



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynch called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present Board Member Terry Jones
Board Member Stanley Juber
Alternate Member Jeremy Norris
Board Member Monir Tewfik
Board Member Edmond Lynch
Alternate Member James A. Ball

Excused Board Member Sharon Wadecki
Alternate Member Tony Capon

Also in attendance was April Brunelle, Town Council (via Zoom).

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Jim Ball and Jeremy Norris were appointed as voting members.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS & PROPERTY OWNERS COMMENTS

1. Residents and Property Owners.

Michelle O'Dell 18A Naomi Drive, Ledyard CT.

Ms. O'Dell said that her tenant at this address reported a problem with the hot water heater. Ms. O'Dell said she called a contractor to inspect the hot water heater, but no issues were found. The tenant was still complaining that there was no hot water, so Ms. O'Dell called a plumber for a second opinion. The plumber found a leak under the mobile home and rectified it immediately. When she received the monthly bill it was significantly higher than her usual amount. Ms. O'Dell asked the WPCA for relief on her water bill. Chairman Lynch asked how long the leak was occurring, she answered approximately four days. Ms. O'Dell called Groton Utilities, and they directed her to attend the WPCA meeting. The contact at GU said they would let Chairman Lynch know that she would be attending the meeting. Chairman Lynch asked how much the billing invoice was, Ms. O'Dell answered \$477.00. Chairman Lynch said the struggle is that

water needs to be paid for and it's tough to have to pass this cost down to ratepayers. Chairman Lynch offered to talk to Tina Daniels, Groton Utilities Customer Service General Manager to arrange a payment plan. Ms. O'Dell said she likes to pay all her bills on time with no overhead, she would rather receive a deduction than a payment plan. Chairman Lynch said that they could take off the cost of water that went into the sewer line but since there is septic at that address it wouldn't help her situation. Chairman Lynch explained that Capital fund reserved for costs such as painting tanks and replacing meters would have to be used to pay for her water. Ms. O'Dell agreed that she would not expect other ratepayers to have to pay her bill, she was hoping that the WPCA had money set aside for incidents such as this. Chairman Lynch said there is a device sold on Amazon for \$120.00 that attaches to the water line and will shut off the water flow if it senses a leak. Ms. O'Dell said she would speak with Ms. Daniels.

Mark Lopez, 1026 Long Cove Road.

Although "1026 Long Cove Road" was added to the agenda under Old Business (# 2), Chairman Lynch said Mr. Lopez could speak now instead of waiting until later in the meeting. Mr. Lopez said that GU changed his meter stating that his old meter was outdated and put a logger in place to track water usage. Since the installation of the new meter Mr. Lopez said the water usage is back down to normal usage, which is between 800-5,600 gallons. The latest invoice was 500 gallons compared to the previous month of 83,650 gallons. Chairman Lynch asked if the leak was found, Mr. Lopez replied "there is no leak". Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Duarte if the meter that was pulled was inspected, he answered yes, and that it was found to be 100% in working order. Mr. Duarte added that the logger is showing normal usage. Chairman Lynch asked if he is on sewer, Mr. Lopez answered no. Mr. Lopez asked if the WPCA would make a relief decision tonight or if he should come back next month. Chairman Lynch answered that he would like to keep the logger in place longer and review the data log. Mr. Lopez thanked the Authority and said he would return next month in October.

The WPCA discussed possible changes to the rate structure to assist people in these unusually high-water usage circumstances. Mr. Ball suggested charging commercial usage in these instances, which would be a policy change. It was asked if the WPCA policy changes require Town Council approval, it was answered no. As it stands now, customers pay \$2.88 per 100 gallons for usage over 23,000 gallons, which is almost triple the normal rate. Mr. Ball said that charging the commercial rate instead would still cover the costs for the water purchased by the WPCA but would also give the customers some relief, the other Commissioners agreed. Chairman Lynch will ask Ms. Daniels to calculate costs for these two customers using the commercial rate.

ACTION ITEMS:

Ask Ms. Daniels to calculate costs for 18A Naomi Drive and 1026 Long Cove Road using the commercial rate.

Mr. Jones said he would review the current WPCA relief policy.

VI. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2024, as written.

Amend as follows:

Under Resident and Property Owners:

The Masonry company is spelled two different ways "Acranom" and "Acronom". The correct

spelling is "Acranom".

Under Operations report:
Change sentence:

"The water is being tracked from Groton Utilities but not on tracked on the Ledyard side, GU is starting to track those areas now"

to:

"The water is being tracked from Groton Utilities but not reported to Ledyard. Ledyard is starting to track those areas now".

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Terry Jones

SECONDER: Edmond Lynch

AYE 6 Jones Juber Norris Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Wadecki Capon

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Operations Report.

Chairman Lynch asked about the relocation of the hydrant on Colby Drive. Mr. Duarte confirmed that it didn't need to be moved.

GU assisted a customer on Fox Hollow Road with repairing a leak, on the customer owned portion of the water service. The water service had been leaking for some time before being noticed by the customer. Mr. Duarte said the leak was approximately three feet away from the foundation of the house, the customer was very diligent and quickly completed the necessary repairs.

Chairman Lynch asked about the progress of the Norwich/Ledyard interconnect project on Route 12 near the Preston Bridge. Mr. Duarte reported that the project is 95 percent completed, it passed the pressure test, it's being chlorinated, and samples are being collected.

GU monitoring of the Ledyard Multi use bike path continues, as well as supporting the contractor with shut-offs or mark-outs needed to move the project along. Assisted with the relocation of hydrant #206 at Colonel Ledyard Highway.

Last month GU scheduled a few shutdowns with all master meter users, to ensure all bypass lines are holding shut. The shutdown was conducted at their lowest usage, which was late at night.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Service Correspondence.
3. Aged Reports/Finance.

Chairman Lynch read an email from Ian Stammel, Assistant Finance Director:

"There are still a number of adjustments that still need to be done before I can provide year end reports. I believe all FY24 bills have been paid but the CNR contributions still need to be done, Sewer employee benefits need to be calculated and pulled out of the general fund and expensed in the sewer fund, and fixed assets need to be assessed so the annual depreciation amount can be booked just to name a few things. All of these should likely be completed by your October meeting and I can provide unaudited year end numbers then. Thanks for your patience. It is a very busy time of year".

4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.
5. PSR - Steve Banks.

The report did not properly display in the agenda packet. No comments.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Trail/Sewer line continued - progress report.

Chairman Lynch reported the following:

Steve Masalin, Public Works Director submitted payment for the Gerber April and May invoices.

The engineering is completed on Phase III (High School to Pennywise) and Gerber is currently estimating the cost. The WPCA should receive the estimate soon. The ARPA cutoff is on December 31, 2024.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Lead Survey Review and Grant Submittal - update.

Chairman Lynch said that the DPH approved the WPCA's application. There is a public hearing on September 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. which Chairman Lynch registered to attend. The grant would cover 25 to 50 percent of the cost. Chairman Lynch will also meet with GU regarding the grant. GU must submit the final plan to the DPH by the end of October.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Lakeside Association Agreement.
Update on the Lakeside Association pump replacements.
No update. Still waiting on a cost estimate.
4. 1026 Long Cove Road.

Discussed previously under agenda item "Residents and Property Owners".

RESULT: DISCUSSED

- 5. Any Other Old Business to Come Before the Commission.
None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Emergency Plan status from Groton Utilities.
- 2. Department of Public Health Grant.

Chairman Lynch will have more information after the public hearing on September 25, 2024.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

- 3. New Gerber Installation estimate - Phase III.
Chairman Lynch hopes to have this information soon.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

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

Motion to APPROVE payment to Groton Utilities invoice #0024239, dated August 30, 2024, in the amount of \$5,441.62 for lead inventory.

Chairman Lynch said the push is to submit the plan to the State by the end of October.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 6 Jones Juber Norris Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Wadecki Capon

Motion to APPROVE payment to Weston & Samson invoice #9240160, dated September 17, 2024, in the amount of \$66,125.00 for Professional Services through August 23, 2024.

Chairman Lynch explained that this invoice is for the design completion for Phase III which will then allow Gerber to complete an estimate.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 6 Jones Juber Norris Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Wadecki Capon

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 6 Jones Juber Norris Tewfik Lynch Ball

EXCUSED 2 Wadecki Capon

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