



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the Regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Present** Board Member Terry Jones
Board Member Stanley Juber
Board Member Monir Tewfik
Board Member Edmond Lynch
Alternate Member James A. Ball
- Excused** Board Member Sharon Wadecki
- Non-voting** Alternate Member Jeremy Norris
Alternate Member Tony Capon

Also in attendance:
Tina Daniels, Groton Utilities Customer Service General Manager.
Sarah Lufler, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Jim Ball was appointed as a voting member for Sharon Wadecki.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS

1. Residents and Property Owners.
Norm Thibeault.

Mark Lopez, 1026 Long Cove Road addressed the WPCA regarding a large increase in his monthly water bill. Mr. Lopez stated that a normal monthly invoice from period January 23, 2024, until present averages under \$150.00 for 800 - 950 gallons, however his last billing statement was at \$1,251.22 for 83,650 gallons of usage which is equivalent to 16 swimming pools full of water. He called a plumber to perform an inspection who suggested that the meter was defective. He then called Groton Utilities and was told that "the problem fixed itself" and the usage was back to normal. Mr. Jones suggested it could have been a leaky toilet. Mr. Lopez, agreed and added that he had that problem in the past but this time he checked all the toilets and

found nothing suspicious. Mr. Jones asked how many toilets are in the building, Mr. Lopez answered there are five different offices in the building with one toilet in each office. Currently two offices are empty, and he has three tenants. Mr. Lopez has already paid the bill in its entirety. Chairman Lynch said that since Mauricio Duarte, Groton Utilities General Foreman Water Operations wasn't present, and the Authority has no information on the meter the conversation will need to be continued again during the September meeting. Chairman Lynch said that the Authority will investigate further and request that a logger is put on the meter. Mr. Lopez thanked the Authority and said that he would attend the September 24 meeting.

Norm Thibeault, Killingly Engineering Associates representing Acronom Masonry, Inc. presented a conceptual plan for a 600+ unit development in 17 buildings off Colonel Ledyard Highway, Iron Street, and Fairway Drive. Sal Monarca the owner of Acranom Masonry was also present. Mr. Thibeault said that Mr. Monarca purchased the former elementary school on Colonel Ledyard Highway. The commercial/retail portion of the building is complete. The remainder of the building will be converted to residences. There was a roadblock encountered because the new regulations state that both commercial and residential units can't be together in the same building, they either need to be in separate buildings or be located on separate floors of the building. Because there is no second floor in the former elementary school this was an issue. After several meetings it was decided to place a firewall between the commercial and residential units and this would satisfy the criteria. The current septic system in place has sufficient capacity for 12 residential units (one- and two-bedroom units). Mr. Thibeault shared a plan for a septic design that is currently under review by the Ledge Light Health District. The hope is to start the building construction and by the time the sewer hook up to sanitary is ready the septic system design will not be needed. Depending on what the Town could offer for sewer capacity on site treatment systems may need to be constructed. Chairman Lynch said a line has already been laid from Ledyard Center to the High School which will be expanded from the High School to Pennywise Lane in the fall (ready by the end of the year). Mr. Juber asked what the time frame would be for the full build. Mr. Thibeault said the seventeen buildings would be constructed on demand starting with building one and moving forward as needed. Chairman Lynch asked if sprinkler systems will be required in these buildings, Mr. Thibeault answered yes.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting minutes from July 23, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Operations Report.

Chairman Lynch said that there is a significant amount of water (6,000-7,000 gallons per day)

being used by the wastewater treatment facility that isn't being billed which is why the billable dollars doesn't match the amount of water being used per month. He added that in next year's budget a line item should be put in for water used by the wastewater facility. The impact of this usage needs to be understood, and the sewer rate may need to be adjusted.

Tina Daniels, Groton Utilities Customer Service General Manager was present to speak to the Authority about untracked water usage. Groton Utilities has "company use accounts" which are read, billed, closed then lastly written off. Ms. Daniels said that in the past month GU has looked at every customer that is not pulling a reading. She added that a lack of a reading doesn't necessarily mean there is something wrong with the meter, it could be a vacant or seasonal property. Ms. Daniels said that there are a few areas where water usage isn't being tracked such as the water treatment facility and the two hydro flushing areas (one near Holmberg's and the other near Avery Hill Road). Ms. Daniels said that she reviewed the past few months for these areas and found that 900,000 to 1.2 million gallons of water a month is not being accounted for but going through the meters. The water is being tracked from Groton Utilities but not on tracked on the Ledyard side, GU is starting to track those areas now. On average approximately 2-3 million gallons a month are not being billed. Ms. Daniels said GU is investigating all idiosyncrasies in billing and will provide reports to the WPCA.

Distribution system sample testing per CTDPH schedule (microbiological & physical analyses). All results met CTDPH standards.

Gales Ferry and Ledyard Center: All lead and copper results for spring 2024 were submitted to DPH. Both systems' 90th percentile values continue to be below the Action Level, so Ledyard Center and Gales Ferry continue to be in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rules. Routine flushing of specific hydrants and blow-offs is being conducted due to lower water age in both the Ledyard Center and Gales Ferry systems, as part of the effort to maintain the lowest THM levels possible in both systems. Third quarter THM/HAA5 samples were collected in July for Ledyard Center. Results indicate we are still in compliance with the Running Annual Average MCL. Gales Ferry third quarter samples will be collected in August as per each system's DPH schedule.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Service Correspondence.
Well Permit Exception - 1663 Center Groton Road.

The Department of Public health approved a well permit exception for 1663 Center Groton Road due to the construction difficulties associated with extending the water main line across from Route 117.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Aged Reports/Finance.

Mr. Jones asked if the WPCA will receive a final report for fiscal year ending June 2024. Chairman Lynch will request one.

ACTION ITEM:

Ask Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director for a year-end report for FY2024.

RESULT: DISCUSSED**4.** Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.

No comments.

5. PSR - Steve Banks.

The Rotary Drum Thickener panel replacement project has been approved through ARPA funding and parts have been ordered. The project should be completed by late fall.

A meeting was held with Weston & Samson to review specification plans for the sewer forced main extension from the High School to Pennywise Lane (in the Ledyard Highlands). This work will be completed soon. This document will be reviewed and approved by the Town and then sent to Gerber for the quote to complete the work.

Power line interruption has taken out two of our level transmitters. Replacements have been ordered.

The Influent auto sampler station is being relocated for better ease of replacing peristaltic pump suction tubing.

The State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection inspection was on July 7, 2024. Issues that were found have been addressed and reported back to DEEP.

RESULT: DISCUSSED**VIII. OLD BUSINESS****1.** Habitat for Humanity Proposal continued.

Sarah Lufler, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity introduced the concept plan for 40 Habitat for Humanity homes on Colby Drive during the April WPCA meeting. Ms. Lufler introduced Will Walter a Civil Engineer from Benesch who had some questions for the Authority regarding the proposed 27 buildings with approximately 38 units in total. There will be a combination of two-, three- and four-bedrooms units.

How does Habitat apply for a "will serve"? Chairman Lynch answered that he should send a letter to with the expected capacity and the WPCA will respond with a letter of whether that capacity could be handled or not.

What design flows does the WPCA require? Chairman Lynch answered "standard". He added that two designs will be required one for water and one for sewer.

What kind of main is on Colonel Ledyard Highway? It was answered a forced main. Chairman

Lynch said Habitat would tie into the forced main.

How to obtain an "as built" for water and sewer on Colonel Ledyard Highway? Chairman Lynch answered that he could send one for water now and one for sewer when it is completed.

Would Habitat or the WPCA own and operate the pump station? Chairman Lynch answered that the owner would be the WPCA because they would have to support the station when there are issues. It was explained that a letter of intent would need to be drafted.

Would there need to be an easement for the pump station? Chairman Lynch answered yes, the WPCA would need to be able to access the pump station.

Chairman Lynch asked what the goal start date is, Ms. Lufler answered that they are hoping for next Summer. Ms. Lufler thanked the WPCA for their time.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Water Report Review continued.
3. Review of Trail/Sewer line continued - progress report.

Chairman Lynch said the Phase I line has been installed. The design for Phase III is ready and waiting for a final estimate. The length of the line will be longer than originally stated (around 5,000 instead of 3,300 feet). The line will be placed on top of the existing 2 1/2" line therefore the cost will be much less to install since there won't be any rocks or ledge to deal with. The line will be 6 inches in diameter instead of 5 inches, and it will be placed at a depth of 3.5 feet. The line will be very close to some stone walls, but Weston & Sampson believe they can get close to the walls without having to move to them.

The Authority discussed proceeding with the Weston and Sampson Engineering design of sewer mains along Route 117 Bid number 2021-03 Amendment 4, at a cost of \$137,500 depending on availability of funding and Fairway/Colby Drive Bid Number 2021-03 Amendment 3, at a cost of \$108,000 subject to availability of funds after funding Amendment 4.

Motion to recommend APPROVAL of the preliminary Weston and Sampson Amendment 4 Route 117 design subject to availability of funding.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

Motion to recommend APPROVAL of the preliminary Weston and Sampson Amendment 3 Fairway Drive design subject to availability of funding after funding Amendment 4.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

- 4. Lead Survey Review and Grant Submittal - update.

Chairman Lynch said the lead survey is continuing. No further updates.

- 5. Lakeside Association Agreement.
Review any quote received to date.

Chairman Lynch will ask Steve Banks, WPCA Supervisor for an update.

ACTION ITEM:

Ask Steve Banks, WPCA Supervisor for an update on the Lakeside Association Agreement.

- 6. Rotary Drum Thickener Panel update.

The parts will take eight weeks to arrive.

- 7. Discuss Trail/Sewer line Phase II design.

Previously discussed in Old Business agenda item #3.

- 8. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Motion to APPROVE payment to Groton Utilities invoice #0024190, dated July 31, 2024, in the amount of \$1,201.86, for lead inventory.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

- 2. Motion to APPROVE payment to Ti-Sales invoice INV0174094, dated August 12, 2024, in the amount of \$361.67 for Neptune meter purchase.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

- 3. Any Other New Business to Come Before the Commission.

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 1 Wadecki

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.