

**TOWN OF MONTVILLE**  
**Water & Sewer Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda – March 4, 2021-- 6:00 PM**  
**Town Council Chambers – 310 Norwich-New London Turnpike**

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

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On March 14, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order 7B suspending in-person open meeting requirements, and to hold such meetings or proceedings remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology.

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7B.pdf>

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) 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**

**a. Call to Order**

Chairman Longton called the regular meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and pledged the flag.

**c. Roll Call**

Present were Commissioners Anthony Siragusa and Chairman Chuck Longton in chambers and Commissioner Shawn Jinkerson, and Town Councilor Tim May remotely. Also present was WPCA Chief Operator/Superintendent Derek Albertson, Accountant Clerk Katherine Turker, and Mayor Ronald McDaniel. Commissioner Brian Quinn was absent. A quorum was present.

**d. To consider and act on a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021 (no meeting on February 1, 2021)**

Motion by Commissioner May; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2021. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Superintendent Albertson reported as of February 28, 2021, the State of Connecticut announced it was shifting Covid vaccination eligibility to age status. He said most of the plant staff are over age 55 and said some younger, critical workers will have to wait to March or April to be vaccinated.

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

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

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

Superintendent Albertson submitted an Operations Report for February 2021 as follows:

**1.0 Compliance/Process**

**1.1 Water Pollution Control Facility**

Due to weather events and continued drop in influent (contribution) flow from the casino, process control issues were encountered in the beginning of the month; effluent from the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) experienced “soft exceedances” for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS, but not large enough to require formal reporting. The influent to the plant has dropped considerably in the last several months as compared to last year. However, Total Nitrogen (TN) loading was discharged in the treated effluent well below the CTDEEP WPCF general permit limit.

Effective waste sludge thickening (only 4% solids) has been a struggle due to process control issues, but overall, the plant has achieved lower trucking (hauling for disposal) costs for this fiscal year and last.

The New England Water Environmental Association (NEWEA) awarded the WPCA the 2021 *Wastewater Utility Award*. This award serves to acknowledge the outstanding performance of a wastewater division in the New England area as illustrated through the implementation of industry best management practices.

### 1.2 Water Supply

The water supply (WS) met required standards. The October fire in Town demonstrated a pressure issue within the Cradle Hill area supply lines due to topography. Future consideration of a remedy (i.e., relief valve) should be considered.

*World Water Day* is scheduled for March 22. *World Water Day* is an annual U.N. observance day that highlights the importance of freshwater. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme of each day focuses on topics relevant to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. The Superintendent will be joining representatives from the *Water Planning Council, Save the Sound, League of Conservation Voters, Rivers Alliance, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Clean Water Action, Land Conservation Council, River Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy*, and other partners for a virtual celebration exploring this year's theme: "What Water Means to Me."

### 1.3 Health Crisis

The Superintendent is monitoring available health data to be informed on the local status of SARS-CoV-2 infections particularly those associated with new (more contagious/vaccine resistant) variants.

On February 5, unauthorized access was detected to the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system used at a Florida water treatment plant. The third-party accessed the SCADA system's software and altered the delivery amount of pH treatment solution (sodium hydroxide, a caustic chemical used to raise pH). Water treatment plant personnel observed the change in dosing amounts and corrected the issue before a serious problem developed.

### 1.4 Weather

After months in moderate drought conditions, the state is now out of the drought altogether, according to the *Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup*, which reported to eliminate the remaining drought designations for all counties.

The alternating cold to warm weather patterns has played havoc on process control requiring polymer addition to the process tanks for settling enhancement.

Climate change includes both global warming and the resulting large-scale shifts in weather patterns. Though there have been previous periods of climatic change, a significant change has been observed regarding storm patterns in the Northeast (more severe) in the last two decades. On January 13, a disaster declaration was made for the August 2020 Tropical Storm Isaias which will provide federal funding to eligible local projects for remedy or preparation of severe storm events. As such, a cursory evaluation of flooding and storm resiliency of assets was conducted. Four pump stations were found to be in or in proximity to a *Flood Hazard Zone* (Holly Hill PS, Lower Marina PS, Mohegan Brook PS and Pequot PS) and two pump stations were found to be in a *Storm Surge Zone* (Kitemaug PS and Lower Marina PS). A formal call has not been made for funds, but the Superintendent will apply for monies to purchase an emergency generator at the Lower Marina PS.

## **2.0 Staff**

### 2.1 Personnel

No reports of employee injury/accidents this month. None of the current Montville WPCF team has indicated symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for the associated virus. Staff was encouraged to test at the free clinics. WPCF staff work activity is in accordance with local guidelines and adherence to the CDC's social distancing and other directives such as staggering start times, using separate vehicles, disinfecting common areas and establishing strategic handwashing stations (near restrooms at outdoor events and the entrances to buildings and garages). The Superintendent expanded a workforce culture review (e.g., communication, training, career path, recognition) to meet his goals.

### 2.2 Response to Crisis

OSHA reports that current (wastewater) disinfection techniques have been proven adequate to prevent transmission--extra measures are not needed and (water/wastewater) operator occupational risk of infection is considered low. The USEPA reports that the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in U.S. water supplies.

Governor Lamont reported on January 25 extended his public health emergency powers until April 20, noting the recent cases of a highly infectious COVID-19 variant(s). Lamont also announced on February 22 that the state will continue with an age-based eligibility for the vaccine. He said that other previously phased scenarios proved overly complex and confusing, would potentially exacerbate inequities in vaccine distribution, and slow down the process of providing it to Connecticut residents.

As indicated, a (potable) water treatment plant's SCADA controls were hijacked via remote access software with the intent to alter the water treatment process in a potentially dangerous manner. All computers used by water plant personnel were connected to the SCADA system and shared the same password for remote access and appeared to be connected directly to the Internet without any type of firewall protection installed. On February 10, the FBI, DHS, and U.S. Secret Service as well as the CTDEEP and CTDPH issued a joint situational report to suggest the mitigation measures to prevent third party intrusions to treatment plants. While the intrusion was for drinking water treatment, it could easily have been directed toward wastewater treatment. The mitigation

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actions suggested by the federal agencies for SCADA control have been in place at the Montville WPCF (and collection system) and Water Supply since early February. It is not anticipated that a problem described is eminent. Woodard & Curran representatives were met to discuss cyber security on February 12 to confirm existing controls as well as a new (two-factor) authentication (2FA) service for all remote access accounts. Two-factor authentication (2FA) employs a one-time password that is received by the employee via text message or email to complete a login session making it difficult to utilize another user's credentials to gain unauthorized access. Mercury Computers conducted an inspection on February 18 to confirm the software protection on all workstations.

### 2.3 Training

The Superintendent and staff continued to receive online (virtual) training from USEPA, CTDEEP, WEF, AWWA, NEWEA, HACH, and IDEXX to meet CTDEEP requirements for training credits. Annual safety training and follow up confined space training occurred remotely for staff due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases. The second round of (social distant) AED/CPR/Standard First Aid Training is scheduled for March 2021. Wright-Pierce (WPCA Engineer) conducted a seminar on modified-NASSCO manhole inspection procedures on February 3. The training assists by defining inspection nomenclature to identify concerns. Additionally, two operators will attend formalized NASSCO (National Association of Sewer Service Companies--nationally recognized training body) training in April 2021. The Governor has extended the computer-based water operator certification testing until April 18, 2021.

## **3.0 Equipment**

### 3.1 WPCF

Mandatory upgrades to payment software (Global Payment Integrated) were completed on two cashing workstations. One station's software was updated and then moved from the administrator's office to the accounting office to allow for two cashing stations available. *Call Before You Dig* (CBYD) annual registration was completed in February (due April 30, 2021). Section 16-345-2 (e) (1-7) and Section 16-345-3 (a)(5) of the *Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies* requires that all owners and operators of buried facilities must provide information associated with buried utilities.

Hoist inspections were completed on February 23.

The distribution box and Rand-Whitney splitter box were inspected by Woodard & Curran on February 11 and 24. The inspections were part of the 2021 CIP project for the eventual repair of these assets damaged by hydrogen sulfide. Additionally, future control of the degradation was discussed.

### 3.2 Collection System

All pump stations were inspected during the month. Fats, oil and grease (FOG) cleaning was completed, if required.

Preliminary inspections of transitional manholes have been inspected. Manhole 54 (MH-54) (intersection of Gallivan Lane and Route 32--adjacent to AAA Best Auto) is considered the worse-case manhole requiring immediate repair. An RFP will be created and sent out for the repair along with five additional manholes along Chesterfield Road requiring attention.

## **4.0 Project**

Please see the engineering summary table for information about WPCA projects.

### 4.1 WPCF

In a February 17 letter, the CTDEEP authorized the WPCA to construct the new grit classifier, grit separator, and the plant water modifications in accordance with the plans prepared by Martinez Couch & Associates (MCA), re-submitted by the Superintendent on January 19. The unit is designed to capture grit through a separation system and then removed the remaining attached organics. The kickoff meeting was held on February 25 with MCA.

Solids management is expensive. The waste (activated) sludge from the process tanks is pumped to the gravity belt thickener (GBT) whereas a dedicated polymer is added to enhance the water separation. This process greatly decreases the volume of sludge, saving money on trucking of waste sludge. The polymer (polyelectrolyte) is a substance that helps bind the solids and separate the water. The liquid is sent back to process, whilst the de-watered sludge drops into a storage tank to be trucked for disposal at the Hartford MDC incinerator. For economic reasons, the Superintendent is exploring methods for enhancing the dewatering techniques with the hope of thickening from about 5% total solids to 20% total solids prior to trucking. Bench studies (including new/additional polymer and equipment usage) of the plant sludge will begin in February.

The WPCA Engineer and the Superintendent are working on updating of the Town's 10-year-old sewer mapping to be consistent with the State's *Conservation and Development Policies Plan* and the CTDEEP *Development of a Water Pollution Control Plan and Sewer Service Area Map*. The CTDEEP will be provided a new (updated) sewer service area (SSA) map following interviews with Town and Uncas Health District staff to identify concern areas. While the District does not track septic failures, and there is no area that stands out as having a lot of failures. The area of real concern is around Oxoboxo Lake; due to the very small size of the lots most repairs made cannot meet the code requirements. In addition, several homes have been unable to drill a new well when theirs went dry (during summer drought) as they could not meet the separating distance requirement for the septic systems. The new map will be provided to the Town's departments, including the Planning and Zoning department for their *Plan of Conservation and Development* (POCD).

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The aforementioned map will be referenced in the update for the update of the 2009 *WPCA Sewer Rules and Regulations*. The regulation update will include (among other things) the 2018 connection fee amendment, reference to Rand Whitney and MTUA contracts that indicate Town capacity requirements, recent schematics for sewer details / drawings / specifications, the use of a sewer connection permit only (no application), chemical effluent controls, and rate structure for the MIU GP.

The Superintendent met with the WPCA Engineer to discuss the upcoming RFP for the SBR-4 aeration improvement project and the recycle water pump project (startup on February 1). It is anticipated that the treatment tank can be taken off line (due to the low influent flows encountered during the pandemic) to allow accurate grit volume calculations for eventual disposal.

Rand-Whitney personnel were met on February 10 to discuss the improved recycle water pumps. A formal meeting will be scheduled to explain the better performance as well as the cost savings associated with going from a 129-Amp to 30-Amp drive(s).

Woodard & Curran personnel conducted SCADA improvement work on February 26 at the Peter Road PS.

The (backup) GBT water supply booster pump was found to have failed. In January, the Gravity Belt Thickener (GBT) was inspected in January by the vendor and found to be in need of an overhaul. The 22-year-old unit is experiencing performance problems; not allowing adequate thickening of the waste sludge (TWAS) to the (current) target goal of 5%.

#### 4.2 Regulatory Oversight

The effective date for the new *General Permit for Discharges from Miscellaneous Industrial Users* (MIU GP) was 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) Approximately 40 commercial properties could be affected with the reissued MIU GP and may be required to file a registration form prior to April 30, 2021 (pushed back from the original due date of January 30). The recent increase in COVID-19 cases has stalled the inspections due to health concerns so information has been placed on the WPCA website and forwarded via the US Mail. Questions from the public have been answered via phone about applicability.

Chemical reporting was provided to the Fire Marshal's office on February 12. Tier II is part of the *Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act* (EPCRA)- Section 312 *Tier II Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory*. According to the USEPA, the purpose of the reporting is "to provide state and local officials as well as the public with specific information on potential hazards."

The WPCF (and associated collection system) is operating under a State General Permit and currently is in compliance. The existing WPCF *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan* (SWPPP) is in use and documents compliance. The WPCA does not have active discharges to the Town

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(MS4) stormwater system that would be considered a concern based on visual inspections and collected testing.

#### 4.3 CMOM

The *Montville Sewer Easement Improvements Project* (CIP FY 2020) is now in the phased approach to help move the complicated project forward. Wright-Pierce (WPCA Engineer) was met in February to plan for the use of a pre-vetted contractor (Suchocki & Son, Inc.) within the CRCOG (job order) contracting option for clearing operations within the sewer easement extending from Old Colchester Road to Fellows Road. The Superintendent reminded the Engineer to have a vigorous outreach program to property owners in the work area to discuss the project scope near their right-of-ways. An Inland Wetlands Commission meeting was attended on February 18 to renew the existing permit.

The 2011 URS Phase II inflow and infiltration (to sewers) was reviewed. Inflow and infiltration are defined as groundwater and stormwater that enter a sewer system. The reports identified problem areas within the collection system requiring attention. The February 16 and 22 rain/snow melt events were chosen to conduct qualitative inspections of sewers along Route 32 identified as having potential capacity problems. Based on the flow inspections during and after the storm, no capacity issues were identified. The average February influent flow was 2.215 million gallons per day (mgd) (well below the design flow of 4.5 mgd) with a peak plant flow of 6.179 mgd (well below the instantaneous design peak of 14 mgd). As a comparison, the URS report capacity recommendations were based on estimated sewer and I/I that would be a daily flow of about 2.69 MGD, with a daily peak around 7.48 MGD. This event during the observations is slightly less flow than the URS modeled condition and the pipe flow depth seems to be slightly less than the modeled condition. The information supports the idea that this area is one of those places to “keep an eye on”, but not a place where it seems worth spending money to upsize your sewers, yet. I/I which can be economically eliminated from a sewer system as determined in a cost-effectiveness analysis that compares the costs for correcting conditions to the total costs for transportation and treatment of the additional flow.

The CCTV inspections (part of the formal CMOM) is to evaluate infiltration and inflow (*I/I*) within the sewer system, determine the extent of corrosion and confirm structural integrity using the new camera/equipment purchased last year. The latest inspection was associated with the manhole inspection project and included approximately 500 feet of cleaning/CCTV along Black Ash Drive for year 2021.

In February, CAI Technologies (Town GIS contractor) personnel were met to improve spatial location data from the previous URS investigations (2010 and 2011). While some of the data was corrupted, the majority was usable and will be available for CMOM applications and an updated sewer service area (SSA) map (fixed attributes). By securing the data, the true location of all assets can be defined spatially leading to benefits for various departments in the Town as well as the WPCA. Further decisions were made about inspection attributes and steady-state attributes. The 2018, 2019 and 2020 Superintendent’s records for work completed will be supplied to define future notations within the GIS mapping (inspection attributes). Wright-Pierce personnel were included



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in the meeting to ensure the development of accurate mapping for both the Town’s wastewater and water infrastructure. It was confirmed that while hydrant location data will be public, specific details for sewer and water lines will be on a need-to-know basis for security reasons.

#### 4.4 Water Supply

CAI Technologies (Town GIS contractor) will be provided information for the development of accurate mapping for the Town’s water infrastructure using a combination of existing (CLA Engineers) mapping and improvements.

The cost-benefit analysis showed that the GFTS (Glass-Fused-To-Steel) tank replacement would be a viable option for Cook Water Storage Tower. The WPCA approved the replacement during the January 4 meeting.

### **5.0 Development**

No development inquiries were received in February.

### **6.0 Finances**

The annual report narrative and delinquent account report were submitted to the Mayor’s Office in January for the annual report.

#### 6.1 Accounts Review

Budget sheets and account balances are included. Please remember, the budget prepared for FY 2021 was an estimate for expected costs/revenues based on previous years. Overall, the WPCA is in the “black” (for both water and sewer funds) at the halfway point of the fiscal year (excluding depreciation; a not out-of-pocket expense). Billing was above what was forecasted for the last quarter.

#### 6.2 Assets

The WPCA asset listing was improved for FY 2020 and will be instrumental in the asset management program to be completed in 2021. Funds in the water and sewer accounts have been appropriately reserved for capital improvement. Reportedly, on a national level, capital expenditures have decreased in most municipalities by over 20% due to the pandemic (Water World, 2020).

#### 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*. 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.

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#### 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 State has been slow to respond to payment requests from the WPCA Engineer. The Superintendent has reviewed all State submittals for payment to date.

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. A public hearing will be held for the Draft FY2021 *Clean Water Fund Priority List* on March 30.

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 replacement or painting of the Cook Tower water storage facility. A WPCA FY 2021 CIP project allowed for an engineering report to determine a course of action for the water facility. Preliminary meetings have been held with Raul Tejada, CTDEEP *Sanitary Engineer 3* to discuss project scope.

#### 6.5 Energy

The Doosan *PureCell Model 400* Fuel Cell unit began producing power (operating at 460 kW) on June 24. Recent results indicated the fuel cell to be running at or near 100% capacity (11,000 kWh/d) resulting in a large drop in grid power demand. Approximately 80% of the electrical power used at the WPCF is generated from the fuel cell resulting in significant savings. Maintenance was performed by Doosan technicians on February 19.

Superintendent Albertson summarized his monthly report commenting on the receipt of the 2021 Wastewater Utility Award from the New England Water Environmental Association (NEWEA), the largest in New England with over 21,000 members, presented to the WPCA out of 550 other treatment plants. He expressed kudos to the team and said the plant would be recognized in next month's edition of Treatment Plant Operator Magazine. In addition, Superintendent Albertson said the State called to express its congratulations to the second-best nitrogen loading performer of the 79 plants in the State. Commissioner May congratulated the WPCA on the award.

#### **h.** Report from Mayor

Mayor McDaniel commented he was dismayed by the State announcement regarding the change in vaccine protocols stating the staff was ready to go and that he sent links of vaccine sites to employees. He said through community DPH everything in the plant was sanitized. Mayor McDaniel also expressed congratulations on the NEWEA award and suggested next month at the

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regular meeting that some funds be extended to Superintendent Albertson for lunch acknowledging his accomplishments during a trying time.

**i**      Report from Engineers

Superintendent Albertson reported the engineering survey was included in the meeting packet and said he was working on the CIP for the next meeting. He also reported on authorization from the State to use funding for the grit chamber project stating he met with the engineer and the bid announcement on the same would be announced on March 15. Superintendent Albertson said the grit chamber separator and the plant water modification would be paid for by a 4-million-dollar grant.

**j.**      Old Business

1. Rules & Regulations Update – SSA Map

Superintendent Albertson reported he is working on updating the rules and regulations of the Sewer Service Area Map due every ten (10) years per statute. He said he is working with Wright-Pierce on it and said the map helps Planning & Zoning with its plan for economic development.

2. URS Phase II Report Review

Superintendent Albertson reported on the engineers having started review doing a qualitative inspection of pipes. He said the pipes had capacity twice in February during two (2) major storms. Commissioner Siragusa asked how old was the sewer plan. Superintendent Albertson said it was last submitted in 2011. Commissioner Jinkerson asked if there were costs associated with items J.1 and J.2. Mayor McDaniel responded they were budgeted line item costs.

**k.**      New Business

1. To consider and act on the Cook Tower Replacement project.

**The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission** hereby resolves to recommend to the Town Council that the existing water storage tank known as Cook Tower be replaced per the Wright-Pierce January 2021 engineering report and funding availability from the CTDPH *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund* (DWSRF).

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR-No. 2020-33 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to recommend to the Town Council that the existing water storage tank known as Cook Tower be replaced per the Wright-Pierce January 2021 engineering report and funding availability from the CTDPH *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund* (DWSRF). Motion by Commissioner May; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson. Discussion: Commissioner Siragusa said he thought the project was to go to the Town Council, but Mayor McDaniel explained Commissioner May had asked for alternative options based upon his engineering experience at Electric Boat. Commissioner May added that now was the proper time for a motion on the matter, not the meeting months ago. Superintendent Albertson said the engineers were present for

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questions on the project stating they originally prepared a report to replace the tower with \$5,000 coming from the State for the same. Commissioner Jinkerson said the project had been discussed at length at the last meeting to replace the tower and the costs associated with it were included in the original and updated reports. He also said there was no price tag on the original motion. Chairman Longton added there were no changes in the overall pricing. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, and May. *Opposed*: Commissioner Siragusa. Vote 3-1. Motion carried.

2. To consider and act on purchasing parts for the Gravity Belt Thickener.

**The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission** hereby resolves to approve \$61,395 in funds for (sole-source) parts to repair the 22-year-old gravity belt thickener.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR-No. 2020-34 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to approve \$61,395 in funds for (sole-source) parts to repair the 22-year-old gravity belt thickener. Motion by Commissioner Jinkerson; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa. Discussion: Commissioner Siragusa asked about the cost for a new one and how long it would last. Superintendent Albertson said the cost starts at \$500,000 up to \$1 million and would require the roof to be removed with a crane and then put back on in its condition would last 2-5 years. He said the GBT needs a major overhaul and said is seeing failure as the average is 5% waste but is now seeing under 3%. Superintendent Albertson said it is also used every day, is very expensive, and spending more in truck hauling. Roll Call vote: *In favor*: Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, May, and Siragusa. *Opposed*: none. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

3. To consider and act on utilizing a *Capitol Region Council of Government* (CRCOG) contractor for clearing as part of the 2020 CIP (sewer) easement project.

**The Town of Montville WPCA Water and Sewer Commission** hereby resolves to utilize a *Capitol Region Council of Government* (CRCOG) contractor for clearing as part of the 2020 CIP (sewer) easement project.

Motion – Discussion – Roll Call

**SAR-No. 2020-35 THE TOWN OF MONTVILLE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES** to utilize a *Capitol Region Council of Government* (CRCOG) contractor for clearing as part of the 2020 CIP (sewer) easement project. Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner May. Discussion: Commissioner Siragusa asked if the project was being put to bid; if the cost of \$290,00 from Suchocki & Son, did it include road work, and the cost of the easement. Mayor McDaniel responded the Town has a relationship with the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) whose process was equivalent to that of the State bid

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process. Superintendent Albertson said cost (\$290,000) was reviewed by the WPCA engineer and deemed to be in the normal range of fees. He also said some light road work would be done once completed it would be the first part of the project. As to the cost of the easement, Superintendent Albertson said the Commission approved \$1 million for CIP in 2020. Commissioner Jinkerson inquired if the contractor was pre-vetted, favored contractor with the Town that he did not prefer. Superintendent Albertson explained CRCOG was an appropriate no-bid option that pre-vets job bids to allow for job completion quickly and said the Town has used them for Public Works matters. He also said CRCOG has already reviewed and approved the job at hand. Mayor McDaniel added the cost is already covered in the purchasing policy but said Superintendent Albertson had asked that it be brought before the Commission for purposes of transparency and said the \$290,000 was for the extent of the award. Commissioner Siragusa said the contract is for one-third of the motion and asked how much was spent attorney's fees and other aspects. Account Clerk Turker stated she had the engineering cost but not a breakdown of the project. Commissioner Siragusa commented the costs should come from the \$1 million that was approved by Commission and asked if it could be overspent. Superintendent Albertson responded again the CIP was approved in 2020 and costs had not exceeded the \$1 million and said the project has been accepted and approved by CRCOG and not needed by the Commission. Instead, the item was brought to Commission's attention as a courtesy. He also stated the project must go through an extended wetlands area and said clearing of a right-of-way is normal fare and practice. Commissioner Jinkerson said the motion had not weight and the project could be done on its own, but gain cautioned the use of a vetted vendor. Mayor McDaniel commented favorably on Superintendent Albertson's summation of the project and stated that due to past instances concerning full transparency the WPCA has come under scrutiny. He also said the project could be capped at \$290,000. Commissioner May commented the motion was instead a resolution to acknowledge use of a pre-vetted contract and had not a resolution like it in his 16 years. When asked by Chairman Longton how he would change it, Commissioner May adding a number to it would make it a motion.

Motion by Commissioner Jinkerson; seconded by Commissioner Siragusa to table the motion.  
Roll Call vote: *In favor:* Commissioners Jinkerson, Longton, and Siragusa. *Opposed:* Commissioner May. Vote 3-1. Motion carried.

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

b. Payment of Bills

Superintendent Albertson reported he was reviewing engineering billing and spoke of savings from the fuel cell. His said his review is done month to month and months prior and after. He also said more water was being purchased and seepage is receding. Mayor McDaniel said this item was on the agenda regarding extraordinary bills for Rand-Whitney.

## II. Water Commission

a. Report from Engineers  
Superintendent Albertson

b. Old Business – *None*

c. New Business -- *None*

d. Remarks from the Public

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

e. Remarks from Commission Members

Commissioner Siragusa asked for the cost to date for the easement and said the Cook Tower agenda item should have been listed under the Water Commission. He also spoke of updating staff information on the website. Chairman Longton asked if the bills were reviewed concerning the audit. Commissioner May congratulated the Department on its achievement of having won the 2021 Wastewater Utility Award that he said he would bring to the attention of the Town Council. He suggested to Superintendent Albertson that he come to the April meeting and brief the Town Council. Mayor McDaniel remarked he would check with the fuel cell company on the alleged savings of \$50,000 to find out if money is owed to the Town. He also suggested removing the agenda item ‘Payment of Bills’ stating per the new accounting system checks are countersigned by Superintendent Albertson, the Finance Director, and the Mayor and it would be unusual for bills to come to the Commission. Mayor McDaniel also said he would seek a legal opinion on the motion structure discussed this evening. Chairman Longton imparted thanks to the WPCA on the award it achieved.

f. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Siragusa; seconded by Commissioner Jinkerson to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gloria J. Gathers  
Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN OF  
MONTVILLE WEBSITE.**