

Town of Montville Water & Sewer Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2024-- 6:00 PM
Town Council Chambers – Town Hall

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Chairperson 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 Chairperson Chuck Longton, Town Councilor Kevin Lathrop, and Commissioners Richard Gladue (6:15 p.m.) and Frank Miceli. A quorum was present.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Derek Albertson, Mayor Lenny Bunnell, and PE Marius Jedrychowski and PE Therlin Montgomery of Wright-Pierce, Professional Engineers.

d. Alterations to the Agenda --None

e. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2024
Motion by Town Councilor Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2024. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-0; all in favor. Motion carried.**

f. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission --
None

g. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda with a three-minute limit
Chairperson Longton asked three (3) times for remarks from the public. There were none.

h. Executive Session for Personnel Issues

Motion by Town Councilor Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to enter Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. for Personnel Issues. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-0; all in favor. Motion carried. The Commission returned from Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. with no votes taken.**

Motion by Town Councilor Lathrop; seconded by Commissioner Miceli to accept changes to the job descriptions as discussed in Executive Session and forward them to the Town Council for their review and approval. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 4-0-0; all in favor. Motion carried.**

i. Report from Operations/Administration Division

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations/Administrative Report for January 2024, 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 local or formal complaints were received regarding the collection system or the WPCF.

Average daily influent (average) flow to the WPCF was approximately 2.87 mgd with a total treatment volume of 89 mg for the month. Influent flow was considered higher than normal; the three large storms event in January contribute significant influent flow (2 x Q) through I and I

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(Inflow and Infiltration). Also, the cold conditions caused the process tank (water) temperatures dropped to below 60 deg F which is a challenge.

Approximately 50% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB). Please note that the in-house use of plant water (instead of potable water) for process saves money each month.

Process control was good with high removal efficiencies for BOD₅ and TSS. Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent well below the permit (loading) level with high removal efficiency.

Waste activated sludge (WAS) was approximately 5%.

1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards.

Dave Waddington of Connecticut Scrap and DW Transport was met last January to review improvement suggestions for fire response at his property. The *WPCA October 2016 Phase I and 5-Year Water Main Extension Plan* was reviewed for hydraulic evaluation for extending service to that property. On January 26 last year, another meeting between the WPCA staff, WPCA Engineer and Fire Marshall was held to consider extending the water supply to that area with an additional hydrant. A review of “dry hydrants” on the property connected to the mill pond as well as the stormwater retention pond was considered as fire suppressant sources.

2.0 Staff

2.1 Health and Safety

The *Town of Montville Emergency Operations Plan* was reviewed with the intent to incorporate safety measures in the WPCA activities.

All three labor contracts (associated with the WPCA) are expiring in June 2024 with negotiations to renew existing collective employment contracts coming. Initially, preparation is conducted with management and labor by choosing representatives to negotiate for their interests with ground rules defined. Then, negotiating begins till a tentative agreement is reached and the union members vote to ratify the agreement.

Emily Spring has joined our team as an Operator I. She comes to us from Jacobs Engineering in Rhode Island, but resides in Groton. Emily will sit for the CTDEEP Operator II exam in July 2024. It is our intent to train her for both WPCF treatment and laboratory work. Dennis Kexel will sit for his NEWEA (Collections) Operator II in January and his CTDEEP Operator I in July 2024. Dennis Kexel and Greg Bindloss both received their CTDOT CDL in January.

No injuries, grievances or job-related concerns were reported for staff. SDS data was reviewed for the chemicals used at the WPCF.

One third of the water workforce becomes eligible to retire in the next ten years; the water industry faces a shortage of professionals qualified to perform mission-critical jobs of operating and maintaining drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure. The Superintendent reviewed existing succession planning with the new HR Director as related to the WPCA staffing requirements. The Superintendent is still working hand in hand with local technical schools' Career and Technical Education offices, which encourage students to be career-ready through instruction in technical and employability skills and acquisition of industry credentials. Also, the Superintendent is participating in the NEWEA Mentoring Program.

The WPCA staff has received numerous test kits and is encouraged to test often. COVID protection measures are reviewed with staff with masks, hand cleaner, etc. made available. Wastewater surveillance for the U.S. indicates that the Northeast is experiencing the highest number of cases since the original outbreak.

2.2 Training

Staff continued to receive training to meet CTDEEP and CTDPH requirements for (wastewater /water certification) training credits. Safety training is paramount for new employees.

Specifically, new staff training includes 1st Aid, CPR, AED, BBP and forklift. A general safety training course is given initially. The new Collections Operator has scheduled specific (e.g. jet truck, pump truck, CCTV trailer) training for his proposed work into the spring to increase general knowledge and improve safety. “Tailgate” safety meeting prior to each work day is encouraged to stress no shortcuts, following procedures, and identifying hazards. The Superintendent attended SPCC Plan and Tier II Report training this month. Spill response charts (accompanied with staff training) were updated in January. One goal this FY was to reach out to the other teams (departments) to act as a “good neighbor”. Helping PW with training and generator knowledge occurred in January.

For internal control checks, split sampling was conducted Influent BOD analysis; one half of the sample was sent to an outside lab for analysis and the other half was retained and analyzed inhouse. This represents a test or QA/QC check for our new lab person.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, FBI and USEPA, recently published a guide to assist owners and operators in the water and wastewater systems sector with best practices for cyber incident response and information about federal roles, resources and responsibilities for each stage of the response lifecycle. The information was reviewed with staff.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

Routine maintenance was performed at WPCF. Roofing inspections were made due to leakage observed during the heavy rains. All phone stations were inspected for function with extensions confirmed.

All pump stations were inspected and cleaned. There is an enduring need for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the sewer/water systems entrusted in our care that will far surpass our careers at the WPCA. The effort will ensure public health and protection of the environment and regulatory compliance in the most effective way possible.

The FOG inspections for Class II and Class III and Class IV Food Establishments began after a review of Uncas Health District information.

A new Pump No. 2 was installed in Lathrop PS. The new Holly Hill PS emergency generator was scheduled for delivery/installation. Persistent leakage on the main building roof led to several inspections by outside contractors. Windows were caulked to prevent seepage during the severe rain events.

Annual calibration for equipment (including the influent and effluent meters/laboratory equipment) was scheduled for March.

Annual CBYD renewal filings were completed. Connecticut regulations have consistently mandated that agencies issuing permits for excavation, demolition, or discharge of explosives require proof of adherence to the Call Before You Dig (CBYD) rules. This is achieved by requesting a CBYD ticket number. This practice is beneficial as it ensures that underground utilities are identified and located before any excavation activities begin.

Rockwell Automation was met January 31 to review all 40 VFDs covered in the existing maintenance contract. Of concern are the aging drives and how they are covered or address CIP management (Migration Plan).

RWCB was met after a January foaming event, a complete review of their chemicals and how they affected the plant, on January 30.

4.0 Projects

A summary of existing projects is provided in an attached project summary table. The table contains projects for FY 2023-2025 with some considered “pipe dream” and will be likely pushed off until a future time.

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The transitional manhole for the Black Ash PS was scheduled to be repaired. A pump replacement occurred at the Lathrop PS. The (electrical) transfer switch was corrected at the Massepeag PS. The Avery I PS (new) generator was received.

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

A review of the barn storage was completed with the building cleaned and empty totes returned to the vendors. Bidding will take place for the two d-boxes temporary repair. The bypass technique for the eventual repair of the d-boxes was discussed with a representative of Godwin Pumps on January 16. WPCF security was reviewed on January 16 with the potential for three more exterior cameras placed within the plant to offer both more security as well as process views for operators remotely. Improvements were made to the WPCA website with regards to the WS and LCRR.

TWAS quality is what makes for an exemplary biosolids program with lower volumes by best practices for thickening (dewatering waste activated sludge). Solids handling/disposal costs are typically the third largest for any WPCF. The Superintendent has made every effort to lower this expenditure (FY 2024 \$1.1 million), including assigning new personnel to the GBT, polymer jar testing, GBT settings/repair/testing, new thickening equipment investigations, and onsite digestion. As indicated in the engineering report, it is likely that aerobic digestion (onsite treatment in an existing tank with existing equipment to lower volume) is the best option for reducing costs.

As indicated, the CTDEEP is being solicited for approval of an aerobic digester to reduce sludge volumes (thus costs). A formal request will be made to the CTDEEP. Notification of the process stance change (five SBRs from six) will be made to Carlos Esguerra, *Sanitary Engineer 3* (Water Planning and Management Division, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse).

Woodard & Curran personnel were met in January to review/enhance their designs for the proposed d-box (as part of the engineering study). As indicated, a temporary fix will be made (to halt concrete/rebar destruction due to hydrogen sulfide) with an industrial coating. Due to the expense, the WPCA has requested a formal bid for the work.

A review of past as-built records was conducted with the intention of joining them with the GIS mapping as permanent attributes.

The U.S. disease monitoring system (for wastewater influent) is growing but still a patchwork. Currently, 863 of the nation's 3,143 counties — roughly a quarter — are directly reporting wastewater data to the CDC. The influent composite samples are provided to Biobot Analytical (Cambridge, MA) in 2023 (and now in 2024) which analyzes sewage for SARS-CoV-2 nationwide. The data gives local governments the tools they need to focus public health efforts and improve lives in the communities they serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has mainstreamed wastewater-based epidemiology, which analyzes sewage to detect disease outbreaks. The Town of Montville WPCA data showed a drop in the concentration of the virus. The WPCF received a Biobot *Certificate of Participation*, which references the work your organization has done and the volume of wastewater samples you've provided in the past year to support screening.

The recent rain events lead to poor treatment (due to hydraulic overload/short detention times) due to extraneous flows to the sanitary system (infiltration and inflow or I and I). Infiltration is defined as groundwater entering cracks, joints or defects in pipes/manways. Inflow is defined as rain water contribution via manhole covers, catch basins, downspouts, etc. An increase in influent has caused poor settling within the SBRs leading to some limited solids in the effluent. The most impacted pump stations with Inflow and Infiltration (I and I) were Black Ash, Chesterfield, Avery I and Partridge Hollow PSs. A review of all potential I and I sources was completed following the extreme weather. The previous reporting (URS, 2011) along with (more recent) field work were examined to accurately project areas within the collection system requiring attention. The Plant Operators and the new Collections Operator met with the Superintendent to review the existing reporting with the goal of eliminating I and I as much as possible. Calculations show that (during a peak rain event) approximately 3 mgd of I and I contribution is present. Flow testing in sewer pipes has indicated key areas of contribution for Infiltration (Subsystem 2- The Manor in vicinity of a cross-country route near Maryland Drive and a pipe from Connecticut Boulevard to Indian Circle). Flow testing also showed a key area for Inflow (Route 163) near RWCB.

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Extreme weather (i.e. rain events) are becoming more common. The typical municipal utility is spending millions of dollars to reduce stormwater contribution to the sewer collection system. As indicated previously, the WPCA system is relatively “tight” with limited contribution only during heavy rain events. The municipal sewer industry is incorporating a wide array of stormwater management technologies to enhance system resilience and efficiency. These innovations range from nozzles designed for cleaning lift stations and vertical pipes to advanced data reporting tools that provide in-depth analysis of stormwater impact on sewer systems. Additionally, technologies like storm drain markers and real-time data visualization tools are being utilized to protect ecosystems and optimize sewer system performance. These technologies will be reviewed for application, if required. CCTV inspections enable observation of the condition of pipes firsthand and address defects that could result in costly repairs in the future. A targeted inspection/review of some of the 1,650 manholes in the collection system was made.

Cross-country clearing project planning (FY 2023 CIP) began in January. Some residents have made inquiries regarding the work. The Town Wetlands Officer will inspect work. Prior notification was made to land abutters about the work.

On January 30, RWCB and P & H Construction personnel were met to discuss the discharge/return piping replacement project. Phase II work was delayed until March due to the weather. Once begun, that work will take approximately 6 weeks. Proposed Phase III (final) work will be presented to the WPCA.

RWCB was met about their pretreatment permit renewal, billing and the potential for increased loading to the WPCF as improved in 2023 by the WPCA and CTDEEP.

Wright-Pierce engineers were met on January 17 to review the timeline for the potential Cook Water Tower replacement schedule, funding and bidding options. Routine water flushing occurred in January; no complaints were received (i.e. discolored water). A March 2024 ribbon cutting event was planned.

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 from the appropriate regulatory bodies.

Due to the danger spills cause to public health and the environment, every effort must be made to prevent them and to clean them up promptly once they occur. The purpose of the *Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure* (SPCC) rule is to help facilities prevent a discharge of into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. The SPCC rule requires facilities to develop, maintain, and implement a spill prevention plan, called an SPCC Plan. These Plans help facilities prevent oil spill, as well as control a spill should one occur. The plans include Safety Data Sheets for all materials stored. The Superintendent reviewed materials stored within the WPCF and pump stations to ensure the plan was accurate and contained the necessary SDS.

Every March 1st, facilities covered by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) must submit an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form (Tier II Report) to the Local/Tribal Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the local fire department for the previous calendar year. The Superintendent filed the appropriate EPCRA Tier II Report.

Nutrient pollution remains a problem in many U.S. water bodies; contributing to a dead zone in Long Island Sound. Phosphorus levels declined slightly during the period but nitrogen levels remained flat, which indicates that the situation isn't worsening but also that progress isn't being made as quickly as leaders would like. That said, the state permit for nitrogen loading will likely become more stringent along with some type of control on phosphorous loading.

The Annual USEPA Biosolids E-Reporting was completed by the Superintendent. USEPA's sewage sludge regulations require certain publicly owned treatment facilities to submit to a *Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) Annual Report*. Facilities that must submit an Annual Report include WPCFs with a design flow rate equal to or greater than one million gallons per day. The sludge evaluation included a review of total volume as well as the quarterly (toxicity) analysis.

Permit renewal activities will begin in April 2024; as stipulated, a permit renewal package must be formally submitted to the CTDEEP six months prior to the federal NPDES permit expiration date (October 31, 2024). As part of the permit support, the Superintendent and Lab Director conducted an inventory of equipment and disposable items.

As part of the water diversion permit for the Montville WS, annual reporting is required. Specifically, a CTDPH *Water Division Program Annual Water Use Form* must be completed and submitted by January 31 which details, amongst other things the amount of water purchased and the amount used. The lost water was found to be approximately 5% of the total water purchased from Groton Utilities (GU); the national average is 16%. The annual cross-connection reporting and CCR were reviewed. The Superintendent attended the January 2024 CTDPH *Drinking Water Section Monthly Webinar* to stay abreast of recent regulatory developments.

The USEPA announced the first stages of requirements for the *Lead and Copper Rule Revisions* in December 2021. The Superintendent employed the WPCA Engineer (Wright-Pierce) and existing GIS contractor (CAI) to get a jump on mapping out its service line inventory. The update to the *Lead and Copper Rule*, first published in 1991, is extensive. By October 16, 2024, all public water systems must complete a lead service line inventory that accounts for every service line in their systems — and a plan to update that inventory going forward. A three-year compliance window is, for many public water systems, challenging at best due to small staff and small budgets.

5.0 Development

Several development projects have been presented to the WPCA for review/comment. The Superintendent met with engineers regarding the Oxoboxo Lofts, Village Apartments, a grocery store, gas station and other residential development projects in Town.

6.0 Finances

The WPCA operates within an Enterprise Fund (a business-like account with net-zero goals, that is AR should equal to AP, according to GAAP). FY 2024 began on July 1, 2023. The financial condition of both water and wastewater accounts is considered good. Per WPCA and TC approval, the WPCA FY 2024 Sewer Budget is \$7.1 million and the Water Budget is \$1.9 million. No rate increase is required for sewer for the coming year even with significant investment into the infrastructure. A rate structure designed to provide sustainable revenue for operations as well as capital programs is critical to assure reliable effective sewerage and safe drinking water and fire protection.

As part of the annual report (2023), the delinquent sewer (est. \$440,000) and water (est. \$5,740) account totals were calculated. As indicated, active collections are ongoing.

6.1 Accounts Review

Current rates (and ancillary fees) appear to be adequate at this time to cover costs for wastewater activities. A review of first half of FY 2024 shows over budget revenues. For the last four years (on average) the revenues for the sewer account has risen 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 streams for sewer and water accounts. A rate study will be conducted for the water account and applied, as required to keep the utility solvent.

Sludge represents the bulk of the cost (outside of energy) of running WPCFs. These costs can range anywhere from 40-60% of total plant costs, depending on the size of the plant and initial wastewater characteristics. Every effort is made to reduce the volume of disposed solids. As indicated in the last WPCA meeting, a study about digester uses to lower volumes.

6.2 Assets

A formal review of the Construction-in-Progress occurred to improve the understanding of existing assets. Several vehicles were either sold or traded in for purchases. The FY 2023 CIP added assets. Per contract, RWCB will be billed annually (\$200,000) for the work completed on the discharge/recycle lines in September, October, November and December 2023 and continued into January 2024.

Existing URS Reporting (from 2010 and 2011) provided an initial asset listing (permanent attributes detailing the age and construction of the collection system and/or treatment plant equipment) which were installed into the current WPCA GIS system.

6.3 Grants/Funding

Federal grants announced on December 4 will be used to protect Long Island Sound. A total of \$20 million will be directed by the USEPA to promote climate resiliency and environmental justice and over improvement of the surface water body.

Some current wastewater projects are funded by State funds including 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 were replaced. A review of the approximately \$4.5 million in grant monies (slated for the WPCF) indicated adequate funding for the proposed projects with approximately \$450,000 margin- this money will be used to remedy the concrete failing in SBR-4 or the influent d-boxes. A debt service audit was conducted for the four bonds most recently procured for the treatment plant. One bond was paid in July 2018 and another was paid in February 2019; thus reducing debt service by at least \$150,000-\$200,000 per year. The remaining two bonds will be paid in August 2032 (headworks upgrade) and July 2034 (new emergency power generator), respectively.

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 scheduled completion date of the storage tank is October 31, 2024. A Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF No. 2024-7125) loan agreement package for \$1,360,332.50 was signed by the Mayor on August 30 for the Cook Hill Tank Replacement Project (CTDPH Agreement #2024-7125). An Interim Funding Obligation (IFO) was completed on October 13. The IFO will convert to a Project Loan Obligation (PLO) at completion of the project. There is some expectation that an additional subsidy will be provided thus lowering the overall cost of the project to the town. Recent discussions with the CTDPH have indicated a slow-down in reimbursements. On December 1, the Superintendent was notified of the CTDPH's load reimbursement schedule and format paperwork. Additionally, it was suggested the project would likely receive an additional subsidy of approximately \$300,000 for the project. The Town Bond Attorney (Sandra Lawson, Esquire) has been notified to explore options for bridging financial gaps, if encountered. A notice of the initial reimbursement (\$484,352.43) was received on December 20.

A loan balance of \$620,540.89 (as of FY 2022 end: June 30, 2023) remains on the (not amortized) loan defined in the December 10, 2007 *Reimbursement Agreement by and between The Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority and Town of Montville*. The original principal of the note was \$2,642,792.

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

6.4 Energy

A 10% decrease in plant energy demand has been observed associated with the (more controlled) lower dissolved oxygen (DO) settings in the process tanks due to the new fine-bubble diffusers as well as the new (more efficient) turbo blowers.

The (electrical) energy is the single largest monthly expenditure. Electrical Energy is supplied to the plant by the 460 kW Doosan Fuel Cell America, Inc. fuel cell (onsite generation by Unit #10587), Eversource (transmission) and First Point Power (generation). The power generation was formerly supplied by Constellation Energy. The WPCA is using less public grid kWhs due to this onsite generation. Fuel cell operation issues were encountered during the month. 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). Steve Pearson, VFS Green Energy Financing Executive conducted the (460 kW) fuel cell technical review in December. Things discussed included unit output and production,

reliability, ICAP savings (summer peak day), Eversource distribution charges, new battery backup option, 3rd party electrical supply, and anything you'd like to cover. During the recent (year-end) fuel cell audit, it showed a savings of \$182,000 per year annual savings (i.e. demand charges, ratchet charges) due to this onsite generation (95.5% availability) with the Pure Cell (400 kW) unit; it is the best performing unit of its kind in Connecticut.

On January 25, the Superintendent met with Dan Joyce of Balanced Rock Energy (WPCA Energy Broker) to review current and future contract conditions. It is likely the generation cost will rise over 50% for the next contract due to market conditions.

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.

Superintendent Albertson highlighted operations and administration of the plant and collection system. Specifically, there is currently a collections operator, lab operator and an advertisement for a certified operator 1 for the waste water group. There was one (1) retiree, a lab operator, and the collection operator resigned; both positions are filled. Per a review of the water and sewer budgets for the past six (6) months, revenues. The three (3) labor contracts expire in June and will enter into negotiations with the Town. There is an energy drop of 9-10 percent, a savings of \$5,000. A meeting was held with Rand-Whitney and P & H Construction last week. Completion of the Phase 1 discharge and recycle line is complete; Phase II has been paused due to weather conditions with 1200 feet remaining to complete. If there is a Phase III, no work or any other repairs will be done without the approval of the Commission. PE Montgomery is present this evening to discuss the upcoming federal permit renewal coming due in October that requires work to begin on it in April as well as an update on the Stony Brook Bridge. He also supplied a handout regarding a preliminary anaerobic digestion analysis for the plant for review by the Commission.

Superintendent Albertson responded to question from the Commissioner Gladue on contract negotiations. The union president and representatives for each union and Mayor Bunnell are involved in the process. Per Chairperson Longton, all union contracts must be approved by the Town Council and based upon his tenure on that body for six (6) years the process was rubber stamped. He asked that Mayor Bunnell provide the markups to the Town Council prior to their vote. A special meeting of the Town Council is protocol for these discussions. The Superintendent also reported on three (3) significant rainstorms during the month which caused a hydraulic overload affecting inflow. The worst area was the inflow at Route 163 adjacent to Rand-Whitney near the Manor and manholes were investigated north of Robinson Road. There was \$22,000 made in septage receiving in January. The DOT was impressed with the manhole repairs and reimbursement received.

j. Report from Mayor.

Mayor Bunnell remarked on having initiated initial talks with the unions. Effective Monday, February 12, Ron McDaniel will assume the Administrator position at the plant. There were two (2) interviews of applicants and R. McDaniel was the best candidate.

k. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported on having worked with PE Montgomery for the past five (5) years as an intro to the rehabilitation of the Stony Brook Bridge. PE Montgomery brought a full scan of plans of the bridge project, the final design package; a flash drive on the same can be sent to the Commission. There is a 30-day period for contractors to provide their bid packages. As for the permit renewal discussed earlier in the meeting regarding discharge from the plant, permit modifications were done for Rand-Whitney BOD levels as was done a few years ago. The study looked at two (2) years of data of contaminants going into and out of the plant. PE Montgomery remarked about sampling requirements and data collection to include with the report. Commissioner Gladue asked about the content of the contaminant from Rand-Whitney; the

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Superintendent responded on the carbon from Rand-Whitney and the balance from the casino; PE Montgomery remarked on a new standard test for PFAS.

PE Montgomery reported also on a memorandum submitted to Superintendent Albertson and the Commission on an analysis of the viability and economics of a new anaerobic digestion facility at the plant. He referenced a similar study done by a plant in Lowell, MA that produces 50,000 pounds of sludge per day comparing that to the \$700,000 for the plant to haul and dispose of sludge and the option for saving 45-50 percent of that cost per year. A new anaerobic digester at the plant could cost \$10-\$15 million. Town Councilor Lathrop inquired if there are grants available to the defray the cost; Superintendent Albertson remarked that sludge hauling is the second highest cost for the plant and remarked about aerobic testing that was done with sludge shipped to Hartford for it to be burnt. He noted the Hartford incinerator is processing less. A preliminary study on an aerobic digester was done that is quick to restore a SBR to its 300,000 gallon capacity. The Commission then discussed the option of an anaerobic versus an aerobic digester and the regulatory body on grants for each. PE Montgomery reported state and federal grants would be sought to reduce environmental impact. Superintendent Albertson remarked an aerobic digester is safer. PE Montgomery will try to do an assessment for an aerobic digester for the plant and have it available for the next Commission meeting.

I. Old Business -- *None*

m. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on the Election of a WPCA Vice Chairperson.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES to Consider and Act on a motion for the election of WPCA Vice Chairperson.
Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

Motion by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue to nominate Town Councilor Lathrop for WPCA Vice Chairperson. Discussion: Chairperson Longton inquired if Town Councilor Lathrop was interested in the position. Nominations were closed. **Voice vote: 4-0-0, all in favor. Motion carried.**

n. Reports/Referral from Planning & Zoning

Chairperson Longton remarked that did not attend the meeting as he was in Hartford. Town Councilor Lathrop remarked on a presentations at the Planning & Zoning and Economic Development Commission meetings that he attended. He noted that the presentations a need for water and sewer infrastructure is needed. Superintendent Albertson reported on Town planning projects that will represent connection fees.

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson introduced PE Jedrychowski, the professional engineer who handles water related concerns. The Superintendent referenced the recently resolved water line break, water connections for the Connecticut Scrap/DW Transport related two (2) fires, and the design of the water replacement tower. PE Jedrychowski reported on the owner of Connecticut Scrap/DW Transport having requested a quote for a water main extension to its site as it lacked fire protection. He remarked there was not good fire protection, just the use of dry hydrants taking water from ponds. Two options are proposed; Option 1--using an existing water line on Maple Avenue and installing fire hydrants that will provide water closer to the facility; and Option 2--a water line from Maple Avenue to Pequot Road to provide closer to the facility and closing the loop. Utilizing a map of the area, PE Jedrychowski described these options. The estimated cost for the water connection is \$3.4 million. A meeting was had with the facility owner but no feedback was received. There are six (6) potential customers that would create additional storage in the water main. State grants are possible for the project. The Commission discussed these options noting an extension of water is a factor for economic development. Superintendent Albertson also reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Cook Water Tower scheduled for March; contact from Verizon about the purchase of water; and connections to the water supply that require

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payment back to the Mohegan Tribe—the original cost was \$5 million but \$600,000 is now owed to the tribe.

Commissioner Miceli left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

b. Old Business -- *None*

c. New Business

1. To Consider and Act on a Proposed Rate Study for the Montville Water Supply.
THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act on a motion for the appropriation of \$22,000 for the rate study cited by Wright-Pierce (WPCA Engineers) in their December 6, 2023 proposal.
Motion – Discussion – Roll Call Vote

Superintendent Albertson remarked that sewer rates in Town are less than half the national average and one-third the national average for water. The Town water rate is \$45 per quarter; the rate for SCWA is \$125. He also mentioned three (3) rate increases absorbed by Groton Utilities. Jessica Richard, Strategic Funding Manager at Wright-Pierce, was introduced and reported by phone on the water study to be conducted. Town Councilor Lathrop requested a written copy for the Commission given the difficulty in hearing the proposal by phone. The Commission discussed the cost for the study and the impact on future growth and trending growth.

SAR-No. 2024-04 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act on a motion for the appropriation of \$22,000 for the rate study cited by Wright-Pierce (WPCA Engineers) in their December 6, 2023 proposal. **Motion** by Commissioner Gladue; seconded by Town Councilor Lathrop. Discussion: Town Councilor Lathrop remarked on the current water supply that is in the black and the burden from the Cook Water Tower; Superintendent Albertson reported on having operational funds from ratepayers and a reserve of \$800,000 that will decrease. Also discussed was the Verizon request for water; the maintenance on the water tower; a water increase at a rate the community can absorb; and questioning the need for the study—Superintendent Albertson remarked the rates were being reviewed for current and future needs and more data is needed. PE Jedrychowski offered to have a workshop with the Commission on the study. Town Councilor Lathrop asked whether Connecticut Scrap/DW Transport had been billed for the water used to suppress the two (2) fires. If not, he suggested they be billed. Commissioner Gladue asked that everything that is needed is encompassed in the study. Chairperson Longton added that projections are needed for future expansions and must be included in the study. **Roll Call vote: *In favor: Town Councilor Lathrop, Commissioner Gladue, and Chairperson Longton. Opposed: none. Vote 3-0-0, all in favor.***

d. Executive Session for Personnel Matter -- *None*

e. Remarks from the Public

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

e. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Gladue remarked that nothing has been no activity on the Cook water project; Chairperson Longton asked that the schedule for the project is sent to the Commission. Town Councilor Lathrop thanked everyone for their votes for his vice-presidency. Chairperson Longton thanked Town Councilor Lathrop his appointment as vice-president of the Commission and congratulate Ron McDaniel on his appointment as Administrator for the WPCA.

f. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Gladue; seconded by Town Councilor to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Discussion: none. **Voice vote: 3-0-0; 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.**