



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Water Pollution Control Authority Meeting Minutes

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Sharon Wadecki was present via Zoom.

Also in attendance:

- Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman Town Council
- Mauricio Duarte, GU General Foreman Water Operations.
- Jennifer Kelly Lachmayr, PE BCEE, Senior Vice President/Area Leader New England Arcadis US Inc.
- Sarah Lufler, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity.

III. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Not needed.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to APPROVE Regular Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2024, as written.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Wadecki Lynch

EXCUSED 1 Norris

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. Operations Report.

Chairman Lynch attended a Groton Utilities lead water service survey meeting, and there will be a presentation from their designated contractor later in the meeting.

Chairman Lynch told Mauricio Duarte, General Foreman Water Operations that the bid waiver request not to exceed more than \$25,000.00, to Groton Utilities for Ledyard Multi-Use Pathway inspection, and installation of a tapping sleeve valve for one fire hydrant by Groton Utilities' Distribution crew (hydrant to be re-located by others) was approved by the Town Council. Chairman Lynch asked when the hydrants will be removed. Mr. Duarte replied that they are currently waiting for the 5" PVC pipes to arrive, so far only some sitework has been completed. Mr. Duarte expressed a concern that in areas where the contractor will be making cuts to the existing grade, there is a possibility of the water service not meeting the appropriate depth and the possibility that the trail will need to be excavated when doing future tie-ins.

Microbiological and physical water sample results are within CTDPH limits. Work is continuing to reduce THMs in the Gales Ferry and Ledyard Center systems. GU is preparing for the first six-month-set of lead and copper testing in Ledyard Center and Gales Ferry (bottle set-up, notification of customers, etc). Cross connection inspections have been completed for Ledyard and Gales Ferry. GU has been monitoring the Multi Use Trail/Sewer Installation project in Ledyard Center.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Service Correspondence.

None.

3. Aged Reports/Finance.

No surprises.

4. Year to Date Water/Sewer Report.

Nothing stands out other than water usage is down due the abundance of rain.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. PSR - Steve Banks.

Chairman Lynch said there was a problem in the Highlands with the pressure relief valve as there is water draining into the valve box where the pressure reducer is. Mr. Duarte said the

problem only occurs when it rains. The pressure relief box is on the property line and he is working with the property owner to put a swell around it which should fix the issue.

Praestol 133 is not an effective polymer for the facility. Atlantic Coast Polymer ACP 67B is the best product to use. Unfortunately, due to several industry factors, it is expensive and getting more so every day. Steve Banks, WPCA Supervisor, will continue to explore other options. Flows are steadily decreasing from wet weather in December and January. The WPCA is waiting for revised quote from Weston& Sampson for phase II. This also includes project oversight. Low alkalinity/PH in basins is being addressed. There are issues with Stenner chemical pump delivering potassium hydroxide to basins. These issues are being troubleshooted.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

6. DEEP Water/Sewer Grant Requests for Proposal.

Chairman Lynch said that DEEP is looking for water/sewer grant request proposals. He asked if the Town has a dedicated grant writer. Mr. Juber said that historically it was the town Planner who wrote the grants for the WPCA.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion to RECOMMEND to the Town Council approval of a five percent water rate increase effective July 1, 2024, as recommended and contained in the water and sewer rate table attached to the WPCA legal notice dated April 11, 2024, in accordance with Ordinance #400-001 “An Ordinance Establishing a Water Pollution Control Authority”.

No further discussion.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Wadecki Lynch

EXCUSED 1 Norris

2. Review of Trail/Sewer line bids continued.

Received an update from the engineering consultants for phase II. There is a significant reduction in the amount of engineering because the line will be going over an existing line in the street. The WPCA recommends that Mayor Fred Allyn III sign the amendment, which the Mayor has the original copy of.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

3. Review Lead Survey Study. Presentation.

Jennifer Kelly Lachmayr, PE BCEE, Senior Vice President/Area Leader New England Arcadis US Inc presented an Overview of LCRR Requirements and Lead Service Line replacement program.

Ms. Lachmayr said she was presenting at the request of Groton Utilities and thanked the Authority for having her. Ms. Lachmayr said she is the Program Director of Arcadis US Inc and has been in the business for 35 years. Arcadis works throughout New England on lead and copper programs.

The WPCA is required to submit a lead service line inventory and a replacement plan by October 16, 2024. She added that it is allowable to have unknowns in the inventory and the WPCA would have a couple of years to "wrap it up". Mr. Jones asked if the legislation was State or Federal, Ms. Lachmayr answered Federal although each State promulgates the rules themselves. For example, the Connecticut final date of inclusion is 1989 vs. 1986 for the Federal date. The State may add its own stricter requirements.

Quick overview of Ledyard system:

1,141 unknown service lines.

A large number of connections will require investigations.

In Ledyard the service lines are partially owned by both the customer and the Utility but nonetheless it is the WPCA's responsibility to provide information on the inventory regarding the service line material.

Chairman Lynch expressed concern that in the past some customers refuse to let the Utility inspector into their homes. Ms. Lachmayr said that what the State will evaluate is a percentage of the system, not necessarily every single connection. Probabilistic models can be used to determine the unknown materials in the system. She added that if lead is found and the owner is refusing replacement, the Utility is required to document three attempts to perform the replacement.

Ms. Lachmayr offered advice on how to explain to customers why the survey is being conducted. She said it is important to start out by explaining that the water is high quality drinking water, and that compliance was maintained with established lead and copper limits within the water system. Secondly, the lead inventory is being performed as a requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Connecticut. End the explanation by stating that the WPCA is committed to providing safe drinking water to all residents and works hard to keep that commitment.

The Department of Health has a template that is required to be completed by October 16, 2024.

An overview of a few of their requirements:

A galvanized service line downstream of a lead gooseneck will require replacement.

Anything with lead will need replacement.

If lead is found, the customer needs to be told within 24 hours.

Once a lead replacement is complete the customer needs to be provided with the required steps

to flush the lines.

Make the inventory public facing. Starting on October 16, 2024, access to the inventory must be provided. This can be as simple as a spreadsheet but it must be searchable by the customer address. Often Towns will create a page on their website which will allow access to the self-reporting forms, show customers how to test their service line, contains frequently asked questions/answers amongst other important program information.

Mailings can be used but with the expectation that only approximately 10% of customers will reply making field-work necessary.

Chairman Lynch asked for clarification that a filter only needs to be on the drinking water. Ms. Lachmayr confirmed.

Mr. Ball asked what the time frame is for paying for the lead service program, it was answered at least three years under the LCRR and if the LCRI goes into effect then it would be seven years.

Ms. Lachmayr offered to work with Chairman Lynch to fill out the State application for lead funding.

Ms. Lachmayr asked if the WPCA was interconnected with Mashantucket Pequot, Chairman Lynch answered no.

Chairman Lynch thanked Ms. Lachmayr for her time.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

4. Final Water Rate Report Review.

Cost of service Report. Mr. Jones asked what does the Cost of Service charge of 16.73 for unmetered represent? What about a 2" Fire Sprinkler for \$9.53, is that the only charge this customer will receive? Chairman Lynch said he believes the chart is showing what the rate structure is currently.

Discussion of the rate structure resulted in a few suggestions. One idea is to reduce the minimum water from 3,333 gallons to 2,000 gallons per month. Another idea would be to eliminate the gallon minimum and to charge for the first gallon plus used.

Mr. Ball said it would be helpful to know how much flushing is done by season and what fraction is of the total usage. Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Duarte to get that information. Mr. Twefik said that flushing is performed to maintain the chemistry of the water and the integrity of the pipes, therefore flushing is necessary.

The Authority would like to see the flushed water used in something like pools rather than go into the ground. This would be better for the environment.

Mr. Ball requested a spreadsheet to include commercial vs. residential charges and addresses for apartments and multiple use. Chairman Lynch will request this information.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

5. Review of Groton Utilities Data on New Rate Structure Proposal.
6. Any Other Old Business to come before the Authority.
None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Habitat for Humanity Proposal.

Before introducing Sarah Lufler, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Chairman Lynch explained that the proposed site is on Colby Drive and is not a part of SCWA region of service, therefore the WPCA will serve Habitat water and sewer. He added that it is his understanding that this would be the largest proposed habitat for Humanity development in the State of Connecticut, which Ms. Lufler confirmed.

Sarah Lufler, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity presented an affordable/housing conceptual plan. She started by saying that Habitat owns approximately 13 acres between Colby Drive and Colonel Ledyard Highway. It was donated many years ago by the Simon Konover Company. Habitat has been working on a conceptual plan that would propose building 35-40 homes on Colby Drive which would be sold with affordable mortgages. There would be combinations of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms, both single and multi-family homes. Ms. Lufler said to push the plan into motion she is seeking the WPCA's approval to proceed with the conceptual development. Ms. Lufler asked for comments from the Commissioners. Chairman Lynch said the WPCA definitely has the water capacity and he doesn't expect the sewer to be very impactful. Mr. Juber asked about a pump station, Ms. Lufler said the plan would be to put a pump station at the bend of the road. Ms. Lufler asked about fire hydrants, Chairman Lynch said to budget for approximately four hydrants but the number of hydrants would be dictated by the Fire Marshal. Ms. Lufler said that although affordable apartments and rentals are wonderful, there is something special about home ownership. Chairman Lynch said that towards the end of the approval process with Planning and Zoning Habitat will need to sign a water main extension agreement with the WPCA. Mr. Capon asked what the time frame is. Ms. Lufler said that 40% of the planning will need to be completed by October 2024. The plan is to build the houses in phases with about 4-5 phases with 6-8 houses in each phase. Mr. Juber commented that it could be 10 or more years of work, Ms. Lufler agreed. Chairman Lynch thanked Ms. Lufler for her time and wished her luck on the venture.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

2. Any Other New Business to come before the Authority.
None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to ADJOURN the Regular Meeting at 8:18

RESULT: APPROVED AND SO DECLARED

MOVER: Edmond Lynch

SECONDER: Stanley Juber

AYE 5 Jones Juber Tewfik Wadecki Lynch

EXCUSED 1 Norris

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