**TOWN OF MONTVILLE**

**Water & Sewer Commission**

**Regular Meeting Agenda** – **October 5, 2020-- 6:00 PM**

**Town Council Chambers – 310 Norwich-New London Turnpike**

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**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 or by live audio via GoToMeeting.**

**Written comments must be emailed to the Town Clerk’s Office at** [**townclerk@montville-ct.org**](mailto:townclerk@montville-ct.org%20) **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 Water & Sewer Commission.**

**Live audio comments may be made via GoToMeeting by calling from your telephone.**

**Comments will only be accepted at times designated for public comment by the Chair of the meeting. The Water & Sewer Commission Rules of Procedure, decorum, timeliness, and suitability shall be followed and enforced in the same manner as if the meeting were held in person.**

1. **Water and Sewer Commission**
2. Call to Order

Chairman Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and pledged the flag.

1. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Shawn Jinkerson, Brian Quinn (by phone) Anthony Siragusa, Town Councilor Tim May (by phone) and Chairman Chuck Longton (by phone). Also present was WPCA Chief Operator/Superintendent Derek Albertson, Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and Accountant Katherine Turker. A quorum was present.

*(Technical difficulties caused a delay in meeting and was corrected at 6:18 p.m.)*

1. Alterations to the Agenda -- *None*
2. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020.

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa, seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020. Discussion: none. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried. (*Mayor McDaniel asked that the Commissioners identify themselves for the record.)*

1. Communications pertaining specifically to matters which concern the Commission

Commissioner Siragusa commented on the format of Dropbox being different. Superintendent Albertson spoke of a software upgrade that was sent out to all parties. Mayor McDaniel offered to assist Commissioner Siragusa with the same.

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

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

1. Report from Operations/Administration Division

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations Report for September 2020 as follows:

**1.0 Compliance/Process**

1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility

Effluent quality from the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) met state and federal action levels. Approximately 40 lbs/day of Total Nitrogen (TN) were discharged in the treated effluent- well below the CTDEEP WPCF general permit limit (118 lbs/day). Effective waste sludge thickening (> 5% solids) was observed and will result in lower trucking costs for this fiscal year. A complete process evaluation was made due to seasonal temperature changes and limit waste sludge production.

1.2 Water Supply

The water supply (WS) met required standards. The Town WS continued to increase the demand of water purchased from City of Groton, Department of Utilities (GU). A drought announcement was made to the WPCA website with (typical) conservation measures cited. GU reported adequate (water) storage capacity with no drought controls dictated. The WPCA has received calls from residents about dry wells with some residents requesting connection information for the Montville WS.

1.3 Health Crisis

On October 2, Norwich health officials reported an alarming increase of COVID-19 cases. Most states have quarantine orders upon entry into Connecticut. Experts predict a second peak due to schools reopening and failure of the public to adhere to CDC guidelines. The Superintendent will continue to be vigilant to address state and federal guidelines to control the spread of the illness within the work place. The concentration of SARS-CoV-2 virus appears to be low in feces and raw wastewater and considered inactive. Several POTWs have elected to test influent for contact tracing purposes. Yale University researchers measured SARS-CoV-2 RNA concentrations in wastewater influent in the New Haven POTW in a 10-week study and, when adjusted for time lags, tracked the rise and fall of cases seen in SARS-CoV-2 clinical test results and local COVID-19 hospital admissions; immediate wastewater results can provide considerable advance notice of infection dynamics. In one study, a low concentration of the virus has been detected in surface water bodies. The virus has not been detected in U.S. water supplies. For the latest information, resources, executive orders, and guidance related to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit ct.gov/coronavirus. The pandemic (the rapid, uncontrolled spread of the virus) will likely end, but experts think it will continue to transmit at lower levels (endemic spread). Over time, endemic viruses typically become less harmful.

1.4 Weather

According to Connecticut’s *Interagency Drought Workgroup*, New London County is experiencing conditions consistent with a *Stage 2 Drought*, which is an emerging drought event potentially impacting water supplies, agriculture, or natural ecosystems. The workgroup may recommend elevating the affected counties to *Stage 3 Drought*, necessitating more stringent conservation and mitigation measures. Conditions in eastern Connecticut have deteriorated rapidly in recent weeks (even with some rain events in the last week) resulting in low streamflow and groundwater levels. According to the Office of Policy & Management, residents are being asked to voluntarily cut back on water use to minimize future drought impact.

Reportedly, The Manor production wells are dry and are being recharged with tanker trucks. While this is a common short-term alternative, it is not a long-term solution. Additionally, Oxoboxo Lake has been drained which has adversely affected wells in that area; the lake level was dropped by approximately 16 feet for dam repairs. Rand-Whitney is pulling their process water exclusively from the WPCF due to their drought (pond water) restriction. The consistently good process and recent maintenance activities have made for high quality effluent/recycle water (low turbidity).

Hurricane season began on June 1. NOAA’s *Climate Prediction Center* has forecasted a record number of (named) storms, including hurricanes. Emergency response measures have been taken by the staff. September was *National Preparedness Month*. A review of emergencies like hurricanes/high winds was completed with staff. There is a potential for sea level rise affecting the Town’s infrastructure. In September 2019, the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* published a special report, which identified that New England's geography makes it acutely susceptible to sea level rise/coastal flooding. Any extreme weather event and/or substantial rise in sea level would cause negative impacts to infrastructure. In the coming FY, the Superintendent will identify critical areas and define an appropriate response.

**2.0 Staff**

2.1 Personnel

No reports of employee injury/accidents this month. No significant absenteeism was observed. The Clerk is still out on sick leave.

None of the current Montville WPCF team has indicated symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for the associated virus. The health issue related to the virus is considered long-term. There is the potential for second and third waves of infections with in the upcoming (seasonal) flu season. The potential of staff absenteeism due to illness is still significant. Cleaning, good hygiene practices, social distancing and mask wearing have been emphasized. The plant staff has been encouraged to participate in the Town-coordinated flu shot clinic in October. Staff (considered essential) that travel out of state may have to quarantine prior to return to work or show a negative COVID-19 test result. Effective September 18, 2020, Connecticut’s *Travel Advisory* was amended to permit a voluntary traveler to “test out” in lieu of quarantine- a traveler can “test out” of quarantine if a negative test is within the 72 hours prior to arrival in Connecticut. State reporting requirements are required.

Governor Ned Lamont announced on September 25 the details to move Connecticut into Phase 3 of the state’s reopening. The plan, which is targeted, to take effect on Thursday, October 8, 2020, will ease some of the restrictions that were put into place on businesses and gatherings. The relaxing of controls does not have an immediate effect on the WPCA.

The *AFSCME Council 4 MAME*, Local 818 (management) Union approved a contract offer on July 14 (old agreement due to expire on June 30, 2020).

2.2 Response to Crisis

A two-step *COVID-19 Contingency Plan* was prepared by the Superintendent in March; it has been posted on the Town and WPCA websites. OSHA reports that current (wastewater) disinfection techniques have been proven adequate to prevent transmission- extra measures are not needed.

A blue-ribbon panel of experts convened by the *Water Environment Federation* to evaluate safety of wastewater workers during the coronavirus pandemic concluded that operator occupational risk of infection is low. The EPA reports that the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in U.S. drinking-water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low.

CTWARN is a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) in which the WPCA participates. It allows water and wastewater systems in Connecticut to receive rapid mutual aid and assistance during the pandemic.

2.3 Training

Since the July 2020 CTDEEP wastewater exams were canceled, water and wastewater organizations have cancelled training classes in 2020. The Superintendent and staff continued to receive online training from EPA, CTDEEP, WEF, AWWA, NEWEA, HACH, and IDEXX. Sexual harassment training was completed by all staff.

Water Operators attended training on September 28 and 29 to achieve their required training credits for the year; and be certified in cross-connection inspections.

**3.0 Equipment**

3.1 WPCF

On September 17 and 23, the chlorine contact chamber and EQ tanks were drained and cleaned to ensure recycle water quality. A & A Office Systems, Inc. personnel corrected a scanning issue on the office copier/printer device. Quadient personnel cleaned and calibrated our billing (inserter/mailing) machine in preparation for the October billing cycle.

Information regarding a new air delivery blower had been provided in the March 2020 WPCA Meeting; the minutes from April 2020 indicated a tacit approval to move forward with the try-to-buy purchase. Specifically, a new blower was installed by Atlas Copco for a six-month trial period (April 17 to October 14). The new compact blower replaced a HSI unit that was oversized and had been problematic since its installation 7 years ago. Atlas Copco had purchased HSI (manufacturer of the original blower) and wanted to honor the HSI relationship with the WPCF by correcting the issues identified. Atlas Copco had waived the installation fee ($17,000), given a $30,000 rebate, and waived the six-month rental fee (estimated at $25,000). Since installation, the new unit has provided excellent air delivery leading with overall energy savings and improved process control. The blower was installed as part of a six month “try to buy” trial. The WPCA only expended $9,999 for delivery for the trial. The WPCA will need to vote on the (purchase) expenditure (three quotes included) for the amount of $84,493 by October 14. If not approved, the blower will be removed by Atlas Copco (at no cost) or start assessing the standard rental fees of $890 per day. Eventually, a new blower will need to be purchased at a much higher price (see two other quotes) to meet air demands for two process tanks. Lead times for delivery are in excess of three months, typically.

Mapping, organization and labelling of the existing internet hardware was begun on September 2 to begin the understanding of how the ISP enters the building and to consolidate equipment in the main building and outbuildings. An effort was made by Contemporary Computer Consultants and Mercury Computers to reduce wiring (and length of wiring), switches, modems, and routers to improve the effectiveness of the ISP service to both the operation (SCADA) and office support. Additionally, UPS units were staged where appropriate for backup power. A new workstation was installed on September 24 in the laboratory by Mercury Computers to replace one with a failed hard drive. Due to the timely response, no records were lost.

A security incident involving unauthorized access to Tyler Tech (parent company of Munis, WPCA accounting software) was reported in September. The company considered it the highest priority to address the threat and worked with independent IT experts to conduct a thorough investigation and response. No problems were encountered with the WPCA systems; however, it was recommended that staff reset passwords on the remote network access. Homeland Security's cybersecurity advisory unit has issued a rare emergency alert for Microsoft Windows. CISA issued an alert for *Windows* software servers determined to be vulnerable to the so-called Zero logon attack. The network vulnerability is rated the maximum 10.0 in severity and could allow an attacker to take control of computers on a network, including domain controllers, the servers that manage a network's security. No problems with Microsoft products were encountered.

As indicated, a review of the security control of workstations and software (including SCADA) was completed for current and future conditions. The WPCF hardware is being managed, including UPSs, domain controllers and servers and equipment that manage a network's day to day operation. Internet protection software was renewed for another year of coverage by *Trend Micro Inc*., a multinational cyber security software company. Woodward & Curran (Town Engineer) personnel will improve the existing “fire wall” for SCADA specific internet protection as part of their August 2020 proposal. As indicated, the June 2020 Blum Shapiro *Review of IT Controls* indicated that the overall control environment at the Montville WPCA remains generally satisfactory in areas of high risk. During October (*National Cybersecurity Awareness Month*), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) will offer resources for reducing cybersecurity risks. These materials are free and may be modified to meet our needs.

Biosafe Systems personnel were met onsite on September 28 to confirm a test run of *GC Liquid Oxidizer Treatment* (solution) injection to prevent the formation of hydrogen sulfide in two distribution boxes (d-boxes). Due to the nature of the wastewater influent (strength), a large amount of H2S accumulates in the d-boxes (creates an acidic environment) which is destroying the concrete walls. Confirmatory sampling with be conducted in-house at the WPCF laboratory. The FY 2021 CIP allows for engineering survey of the two structures for eventual replacement; this is a temporary remedy by the Town Engineer (Woodard & Curran).

3.2 Collection System/Water Supply

All pump stations were inspected during the month of September with FOG pumping at several stations. A new paved apron was installed at the Indian Hill PS (aka Hillcrest PS). A total of 12,300 linear feet (2.3 miles) of cleaning / CCTV inspection has been completed in calendar year 2020.

**4.0 Projects**

4.1 General

Project initiation has been delayed due to the pandemic with a pause on the grit chamber, SBR-4 diffuser replacement, and the plant water recycling. The *National League of Cities* reports that 65% of municipalities have paused upgrades to infrastructure even with consent-order mandates. The AWWA’s *State of the Water Industry Report* once again highlighted that access to funding for capital projects was the second biggest concern for water utilities. The Montville WPCA is fortunate to have funding to support appropriate infrastructure projects. Please see the engineering summary table for information about WPCA projects.

The former administrator’s office was reconfigured, cleaned, and made into work space as well as the main network center. The USGS agreement to fund water flow metering gage within the Oxoboxo Brook (below Rockland Pond) was extended. VFS has determined that the best approach for long term reliability is to install a new RO System for make-up water free of most dissolved mineral content particularly at higher temperatures. This is an approximate $10,000 cost that VFS will cover. Another acoustic study was completed on September 23. A kickoff meeting for the RO unit installation (for fuel cell make-up water) occurred on October 1 by SARRACCO personnel.

4.2 Permitting

The current effective date of the new *General Permit for Discharges from Miscellaneous Industrial Users* (MIU GP) is October 31, 2020. The expected changes to the MIU GP will require local (Superintendent) authority to regulate and enforce non-significant industrial users (non-SIUs). The CTDEEP and USEPA however will continue to regulate and enforce the SIUs. In anticipation of the reissued MIU GP, the WPCA will need to implement the changes to sewer regulations and sewer connection registration and approval procedures, to prepare a current industrial user list that would be permitted under the new MIU GP, and to develop a pretreatment program framework to monitor, inspect, certify, and register non-SIUs subject to the new MIU GP. Industrial inspections (to begin October 7) will be benefit by expanding the Superintendent’s knowledge/control of the collection system. Inspections are proposed for DW Transport, Uncasville Quick Lube, Fairfield Inn, James Laundromat, Suburban Propane, and several dentist offices.

As part of the general permit for stormwater control, an inspection occurred on September 16. No immediate concerns were identified.

4.3 CMOM

An electrician and Woodard & Curran personnel began work on the Pheasant Run PS as part of the FY 2021 CIP (upgrade) project; Avery I PS work has been completed and the Pequot PS work is being scheduled.

The *Montville Sewer Easement Improvements Project* (CIP FY 2020) is now in the Wright-Pierce (Town Engineer) designed (phased) approach to help move the project forward. The proposed Phase I would not require an immediate response to the contesting landowners nor formal permitting. The Engineer was met on September 9 and 23 and October 1 to review changes to scope and scheduling. Biological (plant) surveys will be needed as part of the NDDB (endangered species) compliance. The subsequent bidding will be designed to limit cost increases. The overall goal is to provide access to the largest cross-country sewer to satisfy USEPA/CTDEEP CMOM directives. This can be done by clearing in the areas of designated as C2, C3, C4, C5 and C9 with access roads constructed from C10 to C3 and C4 intersection (see mapping). As part of the planning work, several documents for the notification letters will be sent to the affected property owners and also a request for temporary use (wood chip storage). As part of finalizing notification/bidding documents as well as bond and insurance limits, Attorney Richard Cody (Town Attorney) was consulted during the October 1 meeting for the easement understanding, property notification and insurance.

Manhole inspections continued with repairs to those considered priority; most recently along Route 32. In total, 30 manholes have been repaired this calendar year. An effort will be made to finish the manhole improvement project prior to the closure of the asphalt plants for the season.

**5.0 Development**

Requests for information regarding a land parcel sewer connections have increased significantly. Developers report a significant increase in real estate development.

**6.0 Finances**

6.1 Accounts Review

The first quarter’s account sheets are included for review.

6.2 Budget(s)/Assets

Please see the budget sheets for financial information about the WPCA WS and WPCF. The FY 2021 water and sewer budgets for the WPCA were approved earlier this year; a conservative approach was made for FY 2021 due to the expected loss of revenue stream due to the pandemic.

No increase to rates was suggested by the Superintendent. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) reports that the majority of its members are concerned about meeting financial goals for operations. The vast majority of utilities lost money in FY 2020 (the Montville WPCA did not) related to drop in revenues. A 30-day moratorium extension was made for water shut-offs/late fees during the last meeting; the commission would have to approve further extensions. According to the AWWA, 96% of utilities suspended shut offs for non-payment. Connecticut’s Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) issued a ruling on September 23 that will extend the enrollment period for the COVID-19 Payment Program for non-residential customers through November 1.

6.3 Pandemic Response

The executive orders established during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic were set to expire on September 9, 2020; however, the Governor has extended the Declaration of a Health Emergency until Feb. 9, 2021. The Governor announced the emergency was placed in response to the pandemic. The declaration authorizes the Governor to order certain actions that will help expedite the response and the potential for reimbursement funding to municipalities.

6.4 Grants

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*, approved via March 2014 Town of Montville Resolution No. 2014-25). The bonds were for infrastructure improvements within the plant. The grant money is being used for the new chlorine system, new recycling pumps, and grit removal system.

The 2020 CTDEEP Draft *Integrated Water Quality Report* was prepared to satisfy statutory reporting requirements pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) to assess designated uses established by the State’s *Water Quality Standards* (CTWQS). Relative to the document, the treatment plant is a point source of discharge and is available for federal funding (grants and low interest loans) for wastewater infrastructure improvement projects. Additional CTDEEP grant monies were applied for via the *Connecticut Clean Water Fund Request to Place Project on Priority List* for monies for constructing a (sewer) collection system asset management plan.

Potential water grant needs were sent to the CTDPH via their *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Eligibility Application*. Specifically, grant monies would help pay for the evaluation and/or replacement or painting of the Cook Tower water storage facility (a FY 2021 CIP project). The CTDPH notified the Superintendent in June that it had reviewed the *Eligibility Application* (EA) submitted for the *Cook Hill Tank Evaluation and Rehabilitation* project under the DWSRF Program, and the proposed project is eligible for funding. The study, design and construction will be covered by 50% grant and 50% low interest loan (2%, 20-year term) that can be pre-paid at any time. A proposal for engineering for that project was received by the Town Engineer (Wright Pierce) on May 28.

FEMA recently announced a new grant program, *Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities* (BRIC), which is now available and is intended to support hazard mitigation projects with a strong focus on construction projects. The *Flood Mitigation Assistance* (FMA) program is also open. FMA is an existing grant program used for flood mitigation planning, projects, and acquisitions of flood-prone properties. The Superintendent is looking into both for appropriate application(s) as it relates to extreme weather events and/or sea level rise.

6.5 Town Audit

Blum Shapiro (Town Auditor) have continued to work with staff about the annual Town audit. The review of financial records has been extensive. Mr. Grelish was onsite in September with staff for approximately 20 hours during September reviewing financial materials. Matthew E. Bonin, CPA (Manager) of Blum Shapiro was met on September 30 and October 2 to review the audit status.

6.6 Energy

Typically, individual wastewater facilities currently consume about five times more energy than is needed to treat their water flow, with most going to aeration of treatment tanks. The energy use is expected to increase by up to 20% in the future due to more stringent water quality standards and growing water demand based on population growth. Reducing energy usage in these facilities can yield significant environmental, economic, and social benefits for local communities.

The Superintendent reviewed available U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in the Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIF) program online. The initiative contributed to the development of resources in energy data management, measure evaluation, project financing, and improvement planning to help your fellow water resource recovery facilities across the country. DOE facility partners are predicted to reduce their total energy consumption by more than 8% in three years with innovative and best-practice energy management and planning approaches.

While there was a large increase in Eversource transmission costs, the WPCA energy savings program has successfully addressed the concern for increased costs. A reduction in energy cost expenditures has been created with onsite generation (reduction in transmission costs) and new energy contract (lower purchase cost). Next year will show increased savings due to the reduction of peak hour costs and lighting efficiencies and additional onsite power generation with the standby generators. Montville still qualifies as a CT Distressed Municipality as such may qualify for savings under the Eversource *Shared Clean Energy Facility* (SCEF) program. Additionally, the DOE has produced a number of tools and resources that support energy data management for wastewater operations, and planning, implementation, and financing for comprehensive energy efficiency and resource recovery projects to achieve 30% energy savings.

The Mayor had suggested onsite generation several years ago because municipal wastewater treatment systems are typically the largest energy users in a community. The Doosan *PureCell Model 400* Fuel Cell unit began producing power (operating at 460 kW) on June 24 with the first month of service ending on July 24 and the second month ending on August 24 and the third month ending in September 24. Preliminary results indicated the fuel cell to be running at or near 100% capacity (11,000 kWh/d) resulting in a large drop (78% less) in grid power demand in September. This drastically reduces the transmission costs as well as lowers the carbon footprint of the facility. The lower of demand also will have a very promising effect on next year’s peak power costs.

The WPCA had an October 2016 contract with Balanced Rock Energy (energy broker) scheduled to end in December 2021. The WPCA signed a new (August 27) contract to gain savings for electrical energy unit costs by shopping in the market. The Superintendent is working with the broker to establish additional savings by using the onsite standby generators/fuel cell during “demand response” conditions in peak usage times (typically summer).

Energy efficiency in equipment, processes, and operations is a fundamental goal and the WPCF is planning on partnering with *Energize CT* (with an Energy Efficiency program application) as part of the relationship with Eversource to offer cash incentives to implement qualifying energy efficiency projects associated with lightening, VFDs, water heating, cooling/heating, and others. On September 24, the Superintendent and the Mayor met with SARRACCO following their August energy audit. The September 2020 SARRACCO *Energy Assessment for New & Retrofit Lighting* report is provided along with their work proposal. The WPCA would have to approve the non-budgeted expense for their proposed work regarding lightening fixture replacement for energy efficiency (savings). The efficiency project lowers the carbon footprint of the facility.

Superintendent Albertson summarized his monthly report to the Commission and focused on the ample, high quality of the water supply to meet the needs of the Town; no illnesses or labor concerns, the absence of the clerk; prioritized satisfaction for the Town Auditor; Covid still being a concern; obtaining more PPE; and decontamination devices. Discussion about the Dropbox problem that Town Councilor May said could be downloaded into a home directory via a link in the body of email. Superintendent Albertson said he work on it to be ready for the next meeting and Mayor McDaniel said he would help with it.

1. Report from Mayor

Mayor McDaniel reported the fuel cell was at 100% capacity and running well and noted an item in the meeting packet to expand efficiency at the plant.

**j.** Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson cited items in his monthly report, specifically the drought, no controls for usage from Groton Utilities; the fuel cell and reduction in power transmission next year from CL&P; the work on security protection for the internet, plant devices, and the SCADA system. He updated Commissioner Siragusa regarding his question on who was handling each aspect of the project according to the Town purchasing procedures said Mayor McDaniel.

**k.** Old Business

1. Town Audit

Superintendent Albertson reported the due date for the audit as October 19 with the new auditing firm Bloom Shapiro.

1. Water Shut-off Moratorium

Superintendent Albertson reported as discussed at the last meeting that 96% of utilities nationwide have suspended shutoffs.

**l.** New Business

1. To consider and act on the extension of the water shut-off moratorium.

**The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission** hereby resolves to extend the Water Supply moratorium on water shutoffs and late fees.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR-No. 2020-24 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to extend the Water Supply moratorium on water shutoffs and late fees. Motion by Commissioner Jinkerson; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa. Discussion: Commissioner Siragusa asked how long the moratorium would last at a payment of $15 per month. Accountant Turker reported water bills 90-120 days in arrears totaled $10,000 to which Commission Quinn responded the Town could lien but Commissioner Jinkerson said more data was needed to support continuation of the moratorium. Chairman Longton proposed voting on the motion as written at the next meeting pending more data. Mayor McDaniel said there was no state restriction for water shutoffs unlike for gas and electric. He spoke of the Town unemployment rate 13-14%, meals provided per week (800); the failure of Congress to pass the stimulus, and the eviction moratorium. Commissioner Quinn inquired about the need for a hardship letter that was problematic due to the clerk being out of the office, the audit, accounts payable, and the inability to get temporary help, per Mayor McDaniel. Roll Call vote: *In favor* Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, May, Quinn, and Siragusa. *Opposed*, none. 5-0 vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

2 To consider and act on approval of the SARRACCO Energy Assessment for New Retrofit Lighting proposal.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR-No. 2020-25 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to act on a $31,464.61 (proposal) SARRACCO Energy Assessment for New Retrofit Lighting proposal for more energy efficiency and less environmental impact. Motion by Commissioner Jinkerson; seconded by Commissioner May. Discussion: Mayor McDaniel explained the company had been used by the WPCA and said the fuel cell system was installed at no cost to the Town and would get funds through Eversource credits. He also said it was a separate energy project being proposed, a standalone program. Commissioner Jinkerson spoke of the expectation for savings, but he and Commissioner Quinn commented on it not being in line with the Charter or policy regarding purchases and said it should be put out to bid due to the scope of the project. Roll Call vote: *In favor*, none. *Opposed*, Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, May, Quinn, and Siragusa. 0-5 vote, all in favor. Motion denied. The motion will be brought back next month with three (3) bids.

1. To consider and act on approval of the purchase of the Atlas Copco Blower following the six month “try to buy” trial ending in October 2020 following the comparison of three quotes.

**SAR-No. 2020-26 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to act on the $84,493.00 purchase of the Atlas Copco Blower following the previously approved six month “try to buy” trial ending in October 2020. It is the cheapest of the three procured quotes for blower replacement. Motion by Chairman Longton; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa. Discussion: Superintendent Albertson spoke of the history surrounding the “try to buy” period as discussed at last month’s meeting and identified in his monthly report. He explained the effluents were now four (4) times as high; the process could be controlled in two (2) tanks; and the water is cleaner than that in the river. Commissioner Siragusa said he supported the purpose but said the process was done completely wrong. Commissioner Jinkerson concurred and said the waiving of the purchase policy was a concern. Mayor McDaniel said the purchase was not part of a sealed bid process but a warranty issue for a try to buy period to meet specific assessment specifications. Commissioner Jinkerson also asked how quotes were received from companies within a few blocks of each other and why the bids were not sought in CT. Roll Call vote: *In favor* Commissioners Longton, Jinkerson, May, Quinn, and Siragusa. *Opposed*, none. 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**n.** Payment of Bills -- *None*

**II. Water Commission**

1. Report from Engineers

Superintendent Alberton reported again on the drought conditions and said no directives were received from Groton Utilities but purchase from them has risen that reflects the amount of water being used. He also reported he had gotten calls about dry wells and one from a veteran who he helped with the connection to purchase water with Kittimaug. Superintendent Albertson responded to Commissioner Siragusa’s question concerning the area for extension of the water line and said there are many who could connect. He also responded to Commissioner Siragusa that the agreement with Hillcrest guaranteed water for that area purchased by SCWA who are not billed if water is not used, per Accountant Turker.

1. Old Business -- *None*
2. New Business -- *None*
3. Remarks from the Public

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

1. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Quinn remarked that Superintendent Albertson was doing well overall and also said the word dirt was a harsh word. Town Councilor May spoke about more clarification and policy as to choosing a bidder. Commissioner Jinkerson thanked Commissioner Quinn and clarified that he did not say that anyone was dirty. He spoke about having respect for the bid process as noted in the Town Charter and per policy stating the process was still not in line. Chairman Longton thanked everyone for coming to meet in person.

1. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Siragusa, seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Discussion, none. Voice vote; 5-0, 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.**