great months at the plant with continued drastic improvement in processes. Tanks are warm due to recent heat and reduced sludge disposal is 50% less than last year, a \$50,000 savings. The reduced sludge disposal was also attributed to the Rand-Whitney 15-day shutdown in June. As indicated in his report, the Superintendent spoke of impending staffing concerns and his contacts with area technical schools and the high school to address the issue. Closing of the books for FY 2023 is near completion and any overage should be covered with the reserve account. This is the third year that costs have decreased. Superintendent Albertson responded to questions concerning the reason for the decrease in sludge and Rand-Whitney having exceeded the parameters of their federal permits; those limits were exceeded in February, March and April and notification was sent to them by the State. Mayor McDaniel and Superintendent Albertson clarified that the processing from Rand-Whitney concerns the dissolving of solids that does not affect the plant; instead, it is their purchase of a lot of secondary product. Waste water at the plant is four (4) times stronger than any other treatment plant in the state and there is not a secondary stream and no testing at the plant as expected.

i. Report from Mayor. -- *None*

j. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported an energy summary table in addition to the CIP 2022-2023 table were sent to the Commission in the meeting packet. He introduced PE Therlin Montgomery who would report on the failing utility bridge over Stony Creek as mentioned in his monthly report i.e., the evaluation of the bridge and the option chosen for its repair.

k. Old Business -- *None*

l. New Business

1. To consider and approve the cost to repair the Stony Creek pipe support bridge along Route 32.

Superintendent Albertson reintroduced Wright-Pierce PE Therlin Montgomery who reported to the Commission on the options and costs for the repair of the Stony Creek pipe support bridge originally reported upon at the May Commission meeting. A structural inspection company, CorrTech, looked at the bridge and provided a report that indicated two (2) of the three (3) main beams attached to the water supply were severely damaged with rust/corrosion. The third beam that was added in 2000 to allow for support of the water pipe was in good condition. These beams house the pipes but have no effect on the flows nor do they support the road bridge. Three (3) options for repair and/or replacement of the beams were represented and included in a proposal from Wright-Pierce to evaluate these options and a structural inspection report from CorrTech. Copies of the proposal and report were provided to the Commission: The three (3) options are 1) rehabilitation of the steel structure of the bridge to get the existing steel structurally sound (\$410,000); 2) replacement of the beams that show the most corrosion (\$384,000); and 3) keeping everything in place and installing supplemental beams (\$394,000). The bridge will need temporary supports, repainting, and replacing hangers and hardware that support paths for sewer pipe. Coating for the new beams would also be done to prevent future corrosion. PE Montgomery also reported road salt and plowing closest to the road and on the oldest section of the bridge was the presumed reason for the bridge corrosion. Road lane closures may be necessary for installation of the temporary supports, one (1) day, and two (2) days in order to remove the beams during the

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construction that is estimated at eight (8) months. The sewer pipes are insulated and have a metal clad covering that appear to be in good condition and helps to prevent corrosion. Superintendent Albertson remarked the system is a failing one noting if the loose pipes break sewage would spill into the stream; he emphasized this situation is priority one. He spoke highly of the cooperation, supportive, and camaraderie received from Groton Utilities personnel with this investigation.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the engineer’s recommended Alternative 2 option in the June 2, 2023, Wright-Pierce Technical Memorandum for the structural repair of the failing utility bridge above Stony Creek along Route 32. The repair option recommended reportedly provided the longest design life and is the most cost effective. A bid will be advertised. Advertised work costs should not exceed \$400,000.

Motion – Discussion -- Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2023-12 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the engineer’s recommended Alternative 2 option in the June 2, 2023, Wright-Pierce Technical Memorandum for the structural repair of the failing utility bridge above Stony Creek along Route 32. The repair option recommended reportedly provided the longest design life and is the most cost effective. A bid will be advertised. Advertised work costs should not exceed \$400,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Quinn; seconded by Commissioner Mandler. Discussion: The Commission discussed if the project would go out to bid or whether per the Town Purchasing Policy that process can be eliminated if the bidder is preapproved and on the official State bid list. A list of five (5) contractors was provided to the PE by the structural company as good candidates for the project and may have preapproved status. PE Montgomery will check on the status of the contractors and report back to the Superintendent who will notify the Commission. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Mandler, Lathrop, Longton, and Quinn. *Opposed*: none. 4-0-0 vote. **Motion approved.**

m. Reports/Referral from Planning & Zoning

Chairman Longton remarked for the record on the retirement of Commissioner Siragusa, the liaison to Planning & Zoning. The Town Council Chair will work diligently to provide for a replacement.

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson summarized the ongoing investigation into the source of the breach in the Town water system that was discovered during a January 11 incident showing a sudden increase in water usage. Since the discovery, an acoustic study was conducted in key suspect areas during day and nights hours—the system was deemed tight with no existing break. Major users, DOC and Rand-Whitney, were investigated and not suspect users at this time. Rented strap-on meters on six (6) miles were used to investigate and reviewed during 48-72 hours at night. Water lines from Stony Brook to the Cook Water Tower that are connected to SCADA showed no breach. The next step in the investigation is to put a manhole at the corner of Route 163 and Depot Road to access the water pipe and strap on a meter to determine if there is a large flow during a time of low usage. This measure would take another 1 ½ miles off the suspect list. Superintendent Albertson concluded someone is using water that is undetected and the suspect is unknown. Three to five percent is the national average water loss; it was concluded at the end of June that 18% was unaccounted for and unmetered. It is thought that the breach will be found due to data logging at night by reducing the target subject area for review.

b. Old Business -- None

c. New Business

1. To consider and approve the installation of a WS Access Manhole for a Flow Meter installation.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to redirect FY \$25,000 from the 2023 WS CIP Funding (Valve/VFD Maple Avenue PS) for construction/installation of a manhole to allow a flow meter (to be placed at the intersection of Depot Road and Route 32) for evaluation of the current unaccounted water problem as well as future flow observations. The meter could effectively reduce the investigation are by 20%. It is requested that a pre-vetted contractor be employed with waiver of bid as per the Town Purchasing Policy.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2023-13 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to redirect FY \$25,000 from the 2023 WS CIP Funding (Valve/VFD Maple Avenue PS) for construction/installation of a manhole to allow a flow meter (to be placed at the intersection of Depot Road and Route 32) for evaluation of the current unaccounted water problem as well as future flow observations. The meter could effectively reduce the investigation area by 20%. It is requested that a pre-vetted contractor be employed with waiver of bid as per the Town Purchasing Policy. **Motion** by Commissioner Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Discussion: Commissioner Lathrop inquired if there is a contractor that the plant works with if the bid is waived; Superintendent Albertson responded P & H provided the bid, can do the job rapidly, and the plant has previously worked with the contractor. The contractor is also trusted to do work near Rand-Whitney lines. Mayor McDaniel indicated the motion was convoluted. Discussed was the existing scenario and its proposed cost that is different from the bridge project; it is typical in water systems to have intermittent meters that enhances the system that would be plugged into SCADA. Commissioner Quinn questioned the soundness of the water system whether bypasses were checked for leaks. Twenty-five thousand coves hold the water system and within the Town water geosystem one can within the ground 12 feet to profile and determine water from sewage according to Superintendent Albertson who confirmed that the system has been checked and cleaned up. A calibration schedule that is timely and relatively new software for usages and finances and remote technology were referenced. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Mandler, Lathrop, Longton, and Quinn. *Opposed*: none. 4-0-0 vote. **Motion approved.**

Mayor McDaniel proposed an amendment to the approved motion. **Motion** by Commissioner Mandler; seconded by Commissioner Lathrop to have the Town of Montville Water and Sewer Commission hereby resolve to waive the bid process and award the installation of the monitoring valve to P&H Construction as it is in the best interest of the Town. Discussion: none. The Recording Secretary reported for the record a voice vote by the Commission of 4-0-0. **Motion approved.**

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 Quinn remarked on readvertising for the Administrator position that he has mentioned since December. He noted Superintendent Albertson has stepped up to perform administrator duties and has been compensated; however, the position exists in the union contract, is budgeted but remains open. He sought clarity on the same and asked to have the position readvertised at least internally. Mayor McDaniel remarked that if the position is budgeted it can be and has been advertised internally. He will have the HR official readvertise the position, which as far as he knows is still in the budget. Commissioner Lathrop noted the administrator position is 20 hours and considered the need for filling the position when the job is being done by the Superintendent. Per discussion by the Commission from the perspective of the union contract,

Commissioner Quinn remarked the position is defined. It was noted that the next union negotiation is June 30, 2024, as questioned by Commissioner Lathrop who questioned the need for both a superintendent and an administrator if the job was being done by one. It was noted Superintendent Albertson deserved to be paid for his administrator tasks. Mayor McDaniel acknowledged the great job done by the Superintendent and explained the content of the 20-hour administrator position that includes explaining its distinct intricacies, pursuing grants, negotiating water rates that is not part of the superintendent position, dealing with staff, preparing Commission meeting agendas etc. The Superintendent acknowledged the support of the Mayor, the great staff, funds invested in the plant, the processes that are good; the whole of it described as a dream. Mayor McDaniel noted that if anything happened to the Superintendent there would be no one on staff to replace him and work would have to be subbed out. The Town needs growth and the capacity to think long term about its needs and its direction. The Mayor also noted that when the administrator position was advertised there were not any qualified candidates; the Superintendent added that most administrators are entrenched at town hall, not at the plant and noted the status of the Town as a distressed community the money it requires to establish relationships. The final decision for the hire of a potential candidate for the administrator position would be undertaken by the Mayor. Chairperson Longton acknowledged the retirement of Commissioner Tony Siragusa as a well-deserved and a valuable member of Town government for many years, although they often butted heads. He thanked him for his service to the Town. Commissioner Lathrop acknowledged his appreciation of the history Commissioner Siragusa had and shared which was priceless.

f. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Mandler; seconded by Commissioner Quinn to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0-0 , 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.**