

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

Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Montville WPCA rules of procedure, decorum, timeliness and suitability shall be followed and enforced.

For all publicly broadcasted meetings, public comment on agenda items or topics in accordance with the Town charter may be submitted in writing in advance.

Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk's Office at townclerk@montville-ct.org at least 1 working day in advance (if the meeting is on a Monday the questions must be submitted by close of business the previous Friday).

Written comments may not be read in their entirety, but rather similar messages may be aggregated or paraphrased for submission to the Commission.

A three-minute limit is applicable to public comments within the meeting.

1. Water and Sewer Commission

a. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Lathrop 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 Richard Gladue, Frank Miceli and Town Councilor/Vice-Chair Kevin Lathrop. Chairperson Chuck Longton and Superintendent Derek Albertson were absent.

Also in attendance was Administrator Ronald McDaniel and Mayor Leonard Bunnell.

d. Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*

e. Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2024

Motion by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Vice-Chair Lathrop to approve the WPCA April 1, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 2-0-1, Commissioner Gladue abstained. **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

Vice-Chair Lathrop asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

h. Report from Operations

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations Report for April 2024, as follows:

1.0 Compliance/Process

1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility

No local or formal complaints were received regarding the collection system or the Montville Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF).

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Average daily influent flow to the WPCF dampened and was approximately 2.4 million gallons per day (mgd) with a total treatment volume of 75 million gallons (mg) for the month. Each day, approximately 65% of the treated effluent was recycled (sold) to Rand-Whitney Container Board (RWCB).

Overall, plant treatment improved with permit parameters met. Process control within each unit (preliminary and secondary treatment) was much improved with high removal efficiencies (> 95%; above the permit-required 85%) 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 calculated to have an approximately 4.25% total solid (TS).

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is predicted to be dire with more hurricanes and named storms than ever before. This June through November could see 23 named storms in all, including 11 hurricanes and five Category 3 or higher “major” hurricanes, according to the university’s Atlantic hurricane season forecast, released on April 4.

1.2 Water Supply

The Montville Water Supply (WS) met required state and federal standards. No regulatory requirements/concerns are present. A monthly water audit indicated 8% NRW. A 24-inch water line break occurred in Ledyard to Norwich on April 23. The interconnect was not affected.

2.0 Staff

2.1 Health and Safety

No injuries was reported. A major part of working safe is the ability to be mentally alert, but even more so when hazards are present. Tailgate meetings prior to completing a specific task help the team focus, re-familiarize about the work and what safety issues to look out for. Distraction in the work area can be serious. On-call operator schedules will include one new employee starting in June.

A Chemical Hygiene (safety) Plan for the laboratory was completed and reviewed with staff.

A tremendous amount of work was completed to respond to the March OSHA inspection. No formal notification (OSHA inspection report) has been received.

The Human Resources Director is currently advertising for a certified treatment operator to complete WPCA staffing at 14. College and high school students were interviewed for the summer help position. A rising Junior from CCSU (Computer Science Major) and a rising Senior from Grasso Technical High School (Environmental Science Track) will be joining the team this summer.

U.S. employers added a seasonally adjusted 303,000 jobs in March, the Labor Department reported; significantly more than the 200,000 economists expected. The unemployment rate slipped to 3.8%, versus February’s 3.9%, in line with expectations. The *New England Water Workforce Collaborative* (Work for Water - New England) was established following a meeting between *New England Water Environment Association* (NEWEA) and *New England Water Works Association* (NEWWA) in January 2022. As of January 2023, the Collaborative began the development of a Strategic Plan to address the most pressing water workforce challenges for long-term workforce sustainability and reliability. The Superintendent has been asked to contribute information to the Collaborative.

2.2 Succession Planning

Advertisements for the open Treatment Operator and Summer Help positions are ongoing. Several key staff members will be retiring within a year. The Superintendent/Administrator have been working with the HR Director to advertise open positions to ensure coverage. A useful succession plan is being initiated. Effective succession planning is a utility’s insurance policy for sustainability. This becomes clear when critical positions become vacant- a good succession plan means there will always be a talented and properly trained employee who can take over before operations fall into disarray.

2.3 Training

Staff continued to receive training to (state or professional organization sponsored) meet CTDEEP and CTDPH requirements for (wastewater/water certification) training credits. Any new staff receive Environmental Health and Safety introductory course their first day of work.

3.0 Equipment

3.1 WPCF/Collection System

Proposed state road milling/paving operations (along Route 32) will occur from Massapeag Road to the Town of Waterford line. The road milling is planned for August 28 to September 2 and paving is planned for September 16 to October 2.

Vendors for the existing septage receiving unit were met on April 15 and 23 to address operational concerns (CIP FY 2025). Vendors for the home grinder pumps were met on April 23 for a quote to purchase six new units. Extensive lead times exist for this type of equipment.

To prepare for the disinfection season (May 1 to October 31), all related equipment and tankage was prepared. The chlorine monitoring/analyzers were cleaned and calibrated. The chlorine contact chamber was emptied and cleaned of residual solids.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released its *National Infrastructure Report Card* on May 3, 2021, and gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of "C-". This overall grade is up slightly from the 2017 Report Card where ASCE gave the nation's infrastructure a "D+" grade.

Climate change is threatening America's water infrastructure as intensifying storms deluge communities. As indicated, the first quarter of this year was record setting with regards to rainfall. In a new summer forecast map released Thursday by NOAA, nearly the entire nation is enshrouded in red or orange, meaning warmer-than-average temperatures are expected for June, July and August. NOAA said areas where the unusual heat is most likely include the Northeast and a large swath of the west. As we continue to study infrastructure resilience and sustainability, we note a crisis growing, where aging infrastructure are leaving more communities at risk as weather becomes more extreme.

CCTV inspections enable observation of the condition of pipes firsthand and address defects that could result in related Inflow and/or Infiltration (I and I) as well as costly repairs in the future.

U. S. House lawmakers this week introduced a bill that aims to strengthen cybersecurity protections for water and wastewater systems by creating a new, non-federal agency to update and manage the cybersecurity requirements for the critical infrastructure sector. To address evolving cybercrime risks, the WPCA must continually evaluate its prevention strategies, and make necessary updates to avoid losses. The college intern will help our organization stay up to date on protection mechanisms to counter potentially catastrophic cyber events.

A good appearance assures our ratepayers that we are taking care of the infrastructure. The high school student will paint and clean to maintain/improve appearances within the WPCF and pump stations.

4.0 Projects

A summary of existing projects is provided in an attached project summary table. Additionally, the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CIP lists are provided.

4.1 WPCF/Collection System/Water Supply

Routine maintenance was performed at WPCF and collections system.

The FY CIP was reviewed to begin ordering materials with long lead times (e.g. septic receiving station).

As indicated, solids handling can be the second highest cost at a WPCF (outside of electrical energy). With ever-increasing cost and restrictions (now due to PFAS) on end use and/or disposal, the timing is ripe for improving existing processes or exploring new technologies to grossly reduce waste solid volumes. Current WPCF developments would include new polymers and/or new equipment, and/or onsite treatment (aerobic digestion). The thickening (dewatering) was more

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efficient leading to lower volumes of the biosolids being sent off site for disposal. Particular care is given to the onsite gravity belt thickener (GBT) and the new grit removal system. A vendor/engineer have been invited onsite to explore better thickened waste activated sludge (TWAS) options. Initial testing for new dewatering techniques have occurred in March and April. Polymer testing confirmed the existing polymer used is appropriate for our sludge. The new grit removal system is effectively removing grit with low water content. Gravity is generally accepted as the dominant force in grit removal systems where influent flows are not pump fed, but the WPCF employs vortex technology- to add a curve to the influent flow path (utilize a round grit chamber) to enhance grit capture.

The d-box replacement (engineering) report was finalized in April with a complete review of all drawings. The proposed work calls for both the existing distribution box and splitter box to be combined into a new (preliminary treatment) structure that allows for solids removal, septage delivery and return of activated sludge. Carlos A. Esguerra (CTDEEP Supervising Environmental Engineer, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Water Planning and Management Division) was met to discuss grant/financing options for the expected \$3 million construction project.

The influent composite samples were provided to Biobot Analytical (Cambridge, MA) which analyzes sewage for SARS-CoV-2 nationwide along with several street drugs. Biobot's mission is to transform wastewater infrastructure into public health observatories. The analysis was free. Their data and analysis gives governments and businesses the tools they need to focus public health efforts and improve lives in the communities they serve. Data is generated from 700+ sites, representing 100+ million people. The COVID-19 pandemic has mainstreamed wastewater-based epidemiology, which analyzes sewage to detect disease outbreaks.

The large April rain events did raise influent/effluent flow levels, but generally did not adversely affect process control within the WPCF nor did it indicate a significant I and I issue (only at most 33% increase in influent not > 200% increase which would indicate a problem). As indicated, the overall winter season had record setting rainfall events leading to plant hydraulically overloading. The overloading led to poor process within the plant. An intense response has been initiated by the Superintendent and the Collections Operator to expose areas of improvement including process control mechanisms, pumping rates both in and out of the plant and future CIP investments.

The pipe support bridge above the Stony Brook was identified as failing. The Superintendent had met with CorrTech (inspector) and the WPCA Engineer (Wright-Pierce). The main corrosion is related to (road salt) exposure. The 50-foot Pipe Bridge (for the 16-inch (water) and 21-inch (sewer) pipes) is structurally compromised. Solutions included the replacement of the entire pipe bridge or installation of a modular (pipe) support structure. The bid opening was on April 9 with New England Infrastructure, Inc. found to be low bidder. Wright-Pierce is currently working with the low bidder on another project (Hudsen, NH) and things are going well on that project.

CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) sewer inspections are a critical part of assessing the condition and performance of underground utility pipelines. These inspections involve the use of specialized camera equipment to inspect the interior of pipelines and gather valuable data. The inspections represent one of the best of asset management practices. The manual coding can be tedious, but is essential. Targeted inspections of some of the 1,650 manholes in the collection system were made. Several manholes were found to have I and I contribution and were repaired in April.

As previously indicated, a replacement project is proposed for Cook Water Tower. The glass fused to steel construction is state of the art and represents a low maintenance option to conventional steel tanks. Additionally, the mixing equipment will reduce the amount of TTHMs in the stored water as well thermal stratification issues. A communication meeting was held on April 18 to confirm antennae on the current tower and future needs.

4.2 Regulatory Oversight

The Montville WPCF is required to meet state and federal standards for effluent discharged to the Thames River. The WPCF adheres to the federal standards in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and state permit standards related to nitrogen discharges in the effluent and stormwater discharges to surface water bodies. Required (monthly, quarterly or

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annual) reporting is signed (certified) by the state-licensed Operator IV (Superintendent) in responsible charge of the CTDEEP defined Class IV facility.

No regulatory oversight or action is ongoing for the WPCA. No existing *Consent Decrees* or *Consent Orders* currently exist. No formal reporting was required other than the typical monthly permit submittals. No complaints have been received from the appropriate regulatory bodies. The Superintendent met with the CTDEEP personnel on numerous occasions during the first quarter to report hydraulic conditions (due to the significant rain events) and permit exceedances.

The existing federal WPCF (NPDES) effluent permit is expiring this year (October 31, 2024). The 5-year permit renewal package was submitted to the CTDEEP before April 30 as stipulated. Additional effluent sample analysis was completed as part of the renewal package. Some of the samples were for "grab" (discrete) and some were for composite.

The Town has a long-term agreement to treat and dispose of RWCB effluent and in turn, provide treated effluent as recycle water. RWCB is in the process of updating their pre-treatment permit to increase loading to the WPCF. The last several months has shown a variable loading to the plant from RWCB with a significant drop in alkalinity. Reportedly, a number of chemical trials are ongoing.

The CTDEEP/USEPA CMOM mandates direct WPCAs to review the collection system to control influent and inflow.

RWCB submitted a notice of a permit BOD violation for their federal (pre-treatment) permit. RWCB is required to test their effluent for BOD twice per week. The plant has noticed an increase in BOD (carbon) loading requiring nutrient addition and other process modifications.

The CTDEEP has sought to continue to increase their transparency, predictability, and efficiency through the new 20BY26 Initiative that was launched on March 1, 2024. Goals of the initiative include transparency, partnerships to enhance services, improved financial mechanisms as part of permitting and enforcement and spill-reporting regulations.

The USEPA announced the first nationwide, legally enforceable limits on PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” on April 10. Under the new rule—a version of which was proposed in March 2023—public drinking water systems must limit the levels of several PFAS compounds. Utilities (that treat potable water) will have five years to comply. GU will monitor and treat potable water for distribution to the Montville WS. The USEPA does not intend to pursue WPCFs effluent limits as related to these compounds. The EPA direction indicates that the Montville WS will not have to test for PFAS at this time; it is the responsibility of the source water (GU). The Thames basin regional interconnect agreement requires that Groton provide water meeting all water quality standards. Groton has been doing quarterly PFAS testing since 2019 and, for the 6 newly regulated compounds, the vast majority of the results have been “non-detect.” At this time, even with new regs PFAS is not an issue for Groton or Montville.

The 1996 *Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments* require you to prepare an *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*, also known as a *Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)*, each year, no later than July 1st. A CCR describes the quality of your water, your source of supply, testing results, and violations (if any). Morgan Hage, Services Coordinator/Administrative Assistant and Jeff Dimmock for *Connecticut Rural Water & Wastewater Association* was met on April 19 to discuss the CCR completion.

The Federal *Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)* requires all community and non-transient non-community public water systems (PWS) to conduct materials inventory of the distribution system including water lines to all service connections supplied water by the PWS. This materials inventory must be completed and submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) by October 16, 2024. The Montville WS is currently compliant with the directive, but is working to improve the understanding of all materials used within the distribution system.

The USEPA will finalize the nation's first-ever standards for certain PFAS in drinking water on April 10, including a 4 parts per trillion limit for both PFOA and PFOS. The proposed rule looks very similar to the DRAFT rule that was publicized last spring. Under the standards, up to 6,700

water systems will need to first test for the involved types of PFAS and then bring their systems into alignment within five years. The EPA estimates compliance will cost the sector between \$772 million and \$1.2 billion annually, but the American Water Works Association puts the price tag higher at about \$3.8 billion per year.

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2024 is "Planet versus Plastics."

5.0 Development

Several inquiries for potential development projects have been presented to the WPCA for review/comment.

6.0 Financial

The WPCA operates with an *Enterprise Fund* which is operated like a private sector business account except it contains a goal target of zero-balance (year) ending. In other words, it is understood that a utility is a customer service business. The FY 2023 WPCA Sewer and Water Budgets began on July 1.

As is typical in spring, the septic receiving increased with approximately \$30,000 in revenues per month. An accounting of each hauler's receiving was made during the month. The majority of the treated effluent is recycled and sold to RWCB which adds to the monthly revenues.

A Montville WS rate increase is necessary. Wright-Pierce (WPCA Engineer) was met on April 23 and 29 to begin the formal rate study approved by the WPCA. The WPCA authorized rate study will consider the current reserve funds and the typical revenue received as compared to the costs increases associated with GU rate increases, inflation, and new water tower (as well as the unaccounted-for water). The study will first be offered for internal review. The study will likely indicate a need to include an increase in the quarterly rate by \$35 with a reduction of a minimum water allotted. Commercial accounts will also be adjusted accordingly. Notification will be made on the WPCA website for public hearing. A formal notification for approval will be made to the Town Council. The last time the WS rates were increased was via Resolution 2014-50 (July 1, 2014).

6.1 Accounts Review

Asset management is the process for maintaining a desired level of customer service at the appropriate cost and lowering asset risk.

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 and sewer GIS platforms. ArcGIS is the system of record for geospatial information and assets. The ArcGIS platform is in a unique position: It is both a system of record (permanent and inspection attributes) and a system of engagement for the operator/mechanics. They use it to collect, manage, and compile geospatial information in maps, which represent reality in a lucid way and allow for better analysis and more sound decision making.

As previously noted, the cost of depreciation is provided in utility spread sheets, but it is not an "out-of-pocket" expense. This data is an important portion of the four-part approach to asset management: planning, financial foresight, capital visibility, and data collection/review. Old assets can be sold on third party websites (i.e. Municibid) leading to revenues.

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

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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). Reimbursements for WPCA expenditures have been received on a timely basis.

A loan balance 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 for extending the water utility into the Town 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 6% decrease in plant energy demand has been observed associated with the (more controlled) lower dissolved oxygen (DO) settings/lower BOD5 loadings (for this February compared to last April) in the process tanks due to the new fine-bubble diffusers as well as the new (more efficient) turbo blowers. In __, the Administrator/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.

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 which included unit output and production, reliability, ICAP savings (summer peak day), Eversource distribution charges, new battery backup option, and 3rd party electrical supply. During the recent (2023 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.

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.

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Solar and other renewable energy sources can help you reduce your business' energy bill and carbon footprint. State-sponsored incentives we provide, as well as federal tax benefits, can make installing renewable energy an affordable investment.

Administrator McDaniel remarked on the monthly report submitted by Superintendent Albertson and reported that process has returned in spite of the heavy rainfall in March and April with good numbers in the past couple of days, the weekend and this morning. Summer help, both from Montville, a 16-year old attending Grasso Tech student and a sophomore at Central State University, will conduct lab work and cyber system computer/inventory work with SCADA and GIS mapping. Superintendent Albertson was invited to go to Hartford last week along with other area Town representatives for National Clean Water Week to showcase projects from the Clean Water Revolving Fund that the Town benefits from i.e., the water tower. The Cook Water Tower is on schedule and on budget with minor change orders. (For the record, Administrator McDaniel noted to Vice-Chair Lathrop having combined his Administrative report with that of the Superintendent due to overlap and clarity.) The bid, \$588,500, for the Stoney Brook bridge revitalization project was awarded to New England Infrastructure and finalization of notice to proceed and the contract to set project dates are in process. The 3-month project is hoped to be completed by mid-August before the milling of Route 32. Asset management review was done to get rid of some hard assets no longer owned or removed in addition to updating depreciation schedules. State approval is required on remaining funds, \$400,000, from the 2017 grant for use for the d-box project that must be used by December was also reported. The MUTA water expansion proposal at their cost and a meeting with Fire, EMS, and Police regarding the communication tower at the Cook Tower and relocation of the equipment once access to the State equipment is achieved was reported as well. Per information from Administrator McDaniel and Mayor Bunnell the communication equipment will be there for some years until the transfer is complete and no plans at this time for final removal of it. As to the lead service line inventory project, it must be complete by October 6, 2024 to make sure the lines and connections are not lead—the inventory is 85% complete with a span of 10 years to replace i.e., 10% a year. Possible funds may be available. Mayor Bunnell mentioned a Bridge street truss issue that he surveyed with Public Works Director Carlson and a proposal for a service line from Maple Avenue across Route 163 some years ago on which Administrator McDaniel responded to Commission questions and provided background on the same. At the request of Vice-Chair Lathrop, Administrator McDaniel will review the concern. The Administrator also explained that water service expansion to the DW Transport area is not plausible as there are not enough customers to support it per the engineering water survey conducted and as questioned by Commissioner Gladue.

i. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel submitted a report for May 2024 included in the meeting packet and summarized in conjunction with the Superintendent' Report as noted in Agenda Section I, Item h. The Administrative report was submitted for activity in April 2024 as follows:

- We met with Wright-Pierce regarding the Lead Service Line (LSL) inventory project. The inventory is due for submission on October 16, 2024. This is mandatory due to the EPA's new Lead and Copper rules Revisions (LCRR) in response to lead based health issues in community water systems. The new Lead and Copper Rules Improvements (LCRI) will be promulgated after October but it is anticipated that there will be a 10 year replacement mandate for all lead based connections and service lines. The "clock" is expected to commence in 2027 and there will be a 10%/year replacement goal which must be completed by 2037. We are making significant progress with our inventory through the review of service line connection as-builts. We are fortunate that we are a smaller and younger system which should mean very few lead based lines and/or connections.
- We had the bid opening for the Stony Brook Bridge Rehabilitation Project. There were two bidders, Northern Construction for \$628,000 and New England Infrastructure for \$588,500. After reviewing the submissions, NE Infrastructure was awarded the project. We met with their team on 4/25 and were impressed with their readiness and preparation. Project duration is expected to last from Mid-May to the end of July. This will work well with the CT DOT's milling and repaving schedule for Route 32 beginning in the same area.
- According to a conversation with District 2 at CT DOT, milling for Route 32 will occur between 8/28 and 9/2 with repaving between 9/16 and 10/2. They will be working from Massapeag Road to the Waterford line. We have inventoried and begun ordering new manhole covers and rings as well as water covers for the project. The CT DOT also ordered

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us to repave the repaired area from Maple Avenue, across Route 32, and Depot Road to full 9” depth. This was quoted by and ordered from B&W (on the State bid list) for \$50,000 and we are awaiting the schedule. This will be billable to Rand Whitney (RWCB).

- We conducted an Asset Management review with staff to clean up the list and assess depreciation schedules. This will be ongoing.
- We continued work on getting the bid package approved by the State DEEP for the Distribution Box Resurfacing Project in order to utilize the remaining State grant funds.
- We researched and made specifications for the replacement Septage Receiving Station (**Agenda Item**).
- The parts have been received for the fixed bar screen assembly. In-house staff will be installing at a significant savings to the authority.
- We had an informal meeting with the Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority (MTUA) regarding a potential water expansion on Broadview Ave. This would be a fully Tribal funded project and appears to be in conformance with the Exclusive Service Areas (ESAs) established by the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC).
- I attended the Region 4 Emergency Management Cyber Working Group presentation by [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#).
- We held our monthly Cook Drive Water Tower meeting. We are currently on schedule and on budget. We met with Town Emergency Management (EMS) and communications personnel to discuss current and future communication connections on the existing and new water towers. We then conferred with Wright-Pierce that only our equipment (including Groton Utilities) will be installed on the new tower and that alternate plans are being made for the relocation/abandonment of the EMS Fire/EMT/Police communications equipment off the existing tower.
- I attended the Region 4 Emergency Equipment Rodeo and Symposium at Camp Nett sponsored by CCM. This was to get a feel for equipment that may be available to us in times of emergency or natural disaster.
- I attended the semi-annual 2024 New England States Pipeline Safety Program Workshop.

j. Report from Mayor – *None*

k. Report from Engineers -- *None*

l. Old Business -- *None*

m. New Business

0. To Consider and Act on the Bid Waiver for Replacement of the WPCF Septage Receiving Station. (**Correction as Item m.1 of New Business**)

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town Charter for the Replacement of the *Lakeside Raptor Septic Acceptance Plant Equipment* for \$160,000 (one hundred sixty thousand dollars) per the April 16, 2024 Lakeside Equipment Corp Budgetary Proposal No. 24-146, as it is a sole-source condition and in the best interest of the Town.

Motion – Discussion -- Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2024-10 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town Charter for the Replacement of the *Lakeside Raptor Septic Acceptance Plant Equipment* for \$160,000 (one hundred sixty thousand dollars) per the April 16, 2024 Lakeside Equipment Corp Budgetary Proposal No. 24-146, as it is a sole-source condition and in the best interest of the Town. **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue: Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported on the emergency status of the waiver for sealed bid stating the equipment is so specific and has been banded together but now requires immediate repair. The same has been on the CIP for two (2) years. As to questions concerning immediacy of the repair, explanation was given by the Administrator of the role of the Superintendent who was doing two (2) jobs. The Commission concurred that better planning is expected with an eye

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on these maintenance items instead of reacting as needed. **Roll Call vote: *In favor: Vice-Chair Lathrop, Commissioner Gladue, and Commissioner Miceli. Opposed: none. Vote 3-0-0, all in favor.***

1. To Consider and Act on the Bid Waiver for the purchase of six (6) grinder pumps.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town Charter for the Purchase of Six (6) *E/One Extreme Series Grinder Pumps* for \$19,488 (nineteen thousand four hundred eighty eight dollars) per the April 23, 2024 F.R. Mahony & Assoc Budgetary Proposal No. QTRL01632, as it is a sole-source condition and in the best interest of the Town.

Motion.--Discussion.--Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2024-11 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town Charter for the Purchase of Six (6) *E/One Extreme Series Grinder Pumps* for \$19,488 (nineteen thousand four hundred eighty eight dollars) per the April 23, 2024 F.R. Mahony & Assoc Budgetary Proposal No. QTRL01632, as it is a sole-source condition and in the best interest of the Town. **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported the pumps that are used have spare parts for \$3,000. There are no new ones in stock and one (1) failed two weeks ago. In addition, grinder pumps are being phased out. Mayor Bunnell reported that one (1) of his failed and he had to travel to Boston to get one. The Administrator said the cost of a bid package for the item at \$15,000 - \$20,000 would have been more expensive. The bid process per the Town Charter has a limit of \$10,000; the Administrator will check to see whether that limit can be raised. State contractors are busy and do come in handy but at present no one has the parts. Commissioner Miceli noted the item was on the CIP for two (2) years; Commissioner Gladue has a problem with large expenditures. **Roll Call vote: *In favor: Vice-Chair Lathrop, Commissioner Gladue, and Commissioner Miceli. Opposed: none. Vote 3-0-0, all in favor.***

2. To Consider and Act on a Bid Waiver for the Repair of the RWCB Discharge Line.

THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town of Charter for the Remaining Replacement of the RWCB discharge line (beginning Phase III) including 750 linear feet and allocate funds not to exceed \$315,000 (three hundred fifteen thousand dollars).

Motion.--Discussion.--Roll Call Vote

SAR-No. 2024-12 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES To Consider and Act to waive the sealed bid requirement in Section 708(a) of the Town of Charter for the Remaining Replacement of the RWCB discharge line (beginning Phase III) including 750 linear feet and allocate funds not to exceed \$315,000 (three hundred fifteen thousand dollars). **Motion** by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue. Discussion: Administrator McDaniel reported that this item came up with Rand-Whitney on Thursday. He spoke of completion of Phase 2 and the start of Phase 3, the replacement of the discharge line for another 750 feet; however, Rand-Whitney wants more. The Administrator had asked Bill Pieniadz to be present this evening to explain. Per discussion, it was noted that the older two (2) lines are still being used, not the bypass. Mayor Bunnell noted he is familiar with the contractor but said some things should be put out to bid. The project is all reimbursable to the Town. The Commission discussed the advantage of using P & H Construction for their knowledge of the Rand-Whitney facility, their ability to get good pricing for materials, and the good working relationship. Commissioner Gladue expressed using the bid process to keep them honest. It was also noted by Commissioner Miceli that the first two (2) incidences were emergencies and at the beginning of the project. **Roll Call vote: *In favor: Vice-Chair Lathrop, Commissioner Gladue, and Commissioner Miceli. Opposed: none. Vote 3-0-0, all in favor.***

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n. Report/Referrals from Planning & Zoning

Chairman Longton is the liaison to this Commission and no information was forwarded. Discussion of a cannabis facility on Route 85 was discussed at the meeting.

II. Water Commission

a. Report from Operations

Administrator McDaniel mentioned again recognition given to Superintendent Albertson in reference to National Clean Water Week. He mentioned the EPA and Pfas that identifies the bad stuff/chemicals etc. in water that requires a response. The Administrator noted that responsibility for the same rests with Groton Utilities that has been doing testing but nothing has been found. A lot of companies are conducting these tests that is a very heavy investment in having clean water. Software is being used for these audits to determine a baseline for all water costs.

b. Report from Administration

Administrator McDaniel reported he is continuing to learn about the Neptune system; a robust system to do more data analysis and audits. The system also has the ability to automatically track spiked water usage.

c. Report from Engineers -- None

d. Old Business -- None

e. New Business -- None

III. Remarks

a. Remarks from the Public with a three-minute time limit

Vice-Chair Lathrop asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.

b. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Gladue questioned how long the stage 3 bid will take; Administrator McDaniel responded it would take a couple of months. Commissioner Miceli remarked he has been on the Commission for the last six (6) months and he was looking to find out what it can or cannot do but noted they are not done in the middle of project. Commissioner Gladue asked whether the d-box project had gone out to bid; Administrator McDaniel reported it had not pending approval by the State. Commissioner Gladue noted the Administrator is doing a good job but noted there is a lot to learn and maintain. Mayor Bunnell remarked there is no worry about the WPCA; Administrator remarked on keeping things honest. Commissioner Miceli also noted he would attend the next meeting.

c. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Miceli; seconded by Commissioner Gladue to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 3-0-0. **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.**